ISB | **Bharti Institute of Public Policy**

INDIA DATA PORTAL

Open Data Conclave

Bringing Indian Open Data Community Together

Website: isb/India-Data-Portal

Date: September 25, 2020   **Time: 1000 - 1730 hrs**
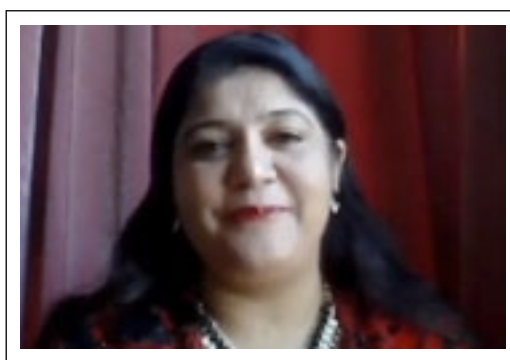
Foreword

The Bharti Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) at the Indian School of Business (ISB) is pleased to share the report on the first ever Open Data Conclave (ODC) which was held under BIPP's project India Data Portal (IDP). It was a first of its kind virtual experience and was held on Friday, 25 September 2020.

Over the last one year the ISB has been engaged in developing an open access data portal, IDP - https://indiadataportal.com which allows seamless search, analysis, visualization and download of open data and the associated visualization and the ODC
was an attempt to promote open data usage in India. The conclave brought together experts from multiple fields like the government, journalists, academia, researchers, citizens, industry, philanthropic organizations and data enthusiasts working on various aspects of 'Open Data' in India.

A total of 36 panellists belonging to top organizations like Microsoft, Reliance Jio, Skymet; institutions and media houses like IndiaSpend, Gaon Connection, Mint, Newlaundry, Bharat Krishak Samaj, Factly, India Data Insights participated. The discussions focused on the current scenario and changes needed to boost the open data environment in India and enhance the accessibility of clean data which will be accessible to the general public in usable format.

The participants - panellists, audience, exhibitors experienced the keynotes, panel discussions, data quizzes, live booths and industry talks all in a virtual world, in an engaging and seamless manner on the platform hosted by Dreamcast.

Dr Aarushi Jain, Associate Director, Bharti Institute of Public Policy conducted the day's proceedings.

Dr Aarushi Jain
Indian School of Business

The Open Data Conclave

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Inaugural Session

Address by Prof Ashwini Chhatre, Executive Director, Bharti Institute of Public Policy

Open Data Movements across the world have been propelled by the willingness of the governments to open their doors for data. It is a state marker of an open democratic society.

The Government of India has done it. Usability of data is equally important and not just availability of data. Data which govt collects has become diversified. Transaction data is being made available in almost real time in public domain and the future of data belongs to how well we can capture the transactions which citizens make.

Open Data movement is irreversible and let us celebrate to where we are today. We should ensure that we progress in the right direction and India Data Portal from the Indian School of Business is a step forward in that direction.

Ashwini Chhatre
Indian School of Business

Inaugural Session

Keynote address Durga Prasad Misra, Head of data.gov.in initiative, Open Data Group, National Informatics Centre
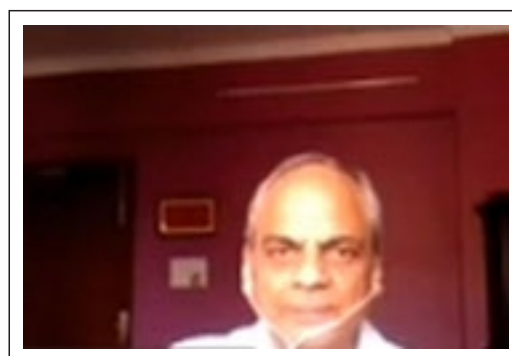
Under National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy, the Government of India is facilitating proactive release of data. There is need for real time data which is coming and also to make it available. He shared future plans of data.gov.in on how to move forward, how to effectively make data available to take informed fact based policy decisions.

