


Digital Public Infrastructure for Resilient Economies

Learnings from India

Dr. Pramod Varma

Former Chief Architect Aadhaar, India Stack
CTO EkStep.org, Co-Founder FIDE.org
Co-Chair at the Center for DPI (cdpi.dev)

 @pramodkvarma


ID4AFRICA 2023
AUGMENTED
GENERAL MEETING

India is large and diverse



1.4 Billion people

22 official languages

1 Billion mobile connections

800 Million Internet Users

6% pay income tax

**As of 2008, India was
one of the world's
most unbanked**



Less than **20%**
banking penetration

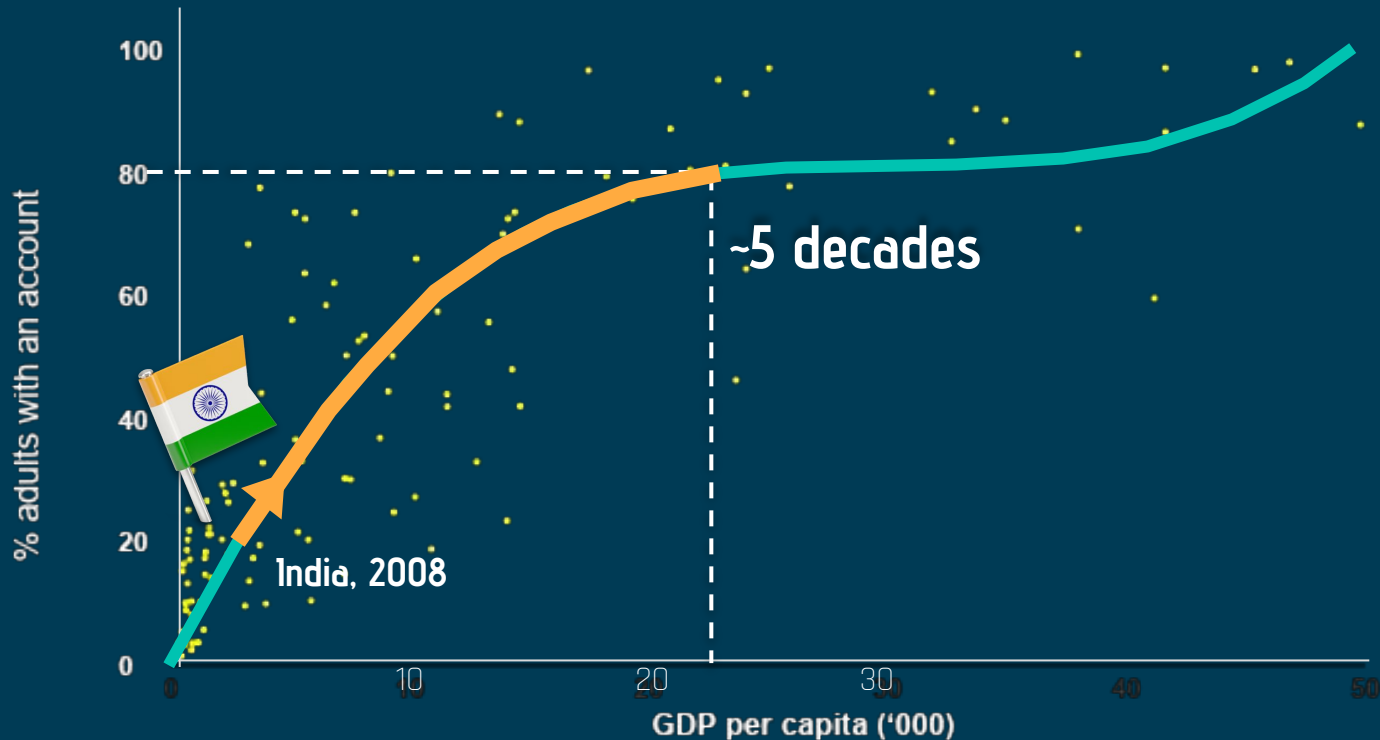
- ⊗ Lack of ID
- ⊗ Cost of KYC & operations
- ⊗ Bank branches inaccessible
- ⊗ Lack of connectivity



