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Digital India

The word digitalization is used in dual sense. In one sense digitalization is the process of converting information into digital format securing result of converting object, image, sound, document in a signal obtained by generating a series of numbers that describe a secret set of points or samples. This conversation just converts the text and media in data format which then can be reproduced on the monitor or printed in the original form as it was before digitalization. This process creates a possibility to store large data in small space in the form of bytes. In the second sense and which is required to be considered for the present subject, digitalization is the process in which aspects of social life are restructured around digital communication. More appropriately it can be referred as digitization. Digitization may also be defined as transformation of society resulting from adaptation of digital technologies to communicate, produce, and process information. For example, earlier process of writing letters and sending them by mail and receiving such mail by post taking time of several days for communication. After digitization text massage can be generated on computer and can be send with the help of email service with a click of mouse and received by the receiver in seconds. The movies which were required to be stored in large boxes of prints and run on the projector now can be beamed through satellite directly into theatre. Not only this the movies can be streamed on OTT platform and the viewer can view the movie on the monitor at home.

The process of digitization has touched every aspect of social life and changed the way of life. The journey of digitization in social life started with introduction of calculators, which made it easy to calculate multiple arithmetical operations by the click of buttons. This is followed by computers which not only can calculate but also assist the people to prepare textual data and along with it edit, store and create media. With nanotechnology the computers started to shrink and soon came in the hands of people in the form of smartphones. The process of digitization revolutionized not only the process of communication but improved transportation, medical assistance and marketing.

Digital India is basically a flagship programme of the present government of India. I hope that the paper setter while including the subject in the paper of examination of civil Judge do not expect that it should be written on the propaganda programme of a political party and therefore, I refer to process of digitization of India since its inception.

The history of digitization of India started before several decades. Televisions were introduced in India in 70s and the colour televisions for introduced in India in 80s. This was possible because of digitization of media technology. In 1991 India has taken a leap forward in the process of digitization by starting the process of building supercomputer. The process was further accelerated by

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establishment of Centre for development of advanced computing (C-DAC). The process of digitization further progressed with the efforts of Indian space research Organization (ISRO) which succeeded in launching telecommunication satellites for indigenous use. Besides this telecom revolution started in India in 90s. The telephone dialing system changed and it became easier to communicate by using subscriber trunk dialing (STD) and international subscriber dialing (ISD). The telecommunication revolution in 90s led to expansion of trade and business.

The government is now working on transforming India into a Digital India by working on expanding broadband highways. Universal access to mobile connectivity is also one of the factors. Public internet access programme, IT governance by reforming the functioning of the government through technology, increasing the manufacture of electronics and opening up information technology for all or some of the objectives of Digital Programme.

The governance is run with computers for 15 years, however workflow automation inside government is necessary aspect. Public grievances address also can be done with the help of digital technology. Digital technology also can be used in education. Digital technology also can be used in healthcare for development of farming for increasing security of the nation for better planning of resources and for experiencing decrease in delay in justice delivery.

Automation of governance is already in process; however, the government offices are still unable to get rid of paper. The process of governance runs by moving of files in physical form. It is necessary to create a manner of governance in which files should be moved in the form of files and the records should be maintained in the manner of e-files.

Process of digitization of Justice delivery system stated before 10 years and it has now come to the stage of possibilities of e-filing of cases in the court. The courts are able to hear cases digitally by video conferencing. The Covid pandemic expediated the process of use of digital technology and hearing of cases in the court by video conferencing. however, record is still created and maintained in physical form as well as Digital form.

The education system was previously not using digital platforms for education except for the private classes and private universities which were using the platforms like YouTube and Facebook to communicate digitally with students. Here also the Covid pandemic created a sea change in use of digital technology in education. Since the year 2019 to 2021 the schools and colleges were run by giving education by video conferencing and even in many cases taking examinations on digital platform.

Recovery of income tax or GST it is done by digital platform and it has become quite easy and convenient for the taxpayers to pay taxes and file returns on digital platform and even settle their disputes regarding taxation digitally.

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Digitization made the life of people easy in many ways. The speed of communication makes it possible for the people to reach to their near and send dear by click a button. Money can be transferred now by UPI by click a button. It is not necessary for banking purposes to visit the banks. It can be done by using the apps of the bank. It is also not necessary for the people to go to the markets and malls to purchase commodities. They can get the things desired by them delivered at their doorstep by using different apps and platforms run by marketing companies. It has become easy for the people to get medical and legal advice without visiting the doctors or lawyers physically. Even the many professions can be run and many services can be provided from home with the help of computers and with the help of communicating systems. The tickets for transportation are available at home with the help of Apps. In the cities which provide the services of taxies on digital platform it is not necessary for the people to go to the taxi stand to get a taxi. The taxi comes to the door's doorstep with the help of digital app of the company providing services.

With all these advantages, the digitization also brings with it disadvantages too. The digital transmission of money has given rise to cyber frauds. The social media platforms like WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook are misused for the purposes of spreading rumours and hatred amongst citizens. The smartphones having inbuilt cameras are the most dangerous weapon to breach of the privacy of people. People using social media platforms are having right to express however right of expression even as a fundamental right has its limitations and nobody can cross the line provided by the Constitution, however many people can't restrain and taking advantage of wide spread reach of their expressions in the society, some elements take disadvantage of the situation to spread disharmony amongst the society. The government has brought and amended from time to time the Information Technology Act to meet the challenge of misuse of social media. The police department has constituted cyber branch with the officers having special knowledge of information technology. Time to time the issues of misuse of social media platforms is taken to the service providers and service providers also block the person from misusing the social media platform.

The Digital India as it is today and as it will be in the future is certainly going to bring with it more ease and convenient for the citizens but at the same time it is also going to bring some more evils of the misuse of digital media. The legislation to prevent this misuse and establishments cybercrime branches to unearth the cybercrimes will help to bring a better culture in the society in respect of use of digital media. It is for the society to make certain rules postulating self-restrains in use of social media for better social and cultural atmosphere.

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