Durga Prasad Misra
Open Data Group,
National Informatics Centre

Keynote address by Pravin Srivastava, Former Chief Statistician of India

The NSO's (National Statistical Office) data strategy ecosystem talks about the increased role of statistics in policy, development and social well-being, which is important to meet the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) 2030. The NSO is making huge efforts in providing open data to the citizens of India. It has been pushed by SDGs which we all to have to meet in 2030. To meet these SDGs it is important to follow statistically robust technology. The data roadmap for sustainable approach is iterative, based on experience and implementation models from partner countries.
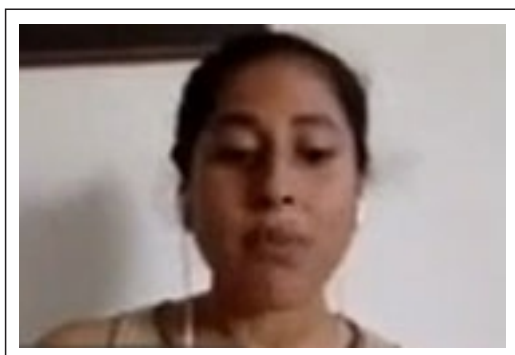

Pravin Srivastava
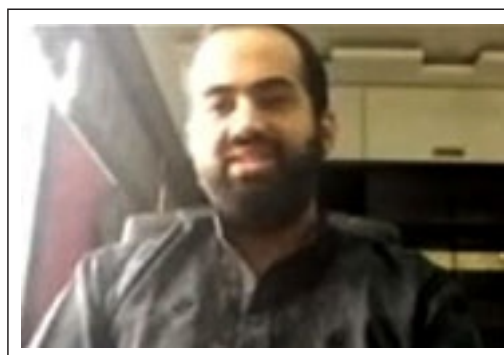**Former Chief Statistician of India**

▶ **See Full Session Video**
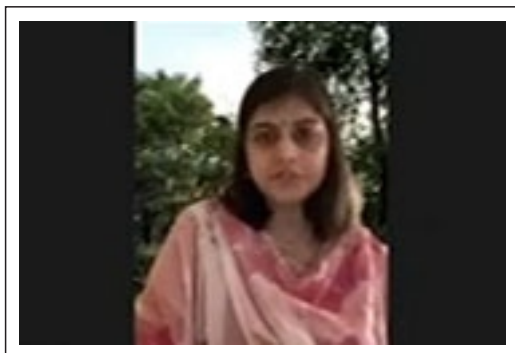
Open Data Platforms in India

In Session 1 on 'Open Data Platforms in India' panellists discussed that although such platforms in India have been very active but there was need to do more and that the scene for open data platforms looked promising. These open data platforms continue to face challenges in dealing with meta-data and varying data formats - a consortium of open data players was proposed to collectively deal with this issue.
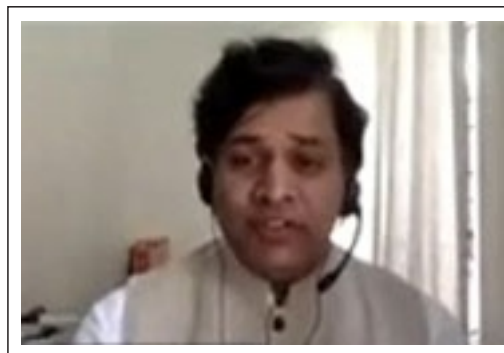
Rwitwika Bhattacharya
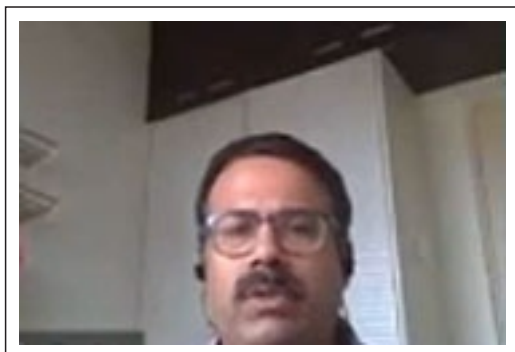**Swaniti Initiative & Jano India**
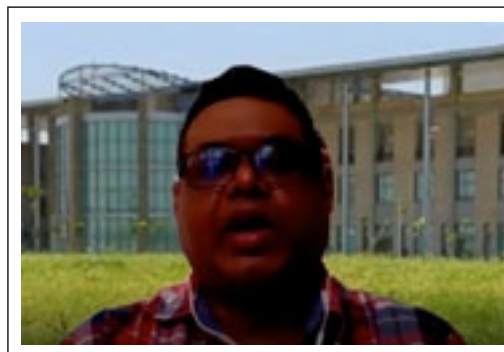
Gaurav Godhwani
Civic Data Lab

Vrunda Bansode
India Data Insights

Surya Prakash
Daksh Legal

Ashutosh Datar
India Data Hub

Avik Sarkar
Indian School of Business
(Moderator)

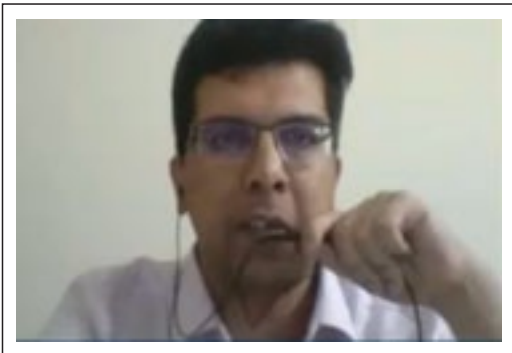[See Full Session Video](#)

