Course title: Digital Economy: Dividends, Disputes & Dimensions

Course code: PPS 156	**No. of credits:** 2	**L-T-P:** 22-08-00	**Learning hours:** 30

Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None

Department: Department of Policy & Management Studies

Course coordinator(s): Dr. Gaurika Chugh	**Course instructor(s):** Dr. Gaurika Chugh, Ms. Jaya Verma Sinha & Others

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Course type: Core	**Course offered in:** 2nd Semester

Course description

The digital economy is a major driver of economic growth in recent times, contributing to productivity gains, job creation, and innovation. It generates vast amounts of data that can be leveraged for evidence-based policy formulation. The digital economy enables improved governance through e-governance systems that enhance service delivery, increase transparency, and facilitate citizen engagement. Understanding the digital economy is also crucial for promoting sustainable industrial practices, digital transformation in energy management, and resource efficiency. Public policy students must understand these trends to effectively engage in economic planning and other development initiatives.

This course is designed to explore the multifaceted landscape of the digital economy, examining the benefits, challenges, and complexities associated with its rapid integration into various aspects of society, commerce and governance. Providing an understanding of the implications of digital transformation, this course combines theoretical concepts with practical insights, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the digital economy's impact on individuals, businesses, and governments.

This course is divided into four modules. The first module provides a foundational understanding of the digital economy, exploring key concepts, components, and the significance of digital technologies in modern trading and economic paradigms. The second module explores disputes, policy and governance challenges that arise within the digital economy, emphasizing regulatory frameworks and ethical considerations. The third module examines future trends and opportunities within the digital economy, exploring the innovations that are shaping its trajectory. The final module presents in-depth case studies to illustrate practical applications of digital economy concepts in various sectors, analysing successful integrations and lessons learned.

Learning objectives:

- To help students understand the fundamental principles and dynamics of the digital economy and analyze the economic benefits and potential drawbacks of digital transformation.
- To orient students to disputes arising from digital business practices and the governance challenges they present.
- To discuss emerging technologies and evaluate future prospects and trends shaping the digital economy.
- To assist students to examine real-world case studies to understand practical implications and integration of digital economy strategies.

Course content

Module	Topic	L	T	P
1.	**Introduction to Digital Economy** • Overview of digital economy and its components (e.g., e-commerce, digital services, fintech) • Evolution of digital technologies and their impact on global economies • Exploration of economic benefits: productivity, efficiency, and innovation. • Data as an Economic Asset: The role of big data and analytics in driving economic growth; Understanding data ownership, usage, management, and commercialization • Overview of how different government departments and ministries are adapting to the digital economy. • Importance of digital infrastructure: broadband, cloud computing, and IoT. • Global disparities in digital connectivity and its economic implications.	8	0	0

2.	**Digital Economy: Disputes, Policy & Governance Challenges** • Overview of existing laws and regulations governing the digital economy in India • Data privacy, intellectual property rights, and security concerns • Challenges in effective governance and enforcement; Challenges posed by bureaucratic processes and compliance issues for businesses • Cybersecurity and Ethical Considerations: Understanding cybersecurity threats and their impact on the digital economy; Ethical dilemmas surrounding data collection, usage, artificial intelligence and surveillance in the digital economy • Digital divide and its effects on socioeconomic disparities; Strategies for promoting inclusivity and access to digital resources • Challenges posed by foreign digital platforms and large tech companies; Global competition and its effects on local industries in the digital economy • Impact of automation and digital technologies on employment in various sectors; Skill gaps and workforce readiness for the digital economy	8	0	0
3.	**Prospects for Digital Economy** • Global Market Access: E-commerce Expansion; Digital Trade • Increased Consumer Connectivity and Engagement: Personalized Services; Improved Customer Experience • Financial Inclusion and FinTech Innovations: Access to Financial Services; Rise of FinTech • Smart Infrastructure and Urban Development: Smart Cities; Investment in digital infrastructure • Data-Driven Decision Making: Enhanced Analytics; Agility and Responsiveness • Environmental Sustainability: Resource Optimization; Reduction in Physical Footprint • Exploration of emerging technologies: blockchain, AI, and their potential impacts on the economy. • Predictions and challenges for the future of the digital economy	6	0	0
4.	**Case Studies on Digital Economy Integration** • International Cases, such as, Estonia: Digital Society and E-Government; China: E-Commerce and Mobile Payments, largely driven by platforms like Alibaba and Tencent; South Korea: Broadband and Internet Connectivity; Singapore: Smart Nation Initiative; Finland: Education and Digital Competency • Indian Cases, such as, Aadhaar and Digital Identification; Unified Payments Interface (UPI); E-Governance and Digital Services; M-Kisan: Mobile-Based Agricultural Extension; E-commerce Expansion (e.g., through Flipkart, Amazon India, Snapdeal etc.); Telemedicine and Digital Health (National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)); Startup Ecosystem and Innovation (in sectors like Fintech, Edtech, Healthtech, and Agritech)	0	8	0
	Total	**22**	**8**	**0**

