

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON CONSUMER SOVEREIGNTY IN TIMES OF DATA LOCALISATION

Thursday, 06th September, 2018 | Bhabha Chamber, Scope Complex, New Delhi

BACKGROUND

The underlying idea of the roundtable is to discuss and discern the contemporary challenges and benefits hinged to the issue of Data Localisation and safeguarding consumer welfare in the backdrop of recent developments in the realm of Data Privacy & Protection such as Data Protection Committee recommendations. And though the issue of Data Localisation has gained much traction from the business viability perspective, we would like to discuss the often neglected consumer welfare aspect and further take a step ahead and deliberate upon the possible outcomes- how will we balance the interests of all the stakeholders, if Data Localisation is mandated; and if not, what are the alternatives to the current Data Localisation regime proposed, if any, in light of adjoining issues like access to law enforcement agencies.

CUTS International has over the years made a continuous and vigorous endeavour to make regulation a balanced and proactive process and not merely a reactive one. Regulation can have varied and divergent impacts on different stakeholders. It is thus necessary to ensure that in the process of achieving its objectives, the costs imposed by regulation on stakeholders do not outweigh its benefits. Consequently, we envision a constructive discussion with a target stakeholder group including Government Representatives, Policymakers, Civil Society, Academia, Industry Players and Think Tanks.

AGENDA

2:30 PM– 3:00 PM **Registration & Networking Tea**

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM **Introduction & Brief Presentation**

Swati Punia, Assistant Policy Analyst, CUTS International

3:15 PM– 5:00 PM **Discussion with Stakeholders**

Key Issues for discussion:

- What are the costs and benefits of data localisation, primarily on consumers?
- What are the costs and benefits of free cross border data flow, primarily on consumers?
- How to address genuine concerns of law enforcement agencies, regarding access to data?

Key Speakers include:

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| ▪ Usha Ramanathan
Legal Expert & Researcher
Civil Rights | ▪ Nikhil Pahwa
Founder, Medianama |
| ▪ Smriti Parsheera
Consultant
National Institute of Public Finance
and Policy | ▪ Prasanna
Lawyer
Supreme Court |
| ▪ Ashim Sanyal
COO
Consumer Voice | ▪ Tabrez Ahmad
Public Policy
Flipkart |
| ▪ G V Srinivas
Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy
Ministry of External Affairs | ▪ Jyoti Panday
Independent Researcher |
| ▪ Shagufta Kamran
Associate Director, TMT,
USISPF | ▪ Lalit Panda
Research Fellow
Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy |

5:00 PM– 5:05 PM **Closing Remarks**

5:05 PM– 5:30 PM **High Tea**
