

India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) to bring all stakeholders of internet governance on a single platform



New Delhi, 21 October 2021: A curtain-raiser event of the India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) concluded with an interesting insight into the roadmap for Digitisation in India. The event, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and IT, NIXI and Multistakeholder Group, was a precursor to the institution of India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) formed in conformance to IGF- Paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda of the UN-based Internet Governance forum: (IGF). Through an open and inclusive process, IIGF brings together all stakeholders in the Global Internet governance ecosystem, including government, industry, civil society, academia - as equal participants of the larger Internet Governance discourse.

The objective of the event was to discuss and deliberate on the roadmap to Digitisation and reaffirm India as an essential participant on the global stage by highlighting its role and importance in the International Policy development on Internet Governance. The event commenced with the lighting of the inaugural lamp by Chief Guests Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State, Electronics & Information Technology, Govt of India, Dr. Ajay Data, Chairman UASG, Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya, President C-DEP, Amrita Choudhury, Director CCAOI and Shri Anil Kumar Jain, CEO, NIXI.

Speaking on occasion, **Mr. Anil Kumar Jain, Chair, IIGF**, said: "India has one of the largest Internet populations and possesses the advantage of demographic dividend. The intersection of policy framework, the emergence of cutting-edge technologies and initiatives by private players present an exciting time for the evolution of the digital economy. The India Internet Governance Forum will be a step ahead in ensuring inclusive participation of all stakeholders in harnessing the power of the Internet for economic growth."

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State, Electronics & Information Technology added "IIGF is being held at an important time, we are emerging from a pandemic. The rate of Digitisation has increased and accelerated rapidly. The internet and the technologies hosted on it are going to play a significant role in our lives. The biggest stakeholders are the consumers, so it's important that they get together once a year and debate what the internet should be like, making IIGF a required forum. Our mandate is precisely what the stakeholders want. The internet should be a open, safe, trusted and accountable to its stakeholders.

Dr. Ajay Data, Chairman UASG mentioned "In India we have 19,000 dialects, 121 Languages and 22 official languages. Indian citizens should have a domain name of its choice. Under universal acceptance, all domain names must be accepted. Only 11% email servers support Hindi. We should be able to consume content in the language of our choice.

This is an apt time for IIGF to be launched and we hope more people participate. This is a journey we have just begun. It is just the starting not the end and we hope to see more such deliberations.

The event will be followed by a 3-day webinar in November 2021, which will witness enlightening discussions on the road to Digitisation in India. The salient feature of the event will be the three plenary sessions on themes- India & Internet- India's Digital Journey and Her Global Role, Equity, Access & Quality - High-speed Internet for All and Cyber Norms and Ethics in Internet Governance.