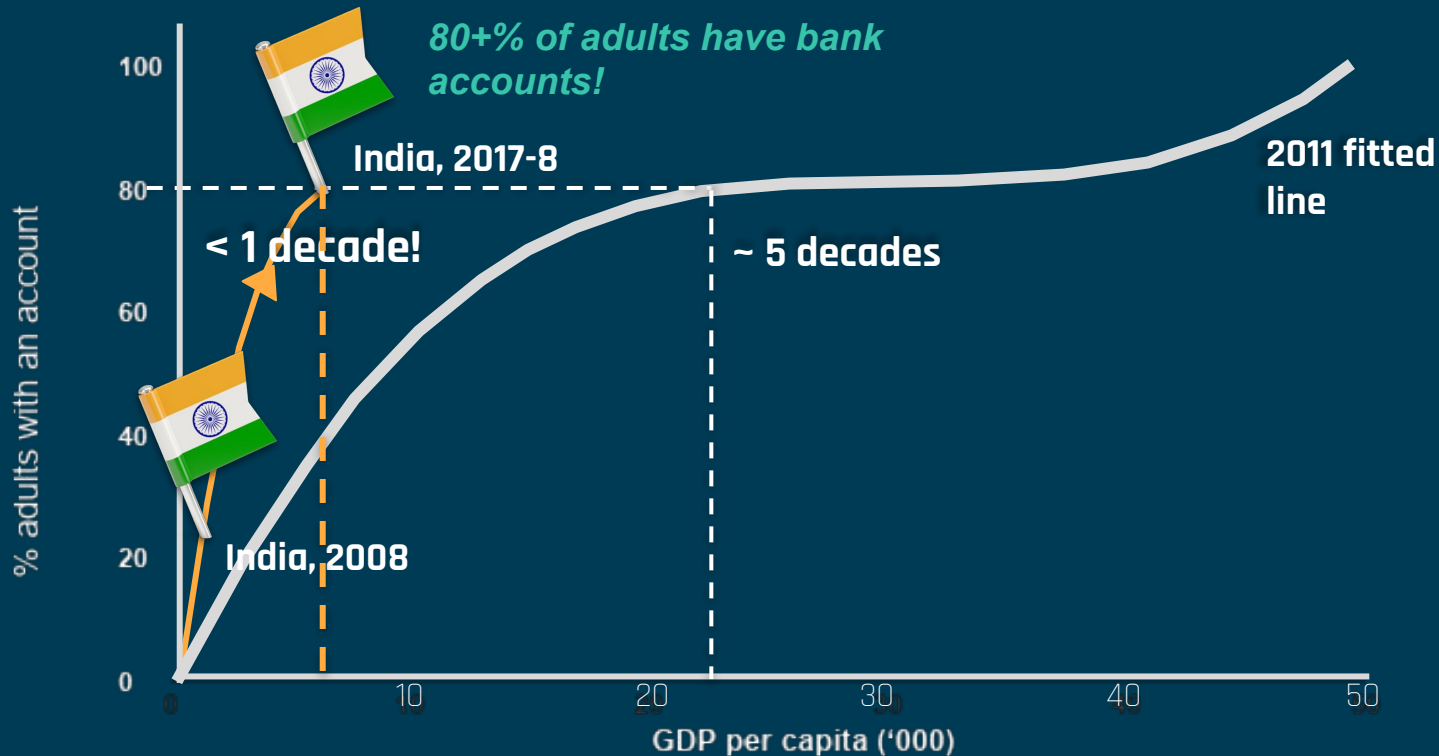
50+Billion USD / year
20-40% leakages

- ⊗ Duplicate & Ghost beneficiaries
- ⊗ Physical cash payments
- ⊗ Exclusion of beneficiaries
- ⊗ Delayed /missing reporting

Per 2008 levels, it was estimated it would take India **half a century** to reach banking penetration of 80%



... but India got there **in less than a decade!**



During last decade

India built the world's largest direct benefit transfer system

310+ federal schemes

600+ state schemes

\$322 Bn

transferred directly so far

~860 Mn

people can now receive money digitally

Savings > \$27 Bn

Just across key federal schemes



This acceleration was due to India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**

