



6TH DIGITAL
CITIZEN
SUMMIT
2024

Algorithms,
AI and
Accountability

15th & 16th November | T-HUB Hyderabad



VOICES OF 6TH DIGITAL CITIZEN SUMMIT 2024



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DIGITAL CITIZEN
SUMMIT 2024**

SPEAKERS

1. Shri Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) and Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Telangana
2. Sujit Jagirdar, CEO, T-HUB
3. Osama Manzar, Founder-Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation
4. Rajnesh Singh, CEO, APNIC Foundation
5. Sonia Jorge, Executive Director, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership
6. Sowmya Kidambi, Director and CEO, Barefoot College, Tilonia
7. Rakshita Swamy, Founder and Director, Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research (SAFAR)
8. Shaik Salauddin, Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU)
9. Dr. Srinivas Yanamandra, PayTM
10. Asif Ali Zaidi, Software Freedom Law Center (Virtual)
11. Dr. Janaki Srinivasan, University of Oxford (Virtual)
12. Nilay Shah, Software Freedom Law Center
13. Rakesh Dubuddu, Factly
14. Kritika Goel, LogicallyFacts (Virtual)
15. Supriya Sharma, Scroll (Virtual)
16. Shruti Narayan, Access Now
17. Mrinalini Ravindranath, Criminal Justice and Police Accountability Project
18. Anvesh Baki, Criminal Justice and Police Accountability Project
19. Akshay Nambi, Microsoft Research
20. Swetha Kolluri, World Bank
21. Rajesh Jalan, Cropin
22. Shweta Singh, Corteva AgriSciences
23. Dr. Shaik N.Meera, Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute
24. Varnika Yertha, Pratham Books StoryWeaver
25. Lauren Grubbs, USAID
26. Hayley Pottle, USAID
27. Rahul Paith, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH)
28. Vaishali Soni, Point of View
29. Prathana Mitra, Point of View
30. Professor Amir Ullah Khan, Member of TSPSU
31. Anshul Tewari, Youth Ki Awaaz
32. Priyanka Dutt, Giving Tuesday India Hub
33. Nivedita Krishna, Pacta
34. Dr Arun Teja Polcumpally, Pacta
35. Radhika Yelkur, Naandi Foundation
36. Dr. Sharique Hassan Manazir, Kautilya School of Public Policy
37. Romita Ghosh, iHeal HealthTech
38. Dr. Gopika Gopan K, Wadhvani AI
39. Dr. Aakansha Natani, International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad
40. Professor Rajesh Chakrabati, Bennett University
41. Akhmat Safrudin, LocNet
42. Catherine Tiongson, LocNet
43. Gomer Padong, Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA)
44. Amitabh Kumar, Social Media Matters
45. Mili Dangwal, Digital Empowerment Foundation
46. Sumaiya Khan, St Xavier's College, Goa
47. Syed Mohammad Haroon, Software Freedom Law Center
48. Swinery, Content Creator (Virtual)
49. Dr. Arpita Kanjilal, Digital

