

Media FAQ

Intent of this paper is to help journalists better understand ICANN and ICANN57 in preparation for ICANN57 in Hyderabad, India from 3-9 November 2016.

What is ICANN?

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a non-profit organization that coordinates the Internet's global domain name system (DNS).

What is the domain name system?

The domain name system helps users to find their way around the Internet. Every device on the Internet has a unique Internet Protocol (IP) address. These string of numbers (like a telephone number) can be hard to remember. The domain name system maps the IP addresses to a string of letters called domain names. So instead of typing "192.0.34.163", you just type "www.icann.org". Simply put, ICANN manages the "address book" matching the names to the numbers, making sure each one is unique.

What does ICANN do?

ICANN manages the DNS address book through a bottom-up, consensus-based approach. ICANN and its community help to keep the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. The policy-making model that it adopts places everyone (individuals, businesses, academia, governments, civil societies, technical, non-commercial interests) on an equal level. Supporting Organizations (SOs) are responsible for developing and making policy recommendations to the ICANN Board of Directors. Advisory Committees (ACs) advise the Board and in certain cases, raise issues for policy development. The ICANN Board has the ultimate authority to approve or reject policy recommendations. Read more:

<https://www.icann.org/community>

What role does ICANN have to play as the future of the Internet?

In an increasingly interconnected world, ICANN plays an integral role in the future of the Internet. With more users coming online, the DNS must expand. ICANN believes in the bottom-up, consensus based approach that sees and addresses opportunities to grow online communities. This means making the Internet more accessible, secure and competitive through new programs and processes we establish with the Internet community.

What are ICANN Meetings?

ICANN Meetings are held three times a year in different regions to enable attendees from around the world to participate in person. These meetings offer a variety of sessions such as workshops, open forums and working meetings on the development and implementation of Internet policies. ICANN meetings offer the best opportunity for face-to-face discussions and exchange of opinions among attendees dedicated to the continued stable and secure operation of the Domain Name System. For more information, visit <https://meetings.icann.org/en/about>.

Why should the Indian community participate in ICANN57?

ICANN Meetings are open to everyone, and everyone participates on equal footing due to the multistakeholder model (bottom-up consensus-based decision making model).

India's Internet user base is the second largest in the world after China, surpassing the number of users in the United States. The number of Internet users is expected to reach 730 million by 2020. (Source: [NASSCOM – The Future of Internet in India](#)). In addition, India's Internet economy contributes to India's economic growth. In 2013, it accounted for 3.2% of the country's GDP, and that is likely to increase to more than 5% (~\$200 billion) by 2020, according to a report by the [Boston Consulting Group \(BCG\) and IAMAI](#).

With an increasing number of Internet users and a growing e-commerce industry in India, it is important for the Indian community to come forward to join in the Internet discussion at ICANN57. Indian stakeholders need to make their voice heard and help shape the policies that could one day impact their Internet experience.

Glossary

For a full list of glossary, please go to: <https://www.icann.org/resources/glossary>

Advisory Committee	An Advisory Committee is a formal advisory body made up of representatives from the Internet community to advise ICANN on a particular issue or policy area. Several are mandated by the ICANN Bylaws and others may be created as needed. Advisory committees have no legal authority to act for ICANN, but report their findings and make recommendations to the ICANN Board.
Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC)	A technology that can be added to the Domain Name System to verify the authenticity of its data. The works by adding verifiable chains of trust that can be validated to the domain name system.
Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD)	A class of top-level domains that are used for general purposes, where ICANN has a strong role in coordination e.g. .com, .org and .edu.
Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)	The IANA functions have historically included: the maintenance of the registry of technical Internet protocol parameters; the administration of certain responsibilities associated with Internet DNS root zone and the allocation of Internet numbering resources.
Internationalized Domain Name Program	Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) permit the global community to use a domain name in their native language or script. This is enabled by allowing domain names to have characters from different scripts, beyond the letters (a to z), digits (0 to 9) and hyphen (-) e.g. .भारत
Multistakeholder Model	The multistakeholder model at ICANN, is comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders with an interest in Internet numbering, naming and protocols from around the world who have organized into various Supporting Organizations, Constituencies and Advisory Committees, and agree to operate in an open, bottom-up, consensus-driven, and transparent manner.
New Generic Top-Level Domain Program	The New Generic Top-Level Domain Program was developed to increase competition and choice in the domain name space. Hundreds of new strings have been delegated and continue to be added to the domain name system e.g. .airtel, .bharti and .tatamotors.
Supporting Organizations	The Supporting Organizations are the three specialized advisory bodies that will advise the ICANN Board of Directors on issues relating to domain names and, IP addresses.