Physical Infrastructure



Railways, Roads, Cell Towers, Internet cables


Digital Infrastructure
to catalyse digital services



Open tech standards & systems for Identity, Digital Payments, and beyond

Both drive
Private Innovation

3 foundational DPI building blocks drove this



**Verifiable
Identity**



**Inclusive
Payments**



**Data Sharing
&
Credentialing**

Identity Infrastructure

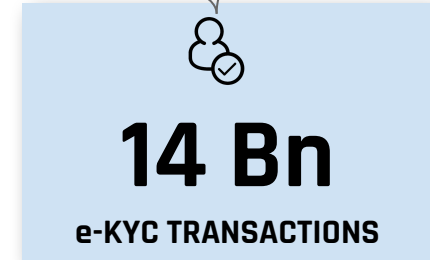
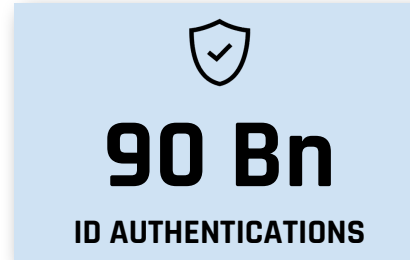
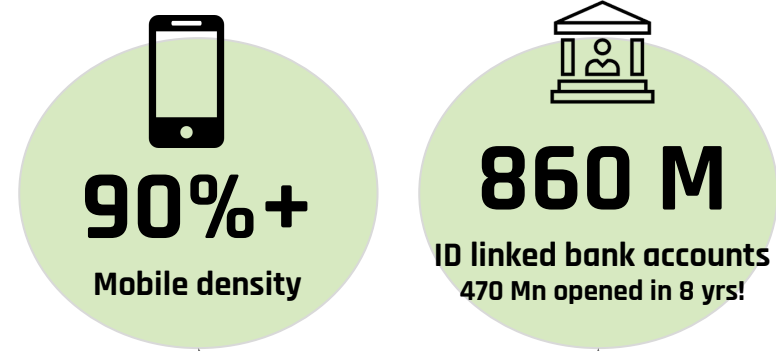
Digital ID for both public & private innovation



AADHAAR

Unique digital identity

Foundational, Designed for innovation
Secure and Privacy Preserving



Impact of ID for G2P in India

\$322 Billion
Transferred

\$27 Billion
Savings

1000+
Programs

860 Million
Beneficiaries



\$4.5 B

COVID Disbursals

160+ M

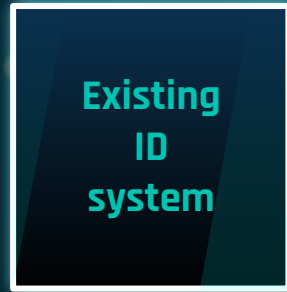
COVID beneficiaries

Registration in an ID system becomes **demand driven** if it can be **easily used to access services** via:

Digital authentication &

Electronic data sharing (eKYC)

Without these, ID is just another database, not DPI that drives public & private innovation!



Any Physical ID system

Drivers License
Birth Registry
National ID
Beneficiary Registry

+1 Authentication & eKYC API

Allows an individual to **remotely verify** that they are the holder of the ID (*only with a **mobile**/biometrics*)

+2 eSign API

Allows an individual to sign any document/contract digitally using the ID (*with auth*)

+1 ID Number-Bank ID Mapper

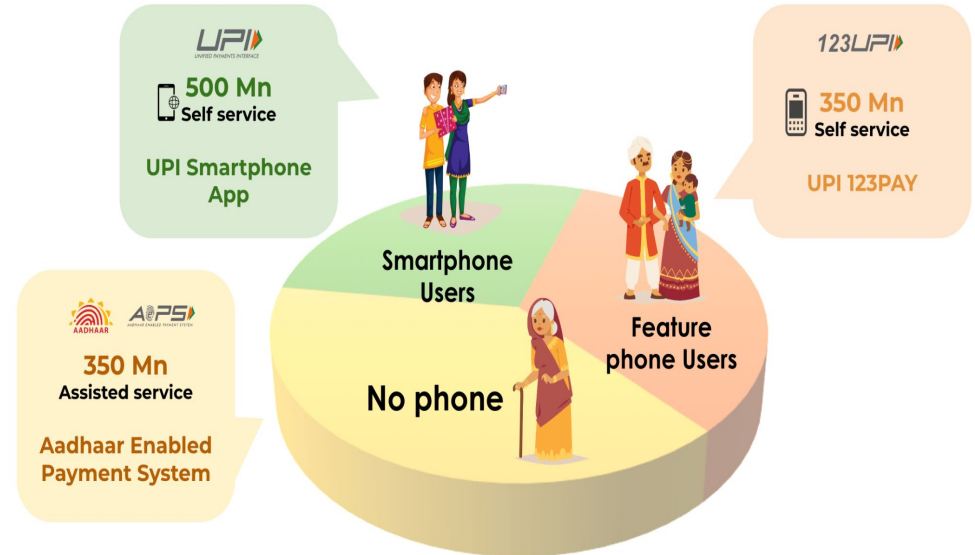
Can allow others to direct G2P funds based on ID

Unified Payment Infrastructure (UPI)



Beyond G2P, a DPI-led transformation, UPI brought

P2P and P2M
digital payments
to everyone!



