India IGF (IIGF-2025) Workshop: 2

27 November 2025

9:30-10:30 AM

Session Title	Child Safety-by-Design for AI-Environments: A Co-Regulatory Roadmap for India
Primary Theme	Inclusive Digital Future
Session Format	Panel Discussion
Details of Organisers	
Name of Primary Organiser	Garima Saxena
Affiliation	The Dialogue
Primary Stakeholder Group	Civil Society and Policy Research
Organising Partners (if any)	IGAP and ACTS

Session Details :

Specific Issues of Discussion (In 200 words)

The session will examine how AI-powered environments reshape the online ecosystems for Indian children, combining long-standing harms such as CSEAM, grooming, bullying, and targeted harassment with newer risks from generative AI, including synthetic companions, deepfaked personalities, emotional manipulation, and opaque data harvesting. It will surface concrete gaps in India's current framework, including POCSO, the IT Act and Rules, DPDP, and emerging AI and child-safety initiatives, which remain primarily focused on post-hoc takedown and criminal enforcement rather than anticipatory, design-level safeguards. Participants will discuss what "child safety-by-design" should mean for AI chatbots, recommendation systems, and immersive platforms: risk assessments tailored to children, age-appropriate design, guardrails for AI-child conversations, meaningful transparency, and accessible redress. The discussion will also explore institutional questions: how regulators, platforms, industry

bodies, educators, and civil society can share responsibility through co-regulatory codes of practice, standards, and pilots that are proportionate, rights-respecting, and feasible.

Describe the Relevance of Your Session to IIGF2025 Theme* (In 200 words)

This session directly advances the IIGF 2025 theme, Inclusive Digital Future, by examining how AI-native platform design risks excluding India's most vulnerable users, i.e., children, from participating safely in digital environments. While India accelerates AI adoption across social platforms, education technology, and gaming, child-safety frameworks remain anchored in human-generated content and passive algorithmic curation. An inclusive digital future requires that AI innovation does not outpace protections for those least equipped to navigate risks, a reality that is especially acute in India, where linguistic diversity, shared-device usage, and literacy gaps compound vulnerability. The session bridges theory and practice by translating abstract AI ethics principles, such as transparency, accountability, and age-appropriate design, into concrete safeguards for Indian children who now encounter AI daily. It embodies India IGF's multistakeholder approach by bringing together platforms, policymakers, civil society, researchers, and youth to co-create solutions. The outputs are intended to directly inform platform trust and safety practices, upcoming IT Act–related consultations, the AI Impact Summit, and potential educational curricula, demonstrating how the India IGF can generate actionable impact beyond dialogue.

Methodology / Agenda* (In 200 words)

The proposed format is an interactive 60-minute panel discussion that moves from expert inputs to co-creation of a practical roadmap. The moderator will begin with a brief overview of traditional and AI-mediated child safety risks, as well as the session objectives. A "Voices from the Field" panel will then provide four short interventions from a platform trust and safety lead, a child psychologist, a policymaker, and a youth representative, grounding the discussion in lived practice, developmental insights, regulatory realities, and user perspectives. Building on this, the moderator will facilitate an open dialogue with participants, guided by focused questions on risk typologies, feasible safeguards, institutional responsibilities, and mechanisms for co-regulation in India. In the final segment, the group will collectively sketch concise pointers on key risks, safety-by-design interventions, and stakeholder roles.

- Moderators & Speaker Details

	Name	Affiliation	Designation	Gender	Stakeholder Group
Moderator	Sachin Dhawan	The Dialogue/	Deputy Director	Male	Civil Society

		ACTS			
Moderator 2 (optional)	Soumya AK	IGAP	Director	Female	Civil Society
Speaker 1	Kavita Ayyagari	Girl Effect	Country Director	Female	Civil Society
Speaker 2	Rakesh Maheshwari	Former Bureaucrat	Indepedent	Male	Policymaking
Speaker 3	Namah Bose	Asian School of Cyber Laws	Associate Faculty	Female	Academia/ Education
Speaker 4	Nishant Singh	Youth Ki Awaz	Head of Research	Male	Youth Organisation

Session Report (TO BE COMPLETED AFTER SESSION)

This part is given here for the information of session organisers, who will need to provide the requested report within 48 hours after the end of the conference.

- Brief Summary of Presentations

- Substantive Summary of the key Issues Raised and Discussed

- Conclusions and Suggestions for the Way Forward

- Number of Participants in the session

- Gender Balance in Moderators/Speakers (Please fill in numbers)

- How were gender perspectives, equality, inclusion or empowerment discussed? Please provide details and context.

- Was the Indian perspective of the topic discussed? If yes, how does it compare or contrast with local or global perspectives?