Evaluation criteria:

Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

- **Minor Test-1:** Short-Answer Type Questions/Quizzes/MCQs (30%)
- **Minor Test-2:** Case Study Presentation on select cases based on Module-4 (20%)
- **Major Test:** Written Test/Term Paper Submission & Presentation (50%)

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, candidates would be:

1. having a comprehensive understanding of the complexities and opportunities within the digital economy (All evaluations)
2. well-equipped to engage with current trends in the digital landscape and contribute meaningfully to discussions and decision-making processes surrounding the future of the digital economy (All evaluations)

Pedagogical approach
Classroom lectures; Student Seminars; Invited talks from Experts in particular domains including Practitioners and Senior/Superannuated Govt. Officers; Case studies.

Suggested Readings

Module 1:

- Tapscott, D. (1997). *The Digital Economy: Promise and Peril in The Age of Networked Intelligence*. McGraw-Hill Education.
- Lynn, T., Rosati, P., Conway, E., Curran, D., Fox, G., & O'Gorman, C. (2022). The Digital Economy and Digital Business. In: *Digital Towns*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-91247-5_4.
- Letiagina, E. N., Trifonov, Y. V., Vizgunov, A. N., Tanchuk, R. S., & Brykalov, S. M. (2022). Digital Economy: Research, Approaches, and Development Strategies. In: Popkova, E.G. (eds.) *Business 4.0 as a Subject of the Digital Economy. Advances in Science, Technology & Innovation*. Cham: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-90324-4_140.
- Nosova, S., Norkina, A., Makar, S., & Fadeicheva, G. (2020). Digital transformation as a new paradigm of economic policy. *Procedia Computer Science*, *190*, 657-665. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.procs.2021.06.077.
- Tretyakov O. V. (2022). *Digital Economy as a new Development Paradigm: Opportunities, Challenges and Prospects*. Melbourne: AUS Publishers. https://auspublishers.com.au/en/nauka/monography/2406/view.
- Kalf, W. (2024). Economic Development in the Digital Economy: A Bibliometric Review. *Economies*, *12*(3), 53. https://doi.org/10.3390/economies12030053.

Module 2:

- Lynn, T., Rosati, P., Conway, E., Curran, D., Fox, G., & O'Gorman, C. (2022). *Infrastructure for Digital Connectivity. In: Digital Tow*ns. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-91247-5_6.
- Valdez, V.B., Javier, S.P. (2021). Digital Divide: From a Peripheral to a Core Issue for All SDGs. In W. Leal Filho, A. Marisa Azul, L. Brandli, A. Lange Salvia, P. Gökçin Özuyar, T. Wall (Eds.) *Reduced Inequalities. Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*. Cham: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-95882-8_107.
- Heeks, R. (2022). Digital inequality beyond the digital divide: conceptualizing adverse digital incorporation in the global South. *Information Technology for Development*, *28*(4), 688–704. https://doi.org/10.1080/02681102.2022.2068492.
- Baporikar, N. (2024). Barriers and Impact of the Digital Economy. In P. Ordóñez de Pablos, M. Almunawar, & M. Anshari (Eds.), *Strengthening Sustainable Digitalization of Asian Economy and Society* (pp. 38-53). IGI Global Scientific Publishing. https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3693-1942-0.ch003
- Graham, M. (Ed.) (2019). Digital Economies at Global Margins. The MIT Press. https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/10890.001.0001.
- ITU (2017). Social and Economic Impact of Deigital Transformation on the Economy. GSR-17 Discussion Paper. https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/GSR/Documents/GSR2017/Soc_Eco_impact_Digital_transformation_finalGSR.pdf.
- Friederici, N. (2019). The Global Digital Economy: Worsening Inequality vs. Pockets of Innovation. https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-global-digital-economy-worsening-inequality-vs-pockets-of-innovation-54180.
- Morris, J., Morris, W., & Bowen, R. (2021). Implications of the digital divide on rural SME resilience. *Journal of Rural Studies*, *89*, 369-377. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2022.01.005.
- Mukherjee, A. (2024). Navigating the Digital Divide in a Hyper connected World: Strategies for Bridging Inequalities and Promoting Equitable Access to Digital Opportunities. *International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology (IRJET)*, *11*(2), 360-369. https://www.irjet.net/archives/V11/i2/IRJET-V11I261.pdf
- Laskar, M. H. (2023). Examining the emergence of digital society and the digital divide in India: A comparative evaluation between urban and rural areas. *Frontiers in Sociology*, *8*, 1145221. https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2023.1145221.