UPI growth driven by open ecosystem

~350 banks/wallets, 60+ apps, 22 languages, 50+ million merchants!

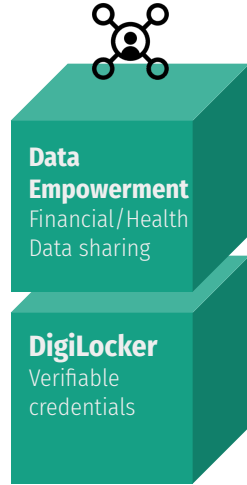
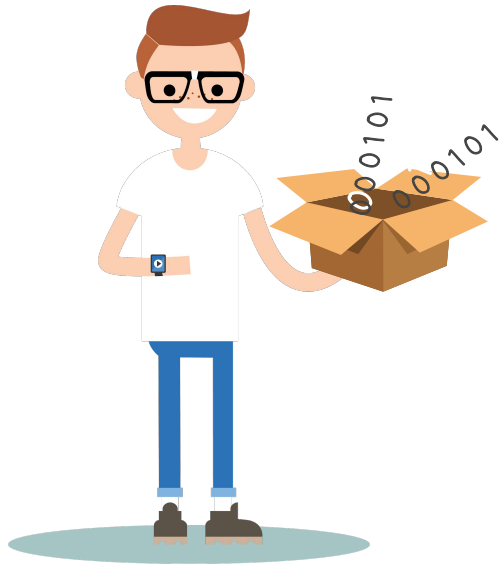


BUSINESS

UPI Breaks All Record: Annual Transactions Cross \$1 Trillion Mark With 102% Growth In 1 Year!

By Shreva Bose — Last updated Apr 2, 2022





Digital Public Infrastructure for **Digital Assets**

Let people **use their data** to build trust
& **access digital services**

Digilocker allows public/private systems to quickly convert their paper certificates to digitally verifiable credentials



ID Docs



Tax returns



Vaccine Certs



**Education/Skill
Certificates**



**Unified Learner
Passport**



**Business
Licenses/Reg**

155 Mn+

Users showing documents to
access services

6 Bn+

*Tamper proof digital credentials/docs
Accessible by public/private parties with
user consent in machine readable form*

Existing
Certificate
system



Verifiable
Credential
Building
Block

Any Paper Certificate

Birth/Death

Marriage

Business registration/license

Health (Vaccine!)

Education (School or Skilling)

