Role of Digital Literacy in Creating India's Future Workforce

Why in news?

A recent article highlights how rural India is fostering digital fluency among children through adaptive, low-resource methods.

- **Digital infrastructure in schools** – According to a recent Ministry of Education report, only 51% of Indian schools have functional computers, and 53% have internet access.
- **Digital fluency beyond infrastructure** – Even with limited resources, students are navigating the digital world **through shared devices and peer-led learning**.
- **Workforce readiness in digital economy –** As per the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs 2025 report, 75% of future jobs will demand digital proficiency.
- **Everyday digital engagement–** Children using their **parents' phones** to listen to teachers' voice notes.
- Siblings teaching each other how to use learning apps in local languages.
- **Blended and multimodal learning** – Learning moves across mediums such as textbooks, audio messages, peer interactions, and screen-based tools.
- This blended model reflects the future of lifelong learning in a fast-evolving economy.
- Digital literacy now means more than using devices it includes,
    - Agency and confidence
    - Curiosity and creativity
    - Problem-solving abilities
- **Impact of public-private partnerships –** Collaborative programs are helps to,
    - Train teachers in digital tools
    - Introduce STEM education in rural areas
    - Set up digital labs in under-resourced schools

With 65% of India's population under 35, there is a major opportunity to shape a digitally empowered workforce.

- **Mother-tongue digital learning tools** – Technology enables learning in local languages, helping bridge comprehension gaps and encouraging deeper engagement.
- The rural digital learning model, led by curiosity over connectivity, is scalable and replicable.
- Children in village homes and classrooms are not just adapting to digital tools, they are shaping the future of education.

Reference

The Hindu| Digital literacy in village classroom creating India's workforce

SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering