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CONCERNING MODERN DIGITAL POLICY
IN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

India's digital society development is quite an important issue, especially in pandemic and post-pandemic times. It is possible to say that Indian digital policy is on the way to its progress for the stable future of the whole country and its people's rights protection. Nowadays, the prevention of human rights violations is a key part of a protective policy of every country in the world [1, p. 585].

Covid-19 has exposed the deep faultlines that hobble India's transition towards a more digitally enabled society. During the pandemic, several essential services, ranging from access to healthcare services – including vaccines – to education, livelihoods, and rations – have felt the effects of unequal distribution of technology in the country. With increasing inequalities and the burden on systems, the need for digitally driven programmes is now more urgent than ever before [2]. A steep rise in digital information processing and infrastructure, including the catalytic and interconnectivity value of the Internet and World Wide Web, have made feasible fundamental societal and economic changes that are revolutionary in their aggregate impact [3, p. 59].

It is estimated that India's digital economy has the potential to become a 1 Trillion USD ecosystem by 2025. This will have multiple positive consequences, from an increase in jobs to foreign investment, growth of domestic digital infrastructure, the rise of small and medium businesses and an overall enhancement in the country's economic growth. However, there are many hurdles in India's path to becoming a 1 trillion-dollar economy such as a rampant digital divide, varied demographic profile and underdeveloped technology infrastructure. However, The Government of India has realised that it is important that their policy measures are contemporaneous with the underlying challenges of the digital ecosystem and are forward looking in nature. A first step in this direction was the Digital India, that amplified pre-existing approaches along with newer targeted schemes [4].

The UN's Agenda 2030 considers digital tools as an essential means for socio-economic development, modernizing infrastructureand human progress. The digital era also poses new challenges for city development, as information and communication technologies (ICT) alone are unable to solve problems in a simplistic way [5, p. 423]. Digital India was a campaign launched by the Government of India under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and

Information Technology, on July 1st, 2015, to ensure the delivery of Government's services through electronic media. The core vision of this initiative as per the Government is divided into three broad aspects – digital infrastructure as a core utility for citizens, governance and services on demand and the digital empowerment of citizens. The initiative includes plans to develop better digital infrastructure in rural areas and boost the existing digital economy [4].

With the mentioned concern, it is needed to mention the following types of so-called digital rights. 1) *Universal and equal access.* People should be able to access the Internet regardless of their income, their geographical location or their disabilities. The UN Human Rights Council recognises in a report that the right of access is essential to freedom of opinion; 2) *Freedom of expression, information and communication.* These basic human rights are threatened on the Internet when governments block websites or social networks, which is a violation of the right to communication and free association, or censor content, which is contrary to freedom of expression and information; 3) *Privacy and data protection.* Citizens must have control over who stores their personal data and be able to delete them at any time. The right to privacy is threatened on the Internet by the theft of credentials, the appropriation of personal data and their use for financial gain, etc.; 4) *Right to anonymity.* The right to anonymity and encryption of communications is particularly threatened in those countries that prohibit the sending of encrypted messages and communications, which is necessary for reliable and secure transactions on the Internet; 5) *Right to be forgotten.* This is the right to have a person's private information removed from Internet searches, databases and directories. It is currently recognised by the EU in the GDPR as a 'right to delete' and it has already been invoked in other countries such as Argentina, the US, South Korea and India; 6) *Protection of minors.* Governments must not only ensure the protection of children on the Internet, as in the case of child pornography, but also ensure that companies provide the means to guarantee safe access without infringing the rights of children; 7) *Intellectual property.* Authors must be guaranteed recognition of their artistic or literary work and the right to be remunerated for its use, while guaranteeing free access to works, which are already in the public domain [6].

In conclusion we have to admit that there is no doubt that the Digital India Initiative has been a huge success in its first five years. However, it is imperative that an accelerated focus is placed on certain core components such as enhancing digital literacy and accessibility to truly realise the potential of India's digital economy. Though the Government has developed state of the art systems and schemes, it is important to ensure that these systems are prepared for interoperability across the board...There is a need for India to strengthen its cybersecurity frameworks and promote informational privacy of citizens on an urgent basis [4]. Thus, in modern times, the Republic of India is on the right way to its digital development to support the progress of its prosperity and

appropriate protection of its citizens' rights and interests.

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**DIGITAL RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS:
THE MALAYSIA'S PERSPECTIVE**

This article offers a brief understanding of what constitutes digital rights and how freedom of speech in the digital age is often being threatened by country's regulations that undermine these fundamental rights.

The terms "digital rights" and "internet rights" have increasingly become part of political and academic debates around the world. Issues such as censorship, surveillance, and privacy are at the forefront of these debates. There has been a recent increase in calls for the protection of digital rights, which has led to a number of reports, projects, and declarations being created on the subject [1]. These documents outline the need for preserving fundamental rights in the digital age, as well as strategies for how to achieve this goal.

Digital rights are the civil and political rights that every individual has in the digital realm. They include the right to free expression, the right to access information, the right to privacy, and the right to access and create culture. To understand it better, digital rights are human rights in the internet era. The rights