Employment/Job

+1 Verifiable QR Code

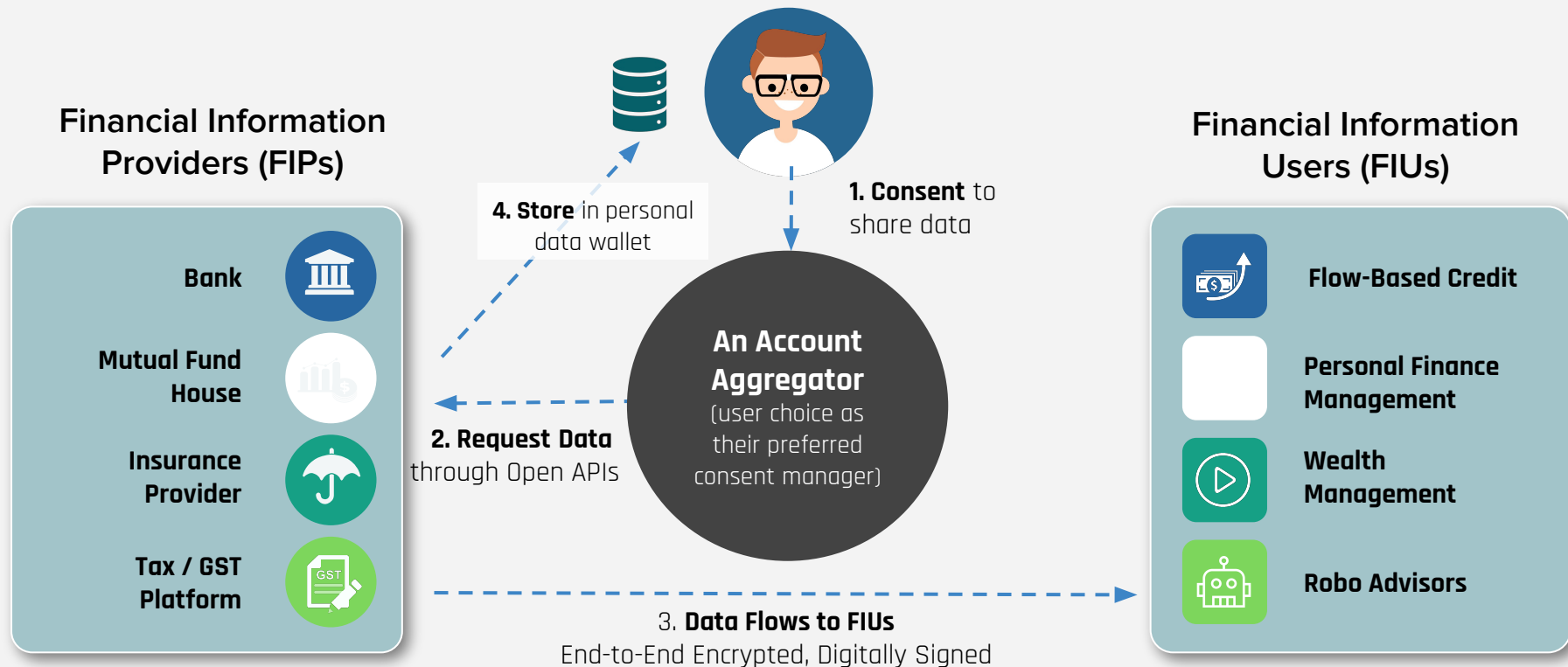
Allows a **public/private player** to verify ID using a QR code with **machine readable data** + **digital signature**

+1 eLocker

System for managing digital certificates/credentials

India's **Account Aggregator** network is a unified way to let **individuals control their financial data**, no matter who has it.

Same decentralized, open protocol driven framework is being deployed in healthcare and other domains



Combining these DPI 'blocks':



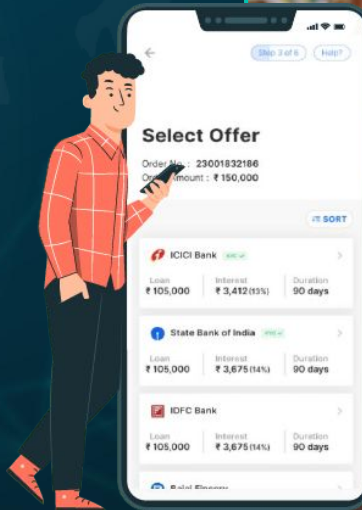
enabled access to a:

₹160 loan (\$2)