Data Led Journalism in India

Delivering the keynote address ahead of the session 2 'Data Led Journalism in India', Govindraj Ethiraj, founder of IndiaSpend said that the need to understand the data in a meaningful way was critical and demand for real time data was growing. For the panel discussion, the panellists spoke about the increase in need for rigorous data analysis & lack of data available in usable formats. They also discussed that most journalists, particularly in rural India did not have the adequate skills for data led stories and skilling of these journalists on ground was important.
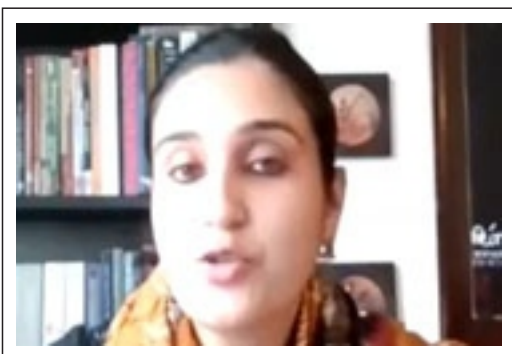
Govindraj Ethiraj
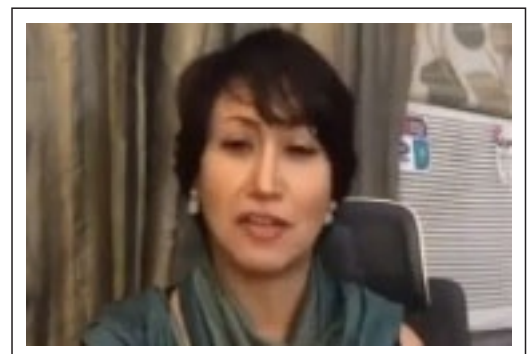**IndiaSpend**

Pankaj Mishra
Factor Daily

Pramit Bhattacharya
Mint

Rakesh Dubbudu
Factly

Aastha Kant
Harvard University

Madhur Singh
IndiaSpend (Moderator)

See Full Session Video
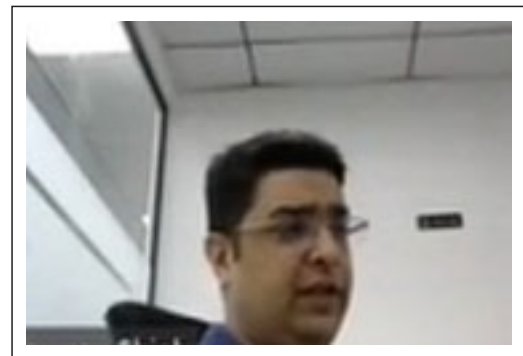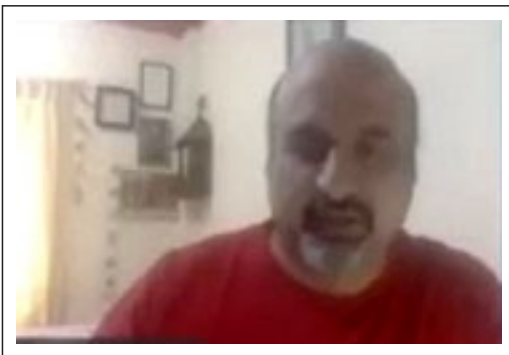
Open Data and Industry Case Studies

