

Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India – An Overview

The Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India (<https://data.gov.in>) has been set-up by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in compliance with the Open Data Policy (NDSAP) of India. The objective of the policy is to provide proactive access to Government owned shareable data along with its usage information in open/machine readable format, through a wide area of network across the country, in a periodically updated manner, within the framework of various related policies, rules, and acts of the Government. Developed using Open Source Stack, the project is one of the initiatives under Pillar 6 (Information for All) of the Digital India initiative.

It facilitates community participation for further development of the product with Visualizations, APIs, Alerts, etc. It has an easy to use and user friendly interface with dynamic/pull down menus, search based reports, secured web access, bulletin board, based on Dublin Core metadata standards and parametric & dynamic reports in exportable format. The platform reflects how innovative use of information technology has led to a paradigm shift in accommodating huge data potential of the country.

The Platform has a rich mechanism for citizen engagement, which could help Ministries/Departments/Organizations prioritize the release of Government Datasets. Besides, enabling citizens to express their need for specific datasets or apps, it also allows them to rate the quality of datasets, seek clarification or information from nodal officers of participating government entities.

The Platform also acts as a knowledge-sharing platform through online communities. Citizens with specific interests are encouraged to contribute blogs and join online forums around various datasets or their domain of interest.

Platform demonstrated its potential to the App Developers' Community through various contests such as '12th Plan Hackathon', 'In Pursuit Of an Idea', 'CMA Hackathon', etc. Out of which '#OpenDataApps Challenge' was launched in association with NASSCOM and 'Code for Honor 2014' was launched with Microsoft.

One of the major parameter for making the Open Data initiative and NDSAP policy a success is to engage with the larger population. Community engagement encourages citizen participation with Open Government Data. A separate Community Portal (<http://community.data.gov.in>) has been launched to provide a common platform for knowledge sharing through discussion and to contribute through Blogs, Info-graphics, Visualizations, etc. using data available on the platform. Similarly a dedicated event portal (<https://event.data.gov.in>) has also helps in management of workshops, hackathons, challenges, etc. Till date OGD has

organized 6 events/apps-challenges/hackathons and many workshops/training/awareness sessions including state level workshops.

Salient features of OGD Platform:

- Ministry/Department/State contributes/publishes resources in open format (CSV, XLS, XML, ODS, JASON) either directly or by Web Services through work flow based Data Management System.
- Provides single window access to the datasets and apps published by different Ministries/Departments/Organizations/States of in open format.
- Suggestions and requirement of data can be submitted by citizens/ community to help prioritize data sharing by participating ministries/ departments. Anyone can endorse already submitted suggestions.
- People can directly write to Chief Data Officer (provider) (previously called Data Controller) seeking any further clarification/information on the released resources or related requirements.
- Platform enables better discovery and usage of Government datasets through visualizations and development of apps, mash-ups, etc. Visualization Platform with facility to create maps as well as different chart options like radar, bar, line, area, pie, column, etc.
- Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to Query Datasets - Direct and dynamic query to access data items of selected datasets have also been provided through the APIs.
- Update alert service can be subscribed for Catalogs.
- A separate Community Portal (<http://community.data.gov.in>) has been launched to provide a common platform for knowledge sharing through discussion and to contribute through Blogs, Info-graphics, Visualizations, etc. using data available on the platform.
- People can create visualizations of their own data using the visualization engine service of the OGD Platform.
- Custom Widgets to Share/Link/Consume filtered set of catalogs (Ministry/ Department/Organization as well as Sectors etc.).
- Platform has Responsive Web Layout design i.e. service available on multiple web/mobile platforms.
- People can rate the resources (datasets/apps) on three aspects i.e. Quality, Accessibility and Usability on the scale of 5.
- Separate Event portal (<https://event.data.gov.in>) for management of workshops, hackathons, challenges, etc. have been created.

- Software as a Service (SaaS) portal for OGD SaaS instance has also been launched for State and other organizations to create their own Open Data site.
- Work on Government Open Data Use License has also been under the consideration of Ministry of Law and will release soon.

Significant Achievements:

- NDSAP can be accessed at <https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/NDSAP.pdf>
- Guidelines for implementation of NDSAP is available for access at <https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/NDSAP%20Implementation%20Guidelines%202.4.pdf>
- Control vocabularies used in the OGD Platform can be accessed and can be consumed by any other eGov applications can be accessed at <http://vocab.nic.in/>
- Government Open Data Use License – India has been approved and is under notification process. This can be accessed at [https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/Government Open Data Use Licence India.pdf](https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/Government%20Open%20Data%20Use%20Licence%20India.pdf)
- More than twenty workshops have also been organized for the CDOs.
- Many mobile Apps have been developed by communities using the Open Data can be accessed at <https://data.gov.in/featured-community-apps>
- Based on Open Government Data case studies a book on Data Driven Decision Making has also been launched in June 2016. It can be accessed at [https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/Compendium Data Driven Decision Making NIC.pdf](https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/Compendium%20Data%20Driven%20Decision%20Making%20NIC.pdf)
- It is being planned to organize a National level Open Government Data Hackathon during December 2016 to March 2017.
- Launch of Community portal <https://community.data.gov.in> and event portal <https://event.data.gov.in>.
- Launch of Open Government Data Portal by Government of Sikkim (<https://sikkim.data.gov.in>) and Surat Municipal Corporation (<https://surat.data.gov.in>) using OGD Software as a Service (SaaS) model.



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