- Empowerment Foundation
50. Khush Vachhrajani, Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research (SAFAR)
 51. Mukesh Goswami, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)
 52. Paras Banjara, Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research (SAFAR) & Rajasthan SR Abhiyan
 53. Kaustubha Kalindi, Tattle Civic Technologies
 54. Radhika Sarin, GSMA
 55. Professor Anirban Dasgupta, International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad
 56. Rama Lanka Devi, Government of Telangana
 57. Prabodh Mahajan, SignAssist
 58. Atharva Joshi, Civis
 59. Aindriya Barua, ShhorAI (Virtual)
 60. Chanukya Patnaik, AI Planet
 61. Professor Abdul Shaban, TISS Mumbai
 62. Professor Sachidanand Sinha, IMPRI
 63. Dr. Prashant Narnaware, Government of Maharashtra
 64. Dr. Neha Gupta, TISS Mumbai
 65. Dr Christian Handke, Erasmus University (Virtual)
 66. Dr. Markha Valenta, Utrecht University (Virtual)
 67. Dr. Zinat Aboli, University of Paris (Virtual)
 68. Juan Angel Demerutis Arenas, University of Guadalajara (Virtual)
 69. Amrita Sengupta, The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS)
 70. Ananya Bhattacharya, Rest of World
 71. Professor Radhika Krishnan, International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad
 72. Deepak Krishnan, World Resources Institute India
 73. Siddharth Malempati, Commons Collective
 74. Rahma Utami, Suarise
 75. Anushka Jain, Digital Futures Lab
 76. Shreeja Sen, Digital Futures Lab
 77. Nina Bual, Cyberlite
 78. Michelle Yao, Cyberlite
 79. Professor Pramod Nayar, UNESCO Chair in Vulnerability Studies, Department of English, University of Hyderabad
 80. Professor Vasuki Belavadi, Director of the Centre for Digital Learning, Training and Resources, University of Hyderabad
 81. Professor Atul Negi, School of Computer and Information Sciences, University of Hyderabad
 82. Professor Salman Moiz, School of Computer and Information Sciences, University of Hyderabad
 83. Dr. Madhavi Ravikumar, Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad
 84. Jenny Sulfath, Digital Empowerment Foundation
 85. Saleema Razvi, Copenhagen Consensus
 86. Nitesh Bharadwaj, Aadiwasi Janjagruti
 87. Upasana Hembram, ISOC Foundation
 88. Urvashi Aneja, Digital Futures Lab
 89. Pankaj Pachauri, GoNews
 90. K. Mohan Raidu, ISOC Hyderabad Chapter



Jayesh Ranjan

Special Chief Secretary

Industries & Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments of the Telangana government

Mr. Jayesh Ranjan is a member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of the 1992 batch and working in the state of Telangana. He holds a Masters Degree in Psychology from Delhi University, a degree in Business Management from the Indian Institute of

Management, Calcutta, and a Masters in Public Management from Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. He has also done short courses in the University of Birmingham (on Environmental Policy Analysis), JICA Training Institute, Tokyo (on lake remediation), London School of Economics (on Globalization and Leadership), Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (in Public Policy), and Swedish Institute, Stockholm (on Sustainability and CSR). He is the All-India topper of his IAS batch of 1992.

He was awarded the World Bank's Social Capital Visiting Scholarship in 2002 and the British Government's Gurukul Chevening Scholarship in 2005. He has done international consultancy assignments for the World Bank, UN-ESCAP, Sedatu project of Mexico, and for international NGOs working for Youth Issues like YES, Inc of the USA and NMC from Italy. He is a part of the National Pool of Trainers in Leadership constituted by the Government of India and is involved in training and mentoring newly recruited Civil Servants. Among his other distinctions, he was awarded the Royal Order of the Polar Star by His Majesty The King of Sweden in 2019 for promoting Swedish business interests in India including the opening of IKEA's first Indian store in Hyderabad. He has also been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bolton (UK) in 2022 for promoting bilateral trade and investments between the UK and Telangana.

Jayesh Ranjan is the Special Chief Secretary of the Industries & Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments of the Telangana government. His assignment involves developing policy frameworks, attracting new investments, identifying opportunities for utilising IT in various government processes, and promoting the digital empowerment of the citizens. His last few assignments have been in the Industrial Promotion sector as Commissioner and MD of the Industries Department, Secretary in the Tourism Promotion Department, and Vice-Chairman of the Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA), all for 2-3 years each, and various rural assignments in different parts of the state for over 12 years, working in diverse sectors like Tribal Development, Natural Resources Management, Poverty Alleviation and other related Social Development Sectors.

Jayesh Ranjan supports many social, cultural and charitable causes and is on the

Boards / Advisory committees of United Way (Hyderabad), Save A Child's Heart (SACH) Foundation, Young Lives India, Save the Children, Sparsh Hospice, APMAS, ML Jaisimha Sports Foundation, Hyderabad 10 K Foundation, Vijaya Foundation Trust, Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation, LSN Foundation, Tejas Foundation, Magic Bus Hyderabad, World Wildlife Fund (Hyderabad chapter), Hyderabad Literary Festival. Spic-Macay. Heal a Child Foundation, Moving Images, Society to Aid the Hearing Impaired (SAHI), and Institute of Public Enterprises (IPE).