Session number 3 on 'Open Data and Industry Case Studies', had a keynote address by Rohini Srivathsa, CTO, Microsoft who spoke about developing systems for open data and its future. She also announced winners of India Data Portal Hackathon competition where participants used IDP Agriculture Datasets to propose solutions for Indian agriculture. The industry representatives on panel used industry cases to suggest how they support opendata. Raghuram Lanka of Reliance Jio and Himanshu Goyal of IBM - The Weather Company spoke about the importance of making open weather data available for farmers and the fishing community.
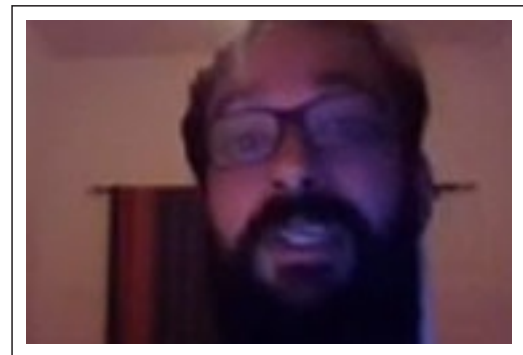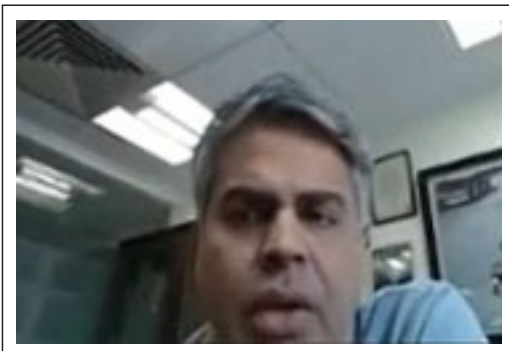
Raghuram Lanka
Reliance Jio
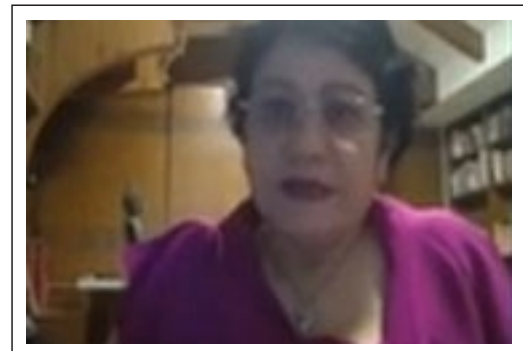
Gaurav Shinh
Data Analytics Services

Himanshu Goyal
IBM - The Weather Company

Dipyaman Sanyal
Dono Consulting

Jatin Singh
Skymet

Rohini Srivathsa
CTO, Microsoft India

See Full Session Video

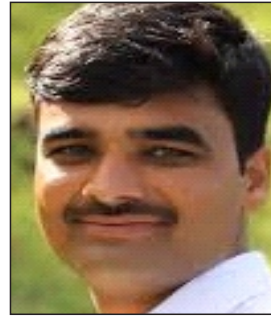# Announcement of Open Data Hackathon Winners

WINNER: SHEKRU (Team 109)

Ananth Krishna

Archana Patney Aravind

Bibhishan Bagal

Dhruva Krishnamurthy

Solution: Help farmers decide crops to plant based on various historic data points. Benchmark farmers' cultivation expenses for the season with historical & government data.

FIRST RUNNER-UP: FASAL.AI (Team 102)

Aarat Majithia

Vedant Singhania

Naman Mehta

Atmanand Singh

Solution: An AI-powered analytical & visualization tool to simplify decision-making for stakeholders like farmers & policy makers.

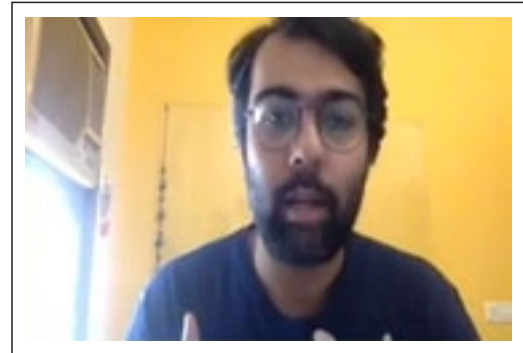## SECOND RUNNER-UP: VINAYAK KARANDE (Team 98)

Vinayak Karande

Solution: A convolution neural network based solution to increase farmer's income by early prediction of crop yield using geospatial data.
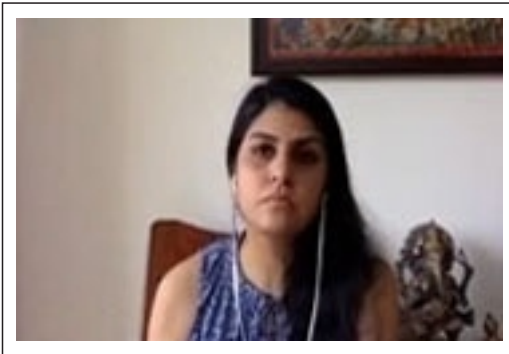
Data Led Approach to India's Agri-Economy

'Data Led Approach to India's Agri-Economy' Session 4, discussed the need to include data in media stories, need for training for media on using data & how it would help farmers in India. Moderating the panel Abhinandan Sekhri, Co-founder Newslaundry said that there was need for platforms like the India Data Portal which offer useful resources to the media persons. The panel discussed need to strengthen these resources and also training opportunities for those in the business of news. Reporting on agriculture and real issues farmers face in rural India are bigger issues to tackle than access to data for journalism.

