

Government of India  
Ministry of Finance,  
Department of Economic Affairs  
New Delhi-110001

Dear Honorable Finance Minister,

## **RE: Pre-Budget Consultation (2018-19) with Ministry of Finance - IT Group**

Thank you for inviting DataMeet to the Pre Budget Consultation with the IT Group. [DataMeet](#) is a community open data enthusiasts from all over the India. We ask that for the 2018-2019 budget you take the following into consideration.

1. Smart Cities will create more useful and dynamic datasets in the coming years. These datasets can create whole new industries for people at every level, this policy and its implementation is the foundation for that. We request the Finance Ministry to offer other Ministries support through grants to make their data available in real time and open in order to promote job and economic growth under Digital India and make doing business in India easier
2. Fund government institutes like Survey of India (Open Map Series) and India Post (Pincode areas) to release their data under Government Open Data License, in turn these datasets can create whole new startups and economic growth
3. A comprehensive policy on privacy for citizens with regards to open data is very important. Such a policy can help officials open up the data without exposing private individuals information. This will make any services created with these datasets more secure. We are asking that these policies be implemented according to the guidelines specified in NDSAP and by the Data.Gov.in implementation standards.
4. The Mapping Policy of India is preventing mapping initiatives by the Survey of India from meeting the growing need for georeferenced and geographic data. Updating the mapping policy that would require crowdsourcing or private mapping data to be reported to the Survey of India and then made available to the public in electronic formats would allow the Survey of India to keep up with demand and have updated maps. This would be faster, cheaper and more efficient updates to geospatial information that can be used by everyone including the government.
5. Incentives for businesses through tax breaks or the CSR protocol, who collect public good datasets, to make it open and accessible through the Data.Gov.In platform.
6. Copyright for data has to be open data license by default when sharing to allow for use by commercial projects. Copyright Policy must be clarified in order to make sure data is being used rightfully and legally by parties. Vendors and 3rd party data collector agreements must specify that the data collected on behalf of the public or with public funds must be owned by the Government of India and opened (taking into account privacy concerns) on the Data.Gov.in platform.
7. It is important for India to create more data around their development goals and schemes and by making this data open, corruption and inefficiencies can be kept low for instance the Census highlighting the issues around Swachh Bharat Mission numbers in 2011

Thank you again for your time and attention to these recommendations. We hope to see the next budget as a first step to really exploring the huge potential Government of India has for a wider audience.

Sincerely,  
DataMeet

