

Draft Agenda
Consultation on role of digital technology for enabling transparency and accountability
15th February 2022, Bangalore, Karnataka

The consultation attempts to bring together on a common platform, perspectives of practitioners, lawyers, academics, bureaucrats on how digital technology impacts access to information and its practical limitations and possibilities Through the course of the deliberations we aim to arrive at an administrative and legal framework that should govern the use of digital technology for access to information and accountability

Time	Topic	Presenters
10:00-10:15	Introductory remarks	<i>P. Ravi Kumar, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka and Rajeev Chawla, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka</i>
10:15-11:00	Key note address	<i>Justice A.P Shah, Former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court</i>
11:00-11:30	Opening presentation: Complexities and Possibilities. Perspectives emanating from practice	<i>Rakshita Swamy, Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research (SAFAR)</i>
11:30-11:45	Tea	
11:45-13:15	Panel discussion: Impact of digital technology on access to information. Link between digital technology and the right to freedom of expression, right to petition, the right to dissent and other democratic freedoms.	<p>1. Joint initiative of Governments and Civil Society Organizations to establish web-based information portals - Mahiti Kanaja (https://mahitikanaja.karnataka.gov.in/) and Jan Soochna Portal (https://jansoochna.rajasthan.gov.in/) through Digital Dialogues</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">i. <i>Sudarshan Deora, Deputy Director, Government of Rajasthan</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">ii. <i>Shreevyas HM, Project Director, Government of Karnataka</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">iii. <i>Vineet Bhambu, Member of the Digital Dialogue Team, Rajasthan</i></p> <p>2. “Conflicts Database” , the country's first and only database of ongoing land and resource conflicts (https://www.landconflictwatch.org/)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">i. <i>Kumar Sambhav, Land Conflict Watch</i></p> <p>3. Atrocities Tracking Monitor- a digital architecture for activists, victims and CSOs to register cases of atrocities, forward them to the relevant authorities and track the status of action taken on them (http://www.annihilatecaste.in/)</p>

		<p><i>i. Rahul Singh, National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights</i></p> <p>4. The MGNREGA Management Information System developed in 2011. It is one of the country's first real-time, transaction based, public management information systems developed by Government that to date hosts information about 15 crore NREGA workers and 6 crore assets (www.nrega.nic.in). The presentations will include perspectives on what the MIS shows, and more importantly what it hides.</p> <p><i>i. Madhuri Sharma, Deputy Director General, National Informatics Center, Government of India</i></p> <p><i>ii. Rajendran Narayanan, Azim Premji University</i></p> <p>5. RTI Portal of the Government of Karnataka and Government of Rajasthan to register and track RTI applications and responses</p> <p><i>i. Sonia Chaturvedi, Government of Rajasthan</i></p> <p><i>ii. Representative of Government of Karnataka (TBC)</i></p> <p>6. Open Budgets Initiative</p> <p><i>i. Divya Chirayath, Center for Budget and Governance Accountability</i></p>
13:15-14:00	Open Discussion	
14:00-15:00	Lunch	
15:00-16:30	<p>Panel discussion: Impact of digital technology on access to information (continued).</p> <p>Link between digital technology and the right to freedom of expression, right to petition, the right to dissent and other democratic freedoms.</p>	<p>1. IT architectures of State Grievance Redress which include Rajasthan Sampark, Karnataka's Integrated Public Grievance Redress System and Government of Bihar's Public Grievance Redress Law. These platforms are meant to facilitate people in filing grievances and tracking their status, so that they have the chance to participate in the redressal of their grievances</p> <p><i>i. Rajeev Chawla, Government of Karnataka</i></p> <p><i>ii. Dr. Pratima, Additional Mission Director, Bihar Prashasanik</i></p>

		<p><i>Sudhar Mission Society, Government of Bihar</i></p> <p>iii. <i>GK Sharma, Additional Director, Government of Rajasthan</i></p> <p>2. Need for laws and platforms (online and offline) to complement each for effective social accountability</p> <p>i. <i>Nikhil Dey, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan</i></p> <p>3. MIS of the Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT), Telengana that transfers social audit findings arrived at through physical processes of verification, to an online digital platform that enables follow up on action on findings (https://tgssaathrms.cgg.gov.in/rsrReports.do)</p> <p>i. <i>Sowmya Kidambi, Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT)</i></p> <p>4. A joint effort of civil society organizations to use IVRS and searchable databases for using an RTI response on COVID ex gratia relief payments made in Meghalaya to conduct a virtual audit (https://hokmeghalaya.in/)</p> <p>i. <i>Vijay, Graamvaani</i></p> <p>5. Implications on use of Aadhar in service delivery and the limitations it introduces to peoples' right to know and petition</p> <p>i. <i>Apar Gupta, Internet Freedom Foundation</i></p>
16:30-17:15	Open Discussion	
17:15-18:15	Panel Discussion: International experience regarding the use of digital technology in strengthening peoples' right to know (https://brown.zoom.us/j/94952906397)	<p>i. <i>Warren Krafchik, International Budget Partnership</i></p> <p>ii. <i>Alasdair Roberts, University of Massachusetts</i></p> <p>iii. <i>Suchi Pande, Accountability Research Center (TBC)</i></p> <p>iv. <i>Archon Fung, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University</i></p>