Ajay Vir Jhakhar
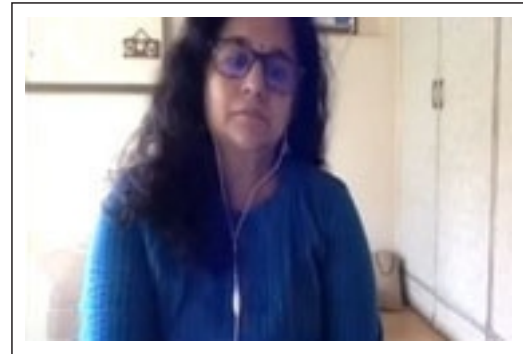**Bharat Krishak Samaj**
(Farmers' Forum, India)

Parth MN
IndiaSpend

Nidhi Jamwal
Gaon Connection

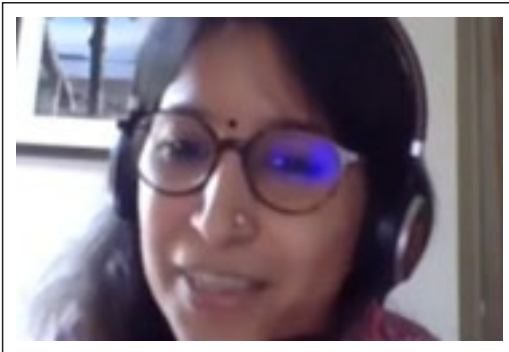**Aparna Karthikeyan**
Independent Journalist

Abhinandan Sekhri
Newslaundry (Moderator)

[See Full Session Video](#)

Framework, Sustainability & Support for Open Data in India

Session 5, 'Framework, Sustainability and Support for Open Data in India', focussed on data collection, identifying problems & capturing data around them to solve them. The panel suggested a partnership between government and private bodies for supporting open data platforms and their sustainability.

Pooja Sehgal
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Sushant Kumar
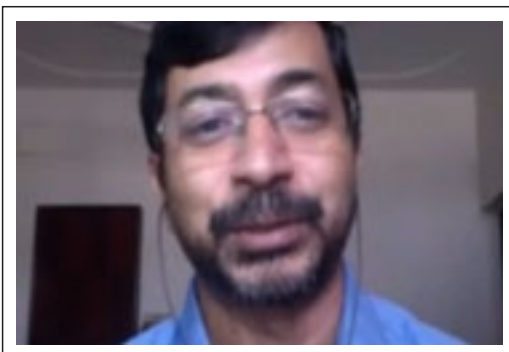**Omidyar Network**

Monojit Bose
Smart City Expert

Gaurav Sharma
FAIR Forward, GIZ

Rajib Acharya
National Data Quality
Forum & Population Council

Anand S
Gramener (Moderator)

See Full Session Video

Closing Session

The Closing Session saw two addresses one by Jeni Tennison of the Open Data Institute, UK who touched upon challenges and lessons which arose from opening up of the data and that there was need to share more. In the second address of the closing session Mamta Saxena, Director General, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation briefed the attendees on the many initiatives by the Government of India and her department towards making open data accessible widely.

Jeni Tennison
Open Data Institute, UK

Mamta Saxena
Ministry of Statistics and
Programme Implementation

In his closing remarks Prof Chhatre said that the future of open data was multi-faceted and there were newer dimensions which could be brought in. We learned many dimensions of the open data story. It was interesting to hear experts and specialists bring focus on multiple aspects of open data. He stressed on the need to strengthen and deepen existing partnerships and forging new collaborations for open data.

Ashwini Chhatre
Indian School of Business

Conclusion

Open Data has seen a growing interest in India with data.gov.in launched in 2012. Several academic institutions and think tanks have also joined in hosting government open data along with the ease of search and accompanied visualizations like *India Data Portal by the Indian School of Business.*

A key takeaway was this virtual Open Data Conclave was the effectiveness of a virtual platform that can bring best of speakers as well as various stakeholders together for impactful discussions and deliberations. The exhibition area concept was also well received and exhibitors including Data.gov.in had a very positive response about the visitors to the booth and interactions that they had with the conference attendees through this option. India Data Portal was central to each discussion during the day and thus helped immensely in outreach.

To know more about the India Data Portal visit: **https://indiadataportal.com**

PROJECT SUPPORTED BY: BILL & MELINDA GATES *foundation*

CONTACT US:

HYDERABAD CAMPUS

Indian School of Business
Gachibowli, Hyderabad
Telangana - 500 111
Phone: +91 40 2300 7000

MOHALI CAMPUS

Indian School of Business
Knowledge City, Sector 81, SAS Nagar
Mohali, Punjab - 140 306
Phone: +91 172 459 1800

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Exhibitors