



# DIGITAL CITIZEN SUMMIT, 2024

## Concept Note

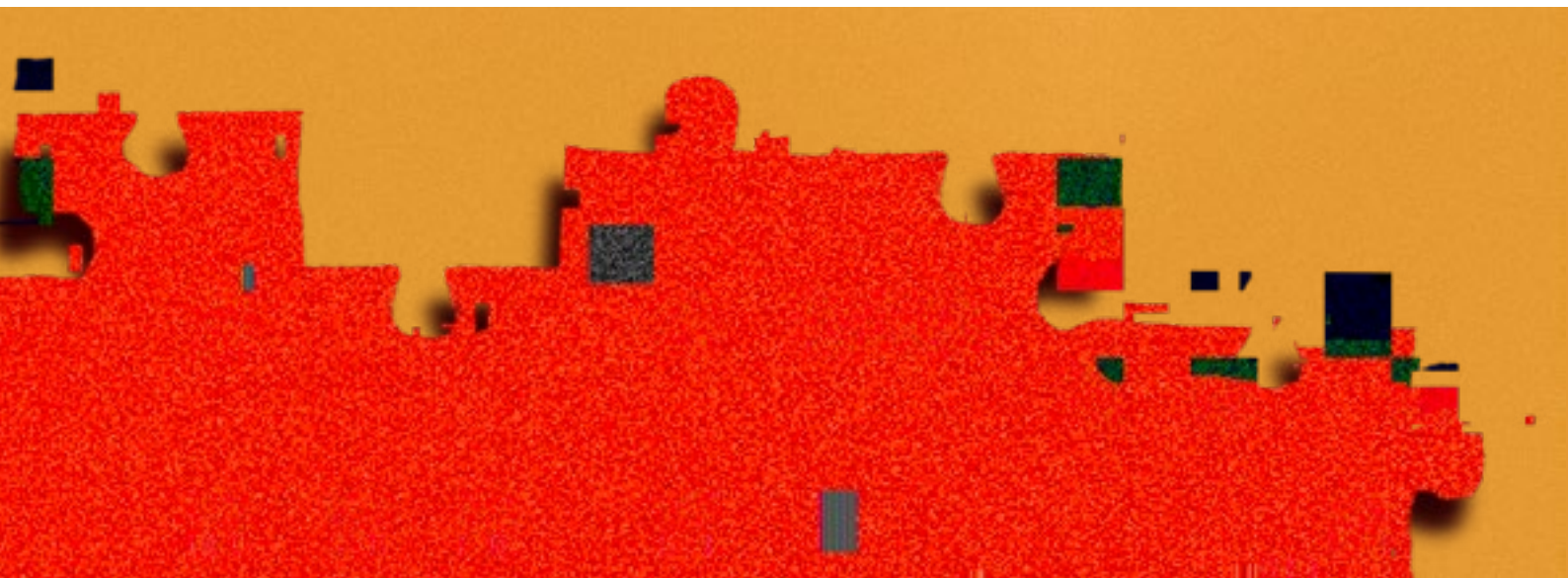
Date: 15th and 16th November

Venue: T-Hub, Hyderabad

#### LEAD PARTNERS



#### ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



## ABOUT DIGITAL CITIZEN SUMMIT

Digital Citizen Summit has been working to provide a multistakeholder platform to discuss and deliberate on digital rights and citizenship to advocate for accessible, affordable, and meaningful Internet. In 2024, Digital Empowerment Foundation in partnership with the Centre for Development Policy and Practice, and the Government of Telangana is pleased to announce Algorithms, AI, and Accountability as the theme for the sixth Digital Citizen Summit.

## BACKGROUND

Artificial Intelligence is often presented as a solution to social, economic, environmental, and political problems. Within India, AI has gained significant traction with the government promoting its development and adoption in various sectors such as healthcare, education, urban development, governance, agriculture and transportation to boost the economy. This comes with its own set of issues where different layers of power intersect with its development, planning and implementation. While AI, like any technology, has the potential to democratise access to knowledge and ease human labour, this process itself has to be more participatory and inclusive. For example, reviews have shown that algorithms are more likely to mark areas with higher Muslim and Dalit populations as unsafe and dodgy which has resulted in over-policing in these areas. There has also been an increase in the use of AI for welfare automation, however, most of this technology is used for risk modelling and fraud detection. This has resulted in the identification of false positive cases leading to exclusion and denial of welfare for genuine individuals. Artificial intelligence is being used as a quick solution to fix governance issues.

One of the reasons why these technologies are having an adverse effect on the communities is because they are not involved as a stakeholder in these conversations. They are often relegated to a passive role while the producers design, develop, and produce AI and machine learning tools. Similarly, communities are on the passive and receiving end of the policies that are designed to govern their data and lack agency in deciding what data gets collected and how it gets used. As a result, it becomes difficult to hold 'objective' algorithms accountable when they show bias or discrimination in their technology and the error is often shifted.

This raises the question – How can the citizens participate in building AI accountability? Who is to be held accountable for the bias shown by AI? What should be the role of regulatory bodies in AI governance? How is AI and algorithms enabling the exclusion of communities and individuals?

## OBJECTIVES

Within this context, DCS 2024 aims to understand the ethics and accountability issues emerging in the use of artificial intelligence in India and South Asia. We aim to unpack the opacity and technological languages around AI to democratise the discourse around it. The two-day event will be organised with around 12 sessions and 7 lighting talks to bring together students, researchers, academics, civil society representatives, developers, and public policy professionals to present their research, experiences, observations, and opinions through panel discussions, lighting talks, workshops, networking sessions, and paper presentation.

### THE SUB-THEMES FOR THIS YEAR'S DCS ARE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO

Big Data, Algorithmic  
Bias, Discrimination

Representative and  
Ethical AI Development

AI Access and  
Meaningful Connectivity

AI, Workers, and  
Platform Economies

AI Regulation and Citizen  
Centric Governance

AI, Misinformation,  
and Disinformation

Data Citizenship and  
Community Making

Online Privacy, Security,  
and Data Rights

The Absent Data

AI and Environment