Boost for Digital India Flagship

Why in news?

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Union government has proposed to double the expenditure on the Digital India programme.

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What are the schemes under digital India flagship?

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- The Digital India programme is a flagship programme under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
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- The vision of this program is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
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- There are about more than 23 mission mode projects under the programme few are enlisted below
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- **Digi Locker -** The service was launched to store crucial documents like Voter ID Card, Pan Card, BPL Card, Driving License, education certificates, etc. in the cloud.
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- **MyGov.in -** The portal works as an online platform to engage citizens in governance through a “Discuss”, “Do” and “Disseminate” approach.
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- **E-Sign Framework -** This initiative would enable users to digitally sign a document online using Aadhaar authentication.
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- **Swach Bharat Mission mobile app -** The app will enable organizations and citizens to access information regarding the cleanliness drive and achieve the goals of the mission.
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- **National Scholarship Portal -**From submitting the application, verification, sanction and disbursal to end beneficiary, everything related to government scholarships can be done on this single portal online.
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- **E-Hospital -**Online Registration System under this initiative enables people to avail services like online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, checking on the availability of blood online, etc.
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- **Digitize India Platform -**This initiative will involve digitization of data and records on a large scale in the country to make easy and quick access to them possible.
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- **Bharat Net -**Under this initiative, a high-speed digital highway will connect 2, 50,000 gram panchayats of the country.
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- This is the world's largest rural broadband project using optical fibre.
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- **Wi-Fi Hotspots -**Development of high speed BSNL Wi-Fihotspots throughout the country is yet another initiative to improve digital connectivity in the country.
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- **Next Generation Network -**Launched by BSNL, this service will replace 30-year old telephone exchanges to manage all types of services like voice, data, multimedia and other types of communication services.
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- **Electronics Development Fund -**The fund will be set up to support the manufacturing of electronics products that would help create new jobs and reduce import.
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- **Centre of Excellence on Internet of Things (IoT) -**In partnership with NASSCOM, Centre of Excellence will be established for rapid adoption of IoT technology and encourage a new growth strategy.
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What are the recent announcement on digital India?

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- Expenditure on programme doubled to Rs. 3,073 crore for the next financial year from Rs. 1,425.63 crore in 2017-18.
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- Under Digital India the budget is allocated in the following order of priority
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1. Promotion of electronics manufacturing.
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2. Delivery of e-governance services.
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3. Government’s digital literacy programme
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4. Development on manpower.
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- The Government also proposed to set up 5 lakh Wi-Fi hotspots which will provide broadband access to 5 crore rural citizens.
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- The Budget proposed an allocation of around Rs. 14,500 crore to strengthen telecom infrastructure projects, including BharatNet, during the upcoming fiscal.
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- Of this, Rs. 4,500 has been allocated for building a dedicated optical fibre-based communications network for defence forces in lieu of airwaves vacated for civilian use.
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- NITI Aayog would initiate a national programme to direct efforts in the area of artificial intelligence, including research and development of its applications.
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Source: The Hindu

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