

# Trust & Safety India Festival 2025 Launches in New Delhi, Showcasing India's Global Leadership in Digital Trust

**New Delhi, October 7, 2025:** The first-ever Trust & Safety India Festival (TASI) 2025 was inaugurated in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in the global dialogue on responsible digital transformation. The festival was inaugurated by Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, in the presence of leaders from government, industry, and civil society.

The two-day forum has convened over 200 participants from more than 15 countries, including policymakers, technology experts, academics, and advocates. Together, they are examining the challenges and opportunities shaping digital spaces, ranging from user safety and misinformation to gender-based online harm and the governance of artificial intelligence.

The festival highlighted the importance of amplifying strong voices from the Global South to ensure their perspectives are represented and shape the development of AI globally. Speakers emphasized that achieving this requires fostering innovation and building coalitions among states, civil society, and the private sector. While civil society continues to advocate for digital rights, technology platforms were recognized as essential partners in ensuring accountability and user safety. Key themes addressed include combatting digital harms such as online child sexual abuse (CSAM), empowering survivors of non-consensually shared intimate images (NCII), detecting harmful AI-generated content like deepfakes, fostering youth well-being online, tackling online scams and frauds, and mitigating abuse in end-to-end encrypted spaces.

A joint initiative by Centre for Social Research (CSR) and the Trust & Safety Forum, the festival is recognised as an official pre-event to the Government of India's AI Impact Summit 2026. With earlier editions hosted in the Netherlands and France, the India chapter represents a pivotal shift, bringing perspectives from the Global South into the heart of the global trust and safety conversation.

In his address, Honourable Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs said, "Trust and Safety India (TASI) Festival, as a pre-Summit event for the February 2026 AI Impact Summit, kicks off a set of conversations of great interest both in India and the world. The advancement of progress has been determined by the march of technology; yet, that has not always been a linear path. The promise and the perils have always been two sides of the same coin. Choices made in deployment and application decide the difference between empowerment and exploitation, democratisation and domination, partnership and polarization."

He added, "Today, we are at the cusp of immense change, and decisions made individually and collectively will decide the fate of the foreseeable future. AI will transform economies, work habits, health solutions, educational access, and lifestyles globally, impacting every citizen. Therefore, a balanced approach to AI governance with adequate guardrails to protect digital nagriks is essential. Trust and Safety are essential for implementing Responsible AI. India bears special responsibility as many nations, especially those of the Global South, look to us for inspiration."

Dr. Ranjana Kumari, Director, Centre for Social Research and Chairperson, Alliance for Trust and Safety, said, "India, as the world's largest democracy, is uniquely placed to demonstrate how technology can be both empowering and equitable. Our diversity and innovation offer lessons the world urgently needs. This festival is not just a conference, it is a movement for shared accountability

and collective action. As technology increasingly shapes how we live, learn, and connect, we must ensure it remains safe, inclusive, and empowering for all. It is vital that women, men, and young people alike have equal access to and protection in digital spaces. The Trust & Safety India Festival is a celebration of innovation, empowerment, and responsibility, and I look forward to two days of engaging and inspiring conversations."

Jean-Christophe Le Toquin, Co-founder, Trust & Safety Forum, added that TASI 2025 "marks a turning point in how the world approaches digital responsibility. It demonstrates India's growing influence as both a catalyst and a convener, bringing together governments, platforms, and civil society to chart a shared vision for safer, more equitable online spaces."

Eminent speakers, including Snigdha Bhardwaj, Director and Global Head of Generative AI, Trust & Safety, Google; Uthara Ganesh, Head of Public Policy, India and South Asia, Snap Inc.; Natasha Jog, Director, Public Policy, Meta India; and Dr. Nilesh Deshpande, Program Specialist, Adolescent and Youth Unit, UNFPA, participated in the event, sharing insights on the intersection of technology, policy, and user well-being. Representatives from the French, Netherlands, Swedish, Canadian, and Australian embassies also attended, as discussions focused on practical frameworks for accountability, youth digital well-being, and survivor empowerment in cases of online abuse.

By hosting TASI 2025, India has positioned itself not merely as a participant in the global digital safety dialogue, but as a driving force shaping its future, anchored in inclusivity, innovation, and shared responsibility.

### **About Centre for Social Research**

"Empowering Women. Transforming systems. Driving Change for 40+ years"

The Centre for Social Research (CSR), founded in 1983 in New Delhi. CSR India has championed women's rights for over 40 years, working across grassroots communities, national policies and global platforms to build a more gender-just world. CSR has shaped both community practices and state, national, and regional policies, for over four decades. Its initiatives range from empowering women through leadership and governance training, to equipping young women across India with digital and professional skills for dignified employment, and enabling women in Rajasthan to lead climate-resilient water management. CSR also serves as a convener, bringing together government agencies, educators, civil society, and the private sector to strengthen frameworks on gender equity and child protection.

Since 2016, the Centre for Social Research has been a pioneer in digital safety and online protection in India, directly training over 500,000 students, teachers, and parents. As a trusted advisor on Trust & Safety to partners like Meta and other tech platforms, CSR has developed impactful policy inputs, toolkits, curricula, and programs focused on women and youth. Through evidence-based advocacy and innovation, CSR continues to shape safer, more inclusive digital spaces where women and children can thrive.

### **About Trust and Safety Forum (T&SF) Europe**

Online safety is a global priority that calls for worldwide collaboration, thriving on the strength of local ecosystems. This is why the Trust & Safety Festival was established to bring together all stakeholders focused on making the online space safe for everyone. Trust & Safety is about

protecting people and particularly children from harmful and illegal content, supporting creativity (by respecting personal identity and intellectual property), cyber threats (phishing and other types of abuse), fraud (payment fraud, ID theft etc.).

Co- founded by Jean-Christophe Le Toquin, Caroline Humer with more than 4 decades of experience in connecting people and organization to make our digital world safer and more resilient, the Trust & Safety Festival provides a cohesive space open to stakeholders, ranging from platforms to regulators, inclusive of civil society and solutions providers, committed to a trusted and safer digital environment today and for the future. The Festival offers a place and time to connect with different stakeholders to discuss and advance collaborative initiatives, develop innovative processes and solutions ensuring that the digital environment remains a place to share knowledge, to build communities, to develop opportunities and empower people.