- Xiao, A., Xu, Z., Skare, M., Qin, Y., & Wang, X. (2024). Bridging the digital divide: The impact of technological innovation on income inequality and human interactions. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *11*(1), 1-18. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03307-8.
- Dewani, N. D., Khan, Z. A., Agarwal, A., Sharma, M., & Khan, S. A. (Eds.). (2022). *Handbook of Research on Cyber Law, Data Protection, and Privacy*. IGI Global Scientific Publishing. https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-8641-9.
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- Christen, M., Gordijn, B., & Loi, M. (Eds.) (2020). *The Ethics of Cybersecurity*. Cham: Springer. https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-29053-5.
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- Priyadarshini, I., & Cotton, C. (2022). *Cybersecurity: Ethics, Legal, Risks, and Policies*. Apple Academic Press, Inc.

Module 3:

- Kumar, S., Lim, W.M., Sivarajah, U., & Kaur, J. (2023). Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain Integration in Business: Trends from a Bibliometric-Content Analysis. *Information Systems Frontiers*, *25*, 871–896. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10796-022-10279-0.
- Hong, Z., & Xiao, K. (2024). Digital economy structuring for sustainable development: The role of blockchain and artificial intelligence in improving supply chain and reducing negative environmental impacts. *Scientific Reports*, *14*(1), 1-12. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-53760-3.
- Charles, V., Emrouznejad, A. & Gherman, T. (2023). A critical analysis of the integration of blockchain and artificial intelligence for supply chain. *Annals of Operations Research*, *327*, 7–47. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10479-023-05169-w.
- Bhumichai, D., Smiliotopoulos, C., Benton, R., Kambourakis, G., & Damopoulos, D. (2024). The Convergence of Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain: The State of Play and the Road Ahead. *Information*, *15*(5), 268. https://doi.org/10.3390/info15050268.
- Gupta, S., Modgil, S., Choi, T., Kumar, A., & Antony, J. (2023). Influences of artificial intelligence and blockchain technology on financial resilience of supply chains. *International Journal of Production Economics*, *261*, 108868. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpe.2023.108868.
- Huria, A. (2019). Facilitating Trade and Logistics for ECommerce: Building Blocks, Challenges and Ways Forward. The World Bank. https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/es/645791578285992456/pdf/Facilitating-Trade-and-Logistics-for-E-Commerce-Building-Blocks-Challenges-and-Ways-Forward.pdf.
- Jaller, L. D., Gaillard, S., & Molinuevo, M. (n.d.). The regulation of Digital Trade: Key policies and international trends. World Bank Group. https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/998881578289921641/pdf/The-Regulation-of-Digital-Trade-Key-Policies-and-International-Trends.pdf.
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- Amnas, M. B., Selvam, M., & Parayitam, S. (2024). FinTech and Financial Inclusion: Exploring the Mediating Role of Digital Financial Literacy and the Moderating Influence of Perceived

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- Güldenberg, S., Ernst, E., & North, K. (Eds.) (2021). *Managing Work in the Digital Economy: Challenges, Strategies and Practices for the Next Decade*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature Switzerland AG.
- Almunawar, M. N., Islam, M. Z., & de Pablos, P. O. (2022). *Digital Transformation Management: Challenges and Futures in the Asian Digital Economy*. Oxon & New York: Routledge.
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Module 4:

- Hardy, A. (2024). Estonia's digital diplomacy: Nordic interoperability and the challenges of cross-border e-governance. *Internet Policy Review*, *13*(3). https://doi.org/10.14763/2024.3.1785
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- Cavada, M., Tight, M. R., & Rogers, C. D. (2018). A smart city case study of Singapore—Is Singapore truly smart? *Smart City Emergence*, 295-314. https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-816169-2.00014-6.
- Lähdemäki, J. (2019). Case Study: The Finnish National Curriculum 2016—A Co-created National Education Policy. In J. W. Cook (eds) *Sustainability, Human Well-Being, and the Future of Education*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-78580-6_13.
- Salmela-Aro, K., & Lavonen, J. (2024). The Switch to Distance Teaching and Learning in Finland During the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020–2022) Went Technically Well but Was Emotionally Challenging. In F. M. Reimers (eds) *Schools and Society During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Cham: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-42671-1_4.
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- Kaarakainen, T., & Saikkonen, L. (2021). Multilevel analysis of the educational use of technology: Quantity and versatility of digital technology usage in Finnish basic education schools. *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, *37*(4), 953-965. https://doi.org/10.1111/jcal.12534
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Student responsibilities

- At least 75% attendance will be necessary to be able to appear for the final exam.
- Active classroom participation; Critical reflections and timely submission according to the evaluation criterion.

Course Outline prepared by: Dr. Chandan Kumar

Course reviewers

1. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Former Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India; Chairman of the Current Board of Governors of the Giri Institute of Development Studies (GIDS), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.
2. Prof. S. P. Singh, Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR), Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India.

Additional Information

This Course outline was approved in the 60th Academic Council Meeting held on 24th December 2024 at TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi.