



India IGF (IIGF-2022) Workshop

Part 1 - Lead Organizer

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| Salutation | Ms. |
| Contact Person | Ava Haidar |
| Organization / Affiliation (Please state "Individual" if appropriate) | Aapti Institute |
| Designation | Research Analyst |
| Economy of Residence | India |
| Primary Stakeholder Group | Civil Society |

Part 2 - Workshop

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| Primary Theme | Internet Regulation |
| Primary Sub Theme | Addressing online harms and content regulation |
| Session Title | Online safety combat: Exploring the journey of self-regulation in India |
| Session Format | Panel Discussion |

Description of Session Formats **Birds of a Feather (BoF)** – An informal discussion session designed to connect the participants of shared topic of interests without a pre-planned agenda. **Panel** - Presentation and/or sharing of viewpoints by speakers on a particular topic. The number of speakers on the panel shall not be more than 4 to allow sufficient time for interaction with the attendees. **Roundtable** - Interactive dialogue involving all participants with designated moderators and not more than 2 speakers.

Specific Issues of Discussion

Online safety combat is a contentious point of discussion in the Indian tech regulatory landscape. Given the volatile trajectory of regulation, it is an opportune moment for the government, social media/messaging platforms, and societies to invest in understanding online harms and building measures to address them effectively.

Globally, we are witnessing a shift in the approach of regulating social media/messaging companies, moving towards enhancing their accountability in online safety combat through self regulation. Online

harms combat by tech entities in countries like Australia, New Zealand, UK and Singapore suggest patterns of self-regulation, and a growing relationship between intermediaries and state bodies. Through this panel discussion, Aapti envisions a dialogue anchored in the Indian journey of self-regulation for social media and messaging platforms. This discussion intends to explore the feasibility and effectiveness of self-regulation as a possible solution to online harms.

Specific issues of discussion:

- Existing trajectories of self-regulatory code-creation in the global setting
- Nature of actors and of research that informs self-regulatory code formation
- Role of self-regulation in combating online harms (and potential offline consequences)
- Principles and ethics that must inform the relationship between various stakeholders (users, civil society and law enforcement) and self-regulating platforms.

Describe the Relevance of Your Session to Theme

Our panel discussion responds to the pressing issues of online harms and offline consequences by exploring the pathway of self regulation as a solution in online safety combat, thereby enabling a safe and trusted internet for users. The intended outcome of our dialogue aligns with the goal of internet regulation for safe and accountable internet spaces.

The discussion rests upon the intersection of platform self-governance and online harms, where we look into the value system and principles of platform governance, and its opportunities and limitations. Questions for the panelists intend to unpack principles of self-regulation, and how these principles are likely to be translated into effective platform governance. Additionally, the discussion will analyse the nature of relationships between various stakeholders (such as the users, civil society and law enforcement) and technology platform companies. Through the insights collated during the discussion, we seek to contribute to the growing understanding of online harms and the role of self regulation as a mitigating strategy.

Methodology / Agenda

Mode: In-person panel discussion / Hybrid

Format:

1. Panel Introduction and Set-up: [10 mins]

The moderator shall:

- Introduce the panelists and topic for discussion
- Set up the context for discussion and deliberation.

2. Discussion: [45 mins]

We imagine to discuss the following emerging themes within the broader theme of the Indian journey of self regulation in online safety combat:

- Existing trajectories of self-regulatory code-creation in the global setting
- Nature of actors and of research that informs self-regulatory code formation and lessons that can be derived for the purpose of code formation
- Role of self-regulation in combating online harms (and potential offline consequences)
- Principles and ethics that must inform the relationship between various stakeholders (users, civil society and law enforcement) and self-regulating platforms.

3. Concluding Remarks: [5 mins]

Panelists will share their final thoughts, followed by a brief summarization of the discussion by the moderator. The moderator shall highlight key takeaways, pathways for resolution and identify points for future discussion and deliberation, if any.

Please provide 3 subject matter tags that best describe your session. #PlatformGovernance #SelfRegulation #OnlineSafety

*Please specify gender e.g. agender, cis woman, cis man, female, gender-fluid, gender-neutral, male, trans woman, trans man, etc.

Moderators & Speakers Info (Please complete where possible)

| | Moderator (Primary) | Moderator (Backup) | Speaker 1 | Speaker 2 | Speaker 3 | Speaker 4 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Name | Dr Sarayu Natarajan | Ava Haidar | Shagufta Kamran | Apar Gupta | Major Vineet Kumar | |
| Email | sarayu@aapti.in | ava.h@aapti.in | | | | |
| Organization | Aapti Institute | Aapti Institute | Twitter India | Internet Freedom Foundation | Cyber Peace Foundation | |
| Designation | Founder | Research Analyst | Director, Public Policy and Government | Executive Director | Founder and CEO | |
| Gender | Female | Female | Female | Male | Male | |
| Economy of Residence / Country | India | India | India | India | India | |
| Stakeholder Group | Civil Society | Civil Society | Private Sector | Other | Civil Society | |
| Status of Confirmation | Confirmed | Confirmed | Invited | Invited | Confirmed | |

Please explain the rationale for choosing each of the above contributors to the session.

Shagufta Kamran
Director, Public Policy and Government Twitter

Given that the discussion pivots around self regulation of social media and messaging platforms, it is indispensable to have on board a representative of the industry. We see Shagufta Kamran, Director of Public Policy and Government at Twitter as an apt choice with her experience of over 12 years in the field of ICT, sustainable development and e-Governance. She has been a part of some of the most comprehensive, ingenious global policy and regulatory debates, parliamentary depositions, law enforcement outreach, capacity building efforts and partnership campaigns.

Apar Gupta
Executive Director, Internet Freedom Foundation

Any discussion on self regulation builds off from the existing legal and regulatory framework. The panel discussion necessitates legal expertise that can throw light on the trajectory of laws in the field of social media regulation in India, further identifying enforcement gaps that arise in the current

regulatory landscape. Apar Gupta is a lawyer and the Executive Director of Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), an Indian digital liberties organisation that seeks to ensure that technology respects fundamental rights. Hailing from a legal and public policy background, Apar has contributed tremendously to the field of digital rights and user online safety through strategic litigations contesting the validity of various legislations that endanger user digital rights and safety. Further, his team at IFF has written extensively upon what self-regulation for social media companies would look like in India, given the current policy landscape.

Major Vineet Kumar
Founder and CEO of Cyber Peace Foundation

The discussion on self regulation unpacks the relationship of social media intermediaries with various stakeholders - users, civil society, law enforcement. Vineet Kumar is one such representative of civil society who can speak about the impact of harms on users as well as the efficacy of platform harm mitigation measures. He is the Founder and CEO of Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF) – an NGO and think-tank in cybersecurity which has impacted 200 million netizens in 112 countries. CPF empowers online users and provides channels of remediation to victims of online harms. As the founder of CPF, Vineet will highlight the role of organisations, such as CPF, in the fight against online harms and the scope of collaboration between tech companies and ground level organisations. Having this speaker adds a dimension of civic engagement to the questions of internet regulation, thereby increasing the diversity of perspective upon the topic.

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Session Title

Online safety combat: Exploring the journey of self-regulation in India