

**ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON  
CONSUMER SOVEREIGNTY IN TIMES OF DATA LOCALISATION**

**Monday, 24th September, 2018 | Nishith Desai Associates, 3, North Avenue, Maker Maxity, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai**

**BACKGROUND**

The underlying idea of the roundtable is to discuss and discern the contemporary challenges and benefits hinged to the issue of Data Localisation. There is an eminent need to safeguard Consumer welfare in the backdrop of recent developments in the realm of Data Privacy & Protection such as Data Protection Committee recommendations. The issue of Data Localisation has gained much traction from the business viability perspective and rightly so. Eventually, all costs trickle down to a consumer, and every stakeholder is a consumer too at the end of the day. Hence, 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 given infrastructure constraints; and if not, what are the less restrictive and effective alternatives to the current Data Localisation regime proposed, if any, in light of adjoining issues like access to law enforcement agencies, viability of regulatory architecture and institutional uncertainties.

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**

**10:45 AM– 11:00 AM    Registration & Networking Tea**

**11:00 AM – 11:15AM    Brief Introduction**

**Swati Punia**, Assistant Policy Analyst, CUTS International

**11:15 AM– 12:55 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?
- What are the regulatory and institutional challenges, lacunas and changes required to avoid adverse impact on stakeholders, especially on consumers?
- Does the bill incorporate adequate standards and mechanism to ensure competitiveness and innovation for the start-ups?

**Key Speakers include:**

- **Mr. Vijay Chugh**, Former Principal Chief General Manager, Department of Payment and Settlement Systems of the Reserve Bank of India
- **Ms. Gowree Gokhale**, Nishith Desai Associates, Head TMT
- **Mr. Parag Jain**, Former Member, Securities Exchange Board of India
- **Mr. Subramaniam Vutha**, Co-founder, Technology Law Forum

**12:55 PM– 1:00 PM    Closing Remarks**

**1:00 PM– 1:15 PM    High Tea**

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