



14-15 November
T-HUB, Hyderabad

People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability



CALL FOR PAPERS



Authors of selected papers will be notified of the acceptance status of their abstract submissions by August 22, 2025. Accepted submissions will be presented at the 7th Digital Citizen Summit.

The Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) hosted the 6th Digital Citizen Summit in 2024, a thought-provoking gathering that explored the interplay between “Algorithms, AI & Accountability.” Drawing from the energy of its predecessors, the 2025 edition returns with a renewed focus on power, participation, and justice in digital spaces.

For this year's summit, scholars, practitioners, designers, and technologists are invited to critically examine the systems, platforms, and institutions that shape our digital future. With the theme “People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability,” the summit underscores the urgent need to reclaim the digital space as a shared, public infrastructure; one that centres on communities, rights, and inclusive governance.

Sub Themes

1. From Users to Architects: Reimagining Participation in Digital Governance

Today's digital platforms often reduce citizens to passive users. This theme explores how people can become active participants in shaping the digital systems that govern them; whether through community regulation, participatory platform design, or collective ownership.

Guiding Questions:

- What models of user-led governance or digital co-creation exist in India or globally?
- How can we enable greater transparency and accountability in platform decision-making?
- In what ways can open-source infrastructures promote democratic participation?

2. Infrastructure of Inclusion: Designing Technology for the Margins

Inclusion must move beyond access to technology and into its design and governance. This theme examines how to build digital systems that are rooted in the lived realities of marginalised communities – women, Dalit, Adivasi, Muslim, queer, disabled, and rural populations.

Guiding Questions:

- What does inclusive infrastructure look like when led by marginalised communities?
- How can tech design incorporate linguistic, regional, and accessibility diversity?
- What are the limitations of inclusion efforts led by dominant institutions?



3. Truth in a Platformed World: Ethics, Influence, and Information Futures

With AI-generated content and misinformation on the rise, this theme investigates the ethics of truthmaking in digital spaces. It looks at both systemic and community-level responses to disinformation.

Guiding Questions:

- How do platforms shape or distort public narratives?
- What role can communities play in media literacy and narrative creation?
- How can we counter misinformation without suppressing free expression?

4. Commons of Code and Connectivity: Reclaiming the Internet as a Public Good

Digital resources like data, spectrum, and code are increasingly privatised. This theme explores how to govern these as commons—shared, community-managed assets essential for equitable access and innovation.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the existing models of community-owned digital infrastructure?
- How can data and code be governed collectively and ethically?
- How do we balance innovation with public interest in managing digital commons?

5. Justice by Design: Embedding Rights in Everyday Technologies

This theme focuses on how digital tools can embed values of equity, care, and justice at the design level, challenging extractive, surveillance-driven, and exclusionary systems.

Guiding Questions:

- How can feminist, decolonial, or rights-based approaches inform digital design?
- What frameworks exist for auditing harmful effects of technology and ensuring accountability?
- How can public procurement policies be made ethically responsible?

Timeline

Call for Papers
July 11, 2025

Abstract Submissions
August 15, 2025

Notification of
Selected Abstracts
September 22, 2025

Presentation of
Draft Papers
**September 29–October 3,
2025**

Final Paper Submissions
October 15, 2025

Submission Guidelines for Extended Abstracts

We kindly request that you submit an extended abstract of approximately 1500 words. The abstract should include a brief introduction to the research topic, clearly articulated research questions, the methodology employed, and—if available—any initial findings or insights

- Name of author(s)/presenter(s)
- Affiliation
- Email id and phone number
- Title of the paper
- Word limit: 1500 words
- Font style: Times News Roman
- Font size: 12
- At least 4 keywords
- Abstracts should be sent in MS Word File

Submission Guidelines for Full Research Articles

Submissions must be original work not previously published or under consideration for publication elsewhere. Authors are responsible for ensuring the originality of their submissions and should cite any sources appropriately

Format: Submissions should be in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format, following the American Psychological Association (APA) style guidelines for citations and references.

Type of Text-Length: Authors may submit research papers, reviews, or reports relevant to the summit themes.

Each submission should specify its type and adhere to the following word limits:

Research Papers	Analytical, and evidence-based academic articles with defined research questions or hypotheses. Engagement with academic literature. Use of formal research methodology. Discussion of findings and their implications for digital governance, rights, or accountability.	5000-8000 words
Reviews/Essays	Reflective, argumentative, or conceptual pieces that synthesise existing literature, critique dominant discussions, or offer new theoretical insights.	2000-3000 words
Reports	Practice-oriented or evidence-based documents that provide insights from field interventions, pilot projects, institutional case studies, or monitoring and evaluation exercises.	4000 words

Content

Submissions should address one or more of the summit's core themes, including participatory digital governance, inclusive and just technology design, community-led connectivity and infrastructure, narrative and information ethics in digital spaces, and frameworks for embedding rights and accountability into everyday digital systems.

Review Process: All submissions will undergo peer review by experts in the field. Authors can expect feedback and suggestions for revisions if necessary.

Authors should email their papers to info@cdpp.co.in and cc the same to lubna@cdpp.co.in

Please include "Paper Submission for 7th Digital Citizen Summit" in the subject line. The file name must be "PaperTitle_AuthorName."

Subject to further review and revision, selected papers will be considered for publication in the **Journal of Development Policy and Practice's regular special issue on Technology and Society.**

