

Smart Republic 2020

Strategies for building One Trillion Dollar Digital Economy Ecosystem for India – Policies, Partnerships & People

April 29-30, New Delhi, India

Background



Over the past decade, India has established itself as a leading nation in terms of digital consumers. The number of mobile subscribers, social media uses, business users etc. result in the usage volume and growth rate of digital economy in India that is among the fastest globally. Government of India's BharatNet (a flagship project for rural broadband) is expected to further fuel this growth by making affordable broadband connectivity available in all villages of the country. All these developments place India in the 'take-off stage' to become the leading digital economy of the world and generate a value of 'one trillion dollars' in addition to creating millions of jobs and generating supplementary livelihood opportunities at village level.

This digitization of services under Digital India initiative has helped digitize many functions of the governments across multiple ministries, thus making a wealth of data available. Many datasets are now available in open data format on Data.gov.in, government of India's Open Data Portal placing India among top 10 countries globally under Open Data Index. This tremendous amount of data (Big Data) has created an unprecedented opportunity to uncover hidden patterns; discover new trends; and, draw out unknown correlations for informed decision-making.

This process can be now aided through a host of leading-edge technologies, tools and techniques such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain; Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality & Mixed Reality; Machine Learning & Deep Learning; Natural Language Processing; Robotic Process Automation and Chatbots. Innovative applications in all these technologies are moving to the centre stage under global data revolution. Utilized innovatively, these datasets can transform the way citizens live and work. 'SMACI' (Social Media, Mobile, Analytics, Cloud-computing and Internet of Things) has the potential to help Indian government leapfrog in achieving SDGs and accelerate India's journey towards becoming a developed nation. A recent report titled "Unlocking the potential of India's Data Economy: Practices, Privacy and Governance¹"; published by Omidyar network provides valuable insights on leveraging Data Economy.

India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has embarked on the journey to help realise the vision of Indian Prime Minister of making India 'a 5 Trillion Dollar economy'. This vision includes

India is in a sharply accelerating "lift off" phase of its digital journey. Having built a strong foundation of digital infrastructure and expanded internet access through some 560 million subscriptions, India is poised for the next phase of growth — the creation of tremendous economic value and the empowerment of millions of Indians as new digital applications permeate and transform a multitude of activities and types of work at a national scale.

Source: India's Trillion Dollar Digital Opportunity, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

¹ https://www.omidyarnetwork.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Unlocking-the-Potential-of-Indias-Data-Economy-Report_vHigh-Res_compressed_compressed.pdf

development of digital infrastructure and applications ecosystem for one trillion-dollar Digital Economy in the country. The first report on the proposed plan titled "**India's Trillion Dollar Digital Opportunity**"² was published by MeitY in 2019. The framework outlines the infrastructure created under Digital India initiative and identified the gaps that will need to be bridged by creating a state-of-the-art digital economy infrastructure and ecosystem for multiple sectors. A recent report titled "**Digital India - Technology to Transform a Connected Nation**"³ published by McKinsey Global Institute further reinforces the potential of India to achieve this goal by 2025.

However, achieving the goal of making India a trillion-dollar digital economy and leveraging Data Economy for development will require a structured approach and well-thought out action framework on digital strategies, development of seamless connectivity infrastructure, digital solutions and innovative applications stacks for multiple sectors, as well as development of an ecosystem to accelerate and maintain pace of digital economy initiatives in each of the sectors. Most important of all, capacity development of all the government departments and the consumers in leveraging new media industry 4.0 technologies in transforming the processes will play a great role in ensuring the success of this initiative. This will require new and innovative collaborative mechanisms for knowledge sharing among multilateral agencies, governments at central, state and city levels, academic institutions and industry.

Digital Development Global Practice, The World Bank

The World Bank's Digital Development Global Practice⁴ helps operationalize the 2016 World Development Report on Digital Dividends and offers a platform for digital innovation and development financing. Through its global partnership program titled Digital Development Partnership (DDP)⁵, the World Bank brings public and private sector partners together to catalyze support to developing countries in the articulation and implementation of digital development strategies and plans. DDP draws on best practices from client countries and the private sector. To this end, DDP is bringing together traditional partners from the development community and leading global IT firms. Currently, DDP is in a partnership with Denmark, Finland, GSMA, Japan, Korea, Microsoft, and the United Kingdom.

The Digital Development GP of the World Bank has been actively engaging globally with central, state & city government agencies and helping them in leveraging innovative Industry 4.0 technologies to support development of Data and Digital Economy, provide electronic public services and to work collaboratively in formulating transformational governance strategies for digital ecosystem. These innovative digital strategies and solutions will help in addressing the development challenges to improve the quality of life, efficiency of government operation and services, and competitiveness, whilst ensuring that countries meet the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social and environmental aspects leading to realization of Green Growth agenda.

The World Bank has collaborated with National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to organize a global forum to deliberate on the vision and partnership models to transform India into one-trillion-dollar Digital Economy. The Bank and NeGD- MeitY have also brought together multiple agencies such as USTDA, UN Global Compact, European Union, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Nordic Innovation, Embassy of Netherlands, National Institute of Urban Affairs

² https://meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/india_trillion-dollar_digital_opportunity.pdf

³ <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/mckinsey-digital/our-insights/digital-india-technology-to-transform-a-connected-nation>

⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/digitaldevelopment>

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/digital-development-partnership>

(NIUA), All India Institute of Local Self Governance (AIILSG) and leading Digital Solution providers as knowledge partners to deliberate on the subject.

Smart Republic 2020, the 7th edition of the global forums organized by the World Bank and its knowledge partner agencies will focus on evolving a framework for partnership among multiple Digital and Data Economy stakeholders for building a Trillion Dollar Digital Economy Ecosystem for India. The conference is scheduled on April 29-30, 2020 in New Delhi, India.