disbursed within

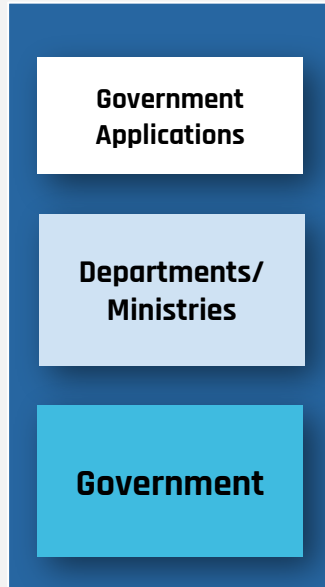
5-10 mins via mobile

to be repaid in **42 days**



All Govt Approach

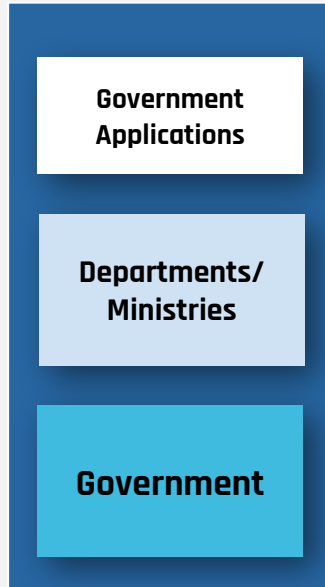
Single Provider
Slow Innovation



21

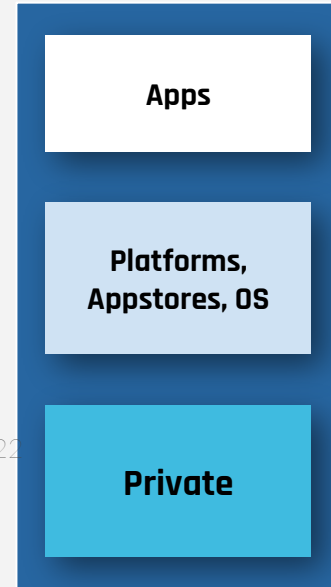
All Govt Approach

Single Provider
Slow Innovation



All Private Approach

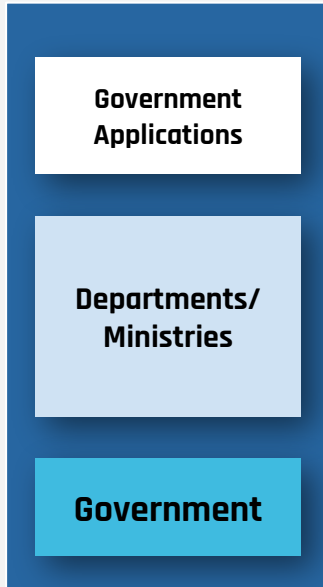
Lack of interoperability
Lack of competition



22

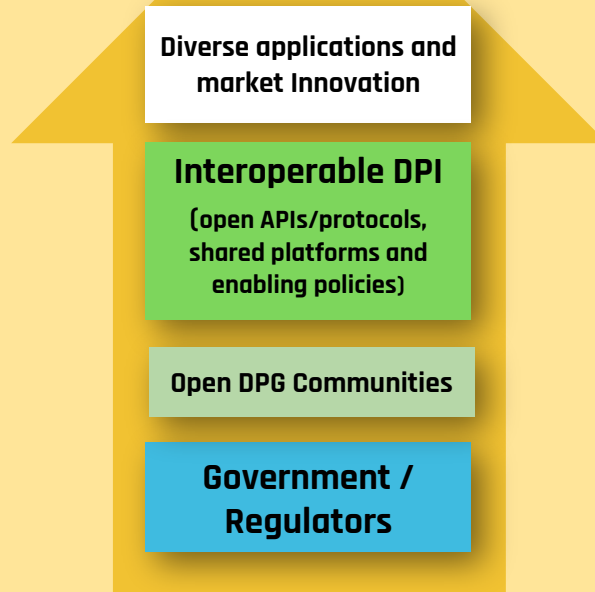
All Govt Approach

*Single Provider
Slow Innovation*



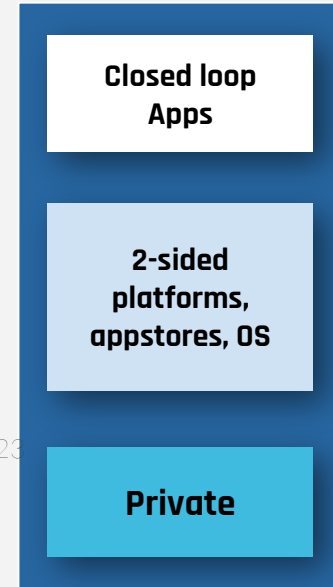
DPI Approach

*Addresses diversity & choice
Encourages Innovation & competition,
Ensures openness and sovereignty*



All Private Approach

*Lack of interoperability
Lack of competition*



23

Accelerating formalization via open market innovation and creating an inclusive and equitable digital economy

Friction Reduction

Reduces cost of doing business, and expands markets



Increased Trust

Digital & portable attestations, verifiable claims



Compliance

Make it easier to comply through automation



Access to learning



Access to healthcare



Access to products & services

Thank you!

Dr. Pramod Varma

Former Chief Architect Aadhaar, India Stack
CTO EkStep.org, Co-Founder FIDE.org
Co-Chair at the Center for DPI (cdpi.dev)



@pramodkvarma



The banner features a blue background with a white grid pattern. On the right side, there is a silhouette of the African continent filled with binary code (0s and 1s). The text "ID4AFRICA" is written in white across the top of the continent, and "2023" is written in orange to its right. Below this, the words "AUGMENTED" and "GENERAL MEETING" are written in large, bold, orange capital letters. The entire banner is enclosed in a white border.

ID4AFRICA 2023
AUGMENTED
GENERAL MEETING