

# Global South Matters



## DAKSHIN Weekly Newsletter

(27 Dec 2024 - 2 Jan, 2025)

### DigiLocker the Citizen's Wallet

*By Venkatesh Krishnamurthy, Advisor (Digital), DAKSHIN*

DigiLocker is a digital storage wallet provided by the Government of India for its citizens. It can be accessed on website as well as an app on smartphones and tablets. Under the Indian laws, electronic documents are admissible as proofs. The main purposes of DigiLocker are for citizens to store their important documents securely online, access anywhere and share their credentials securely. It facilitates the offline authentication of citizens by the way of storing their identity proofs. Citizens can share their identity proofs with others, for example, identity proof with sensitive fields like the first 8 digits of Aadhaar digital identity masked, safely.



The Prime Minister of India launched DigiLocker on 01 July 2015. Since then, it has grown into a popular component of India's Digital Public Infrastructure. Created by National e-Governance Division of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the Android app version of DigiLocker has crossed 100 million downloads on Google Playstore alone and potentially similar number on Apple app store<sup>1</sup>.

At first look, DigiLocker may not give away its vast set of uses. DigiLocker's gigantic utility value comes from its many other features. Universities can issue their students degree certificates directly on DigiLocker, which the students can further share securely with the next Indian

---

<sup>1</sup> These numbers are indicative because DigiLocker can be accessed on web without using the app; also, the same user may have installed the app on more than one device.

university they may enrol to. With the Government of India, having made study credits transferable across universities with the Academic Bank of Credits, DigiLocker comes in handy for Indian students. Similarly, a bank can issue a statement directly to a customer's DigiLocker, which the customer can share for further use such as availing a housing loan. Similarly, the traffic police can verify the details of a driver with the Driving Licence stored in his / her DigiLocker. With just the offline sharing feature alone, citizens can check into airports and hotels easily, without having to carry any identity proof hard copy as well as share from DigiLocker without any safety concerns. In the era of digital identity theft concerns, the safety offered by DigiLocker is invaluable.

The storage of documents in DigiLocker is not limited to those issued by governments, banks and academia. A citizen can store any other documents that are in Portable Document Format, to the total storage limit of 1GB. While it has many benefits of convenience, it also serves another objective that of reduction of the use of paper, making it a very environmentally friendly infrastructure, considering the consumption of paper by 1.4 billion citizens of India. This benefit is probably less discussed but quite environmentally impactful. With further innovation of DigiLocker, one can expect it to become even more useful for citizens.

The goodness of DigiLocker is not reserved for Indian citizens alone. It is a part of India's Digital Public Infrastructure called the India Stack. The Indian government is sharing the entire India Stack free of charge with 17 countries. It is expected that citizens of many Global South countries may benefit from DigiLocker as Indians have.