About Smart Republic 2020

Smart Republic 2020 is envisaged as a multi-partner global forum to support collaboration for development of global knowledge products and digital strategies for accelerating the goal of creating digital economy and governance transformation ecosystem for IR 4.0 era. The 2020 conference will see deliberations on the collaboration framework for Digital & Data Economy Ecosystem between government multilateral and bilateral development agencies, industry, civil society organizations and academia for achieving shared goal of making India a leading data and digital economy and a Smart Republic by 2024. Smart Republic forum will focus on innovative digital platforms & solutions and deployment of best practices to catalyse effective, coordinated and results-based implementation of Digital Economy program.

The deliberations during the conference will aim to contribute to achievement of following objectives:

- Strengthening and deepening the collaboration among multiple implementing agencies working in the domains of digital economy development, data economy, smart cities and smart villages.
- Fostering knowledge sharing among practitioners of different verticals and flagship programs such as Digital India, Smart Cities, AMRUT and Skills India to ensure adherence to global standards and good practices for accelerated achievement of SDGs. The knowledge activities will support the creation of a multi stakeholder digital economy ecosystem supported by robust data governance framework.
- Helping digital initiatives in maximizing finance for development by leveraging private sector investment, knowledge and resources through innovative public private partnership models.
- Support deliberations among multiple players to formulate structured mechanisms for improving cross-sectoral integration to accelerate development of governance framework and deployment of digital infrastructure for cyber-physical integration.
- Facilitate sharing of good practices among the government practitioners for development and deployment of digital platforms and strategies for transformative interventions across multiple thematic areas.
- Focus on achievement of SDGs through real-time monitoring and evidence based decision making leveraging innovative Industry 4.0 technologies.

Smart Republic 2020 forum is supported and co-hosted by The World Bank and National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Government of India along with multiple knowledge partners comprising of government agencies, UN member organizations, country partners and industry.

Smart Republic 2020 - Thematic Tracks

The agenda of Smart Republic 2020 is designed through extensive and engaging deliberations with knowledge partners, stakeholder government agencies, key industry and academia partners. This will be further fine-tuned in the run-up to the conference through multiple meetings with the Program Advisory Board of the conference that will comprise industry, academia, line ministries, partner multilateral and bilateral agencies, UN and other partners. Following are the seven key thematic tracks envisaged under the current draft program for the conference:

			
<p>Session 1: Unlocking India's Trillion Dollar Digital Economy Opportunity – Challenges and Collaboration Framework</p>	<p>Session 2: Digital India Stack- Lighthouse for Global South</p>	<p>Session 3: Governance for Digital – Building capacity of practitioners to develop Digital Solutions Stacks as a Public Good</p>	<p>Session 4: Mainstreaming Citizen Engagement through Digital Platforms (BBL and dinner) – Digital Platforms for Citizen Participation for National Transformation: Learnings from India's MyGov platform</p>
			
<p>Session 5: Data Driven Future Cities – Leveraging Next Generation data economy for Tomorrow's Cities</p>	<p>Session 6 : Climate Smart Development – Ensuring Sustainable Development through Circular Economy</p>	<p>Track 7: Digital Alliance for Agenda 2030 – Leveraging Disruptive Technology through collaboration for SDGs: Strengthening the knowledge exchange and collaboration framework</p>	

Special Session: Millennials Innovation Forum – Innovative Entrepreneurs of 21st Century:

The session will provide opportunities for the young social entrepreneurs to present their innovative digital solutions for development.

Note: The agenda presented above is not exhaustive and will be further developed in consultation with program advisory board

Smart Republic 2020 - Profile of Participants

Smart Republic 2020 is an **INVITATION ONLY** conference jointly organized and co-hosted by the World Bank and National e-Governance division (NeGD), MeitY, Government of India with knowledge partnerships with UN Agencies, Country agencies and Industry partners. The participating government agencies will be line ministries from Central government, State Governments and City Administration.

The participants in the conference will be senior government officers and decision makers from multiple countries, mission leaders and senior practitioners from agencies like the World Bank, European Commission, UNU e-GOV, UN Global Compact etc. In addition, the forum will invite Digital Economy and Smart Nation experts from across the globe especially from countries like United States, Japan, Australia, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and South Korea. This will provide a unique opportunity for the delegates to deliberate on global trends and best practices in the domain of Digital Economy initiatives.

Expected Outcomes

Smart Republic 2020 is not a one-time event to set a direction, but a continuous activity that paves way for development of partnerships, collaboration models and solutions repository for deployment of innovative solutions for Digital Economy, Smart Cities and Smart Villages globally with active and continuous participation from highest level of decision makers as well as citizens, industry and other stakeholder groups. Some of the key outcomes envisaged from the Smart Republic 2020 forum are as below:

- A Collaboration framework between multiple ministries, industry and multilateral development agencies to develop a **Digital Economy Ecosystem** through coordination among with Digital India agenda, India Smart Cities Mission and major flagship programs of government of India
- Development of a **knowledge exchange and capacity building framework** supported by state-of-the-art digital platforms and solutions for continuous exchange of learnings
- Extending the **outreach of Citizen Engagement Platforms** such as MyGOV to all sectors through collaboration among multiple stakeholders.
- Identification of **innovative digital platforms and strategies for public services** and setting up of a leadership forum/ think tank group for evolving projects ensuring balanced development of innovation ecosystem in India with special reference to the Smart Cities and Smart Villages.
- Identification of priority areas of **Digital Economy related research and development.**
- Establishment of **'action groups' on specific issues according to the problems identified**, and development of ideas for realistic approaches/solutions; identification and Initiation of pilot projects to test and further develop possible new approaches for next generation public services and 'government – citizen collaboration platforms.