Sujit Jagirdar

Chief Executive Officer
T-Hub

Sujit Jagirdar is the Chief Executive Officer of the world's largest and pioneering Startup Innovation ecosystem - T-Hub, located in Hyderabad. His role involves driving 'open innovation-led business transformation' with corporates & government entities, driving International programs with Global firms & building partnerships with Innovation hubs to deliver impact. Key focus areas include enabling market access for startups, POCs,

and Pilots and collaborating with corporates for co-innovation & co-creation.

He is a frequent speaker at CII, TiE as well as international Tech Fests on topics such as Digital Transformation, Mobility, Energy Transition, Startups & Innovation. He has delivered sessions at IIM Calcutta, IIM Lucknow, BITS Pilani etc. He is on the Advisory Council of CII's Green Entrepreneurship Council and on the Advisory Committee of the T-Hub Board.

With more than 2 decades of experience, Sujit has worked with large global organisations like Wipro Technologies, Oracle India and Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co. Ltd. He is a Global Consulting & IT Delivery leader helping clients in their Innovation and Transformation journeys. His experience included managing CXOs / stakeholders' global IT Program delivery across sectors like Consumer Goods, Manufacturing, Travel, Transportation & Hospitality. He has extensive experience in scaling IT Consulting Practices like o9 SCM & Ecommerce, specialised practices like Cyber Security Consulting and Packaged Testing practices.



Osama Manzar

Founder - Director

Digital Empowerment Foundation

Osama Manzar is the founder and director of the Digital Empowerment Foundation and Senior Ashoka Fellow. Osama is a global leader on the mission of eradicating information poverty from India and the global south using digital tools. He is a social entrepreneur, author, columnist, impact speaker, angel investor, and mentor, and sits on several government and policy committees in India and on international organisations working in the

areas of the Internet, access, and digital inclusion.

With over 30 years of experience, Osama has worked in the areas of journalism, new media, and software enterprise and ended up creating the Digital Empowerment Foundation that works in India and several other countries to digitally empower the masses with a footprint of 1500-plus locations and interventions in more than 10 countries including the countries in South Asia.

Manzar is a British Chevening Scholar and is also an International Visitors Leadership Program Fellow of the US State Department. He has coauthored more than 5 books including Internet Economy of India. His recent book was released during the COVID-19 pandemic called “The New Normal: How to Survive the New World Order”. Osama has instituted 10 awards for recognising digital innovations for development in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. He is a member of the advisory committee for Digital Services at the National E-Gov Division (NEGD) at the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. Osama has served several Boards and Advisory Councils like the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), World Summit Award (WSA), Down to Earth Magazine, Barefoot College Tilonia, Ibtada; Society for Labour & Development, Protsahan Sanstha; Multiversity Alliance, and ProtoVillage. Consulting and Packaged Testing practices.



Rajnesh Singh

CEO

APNIC Foundation

Rajnesh (Raj) Singh joined the APNIC Foundation in December 2023. He is a technology industry thought leader and former serial entrepreneur with extensive experience in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. He has played founding and leading roles in several technology and private equity investment firms with significant experience in business management and strategy development, spanning diverse industries such as telecommunications,

power infrastructure, agriculture, and real estate. Raj has an intimate understanding of the nuances of the Asia-Pacific with lived experiences in the region. He has worked extensively with governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector and has served on several Advisory Boards. He has been part of Expert Working Groups for regional and international organisations on infrastructure, policy, regulatory reform, and development issues.

His Internet community leadership roles include Chair of the Asia-Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF), Founding Chair of ICANN's Asia Pacific Regional At-Large Organisation (APRALO), and he was the Regional Vice President for Asia-Pacific at the Internet Society (ISOC) and established its Singapore-based subsidiary.

At the APNIC Foundation, he builds partnerships and advocates for the technologies, policies and best practices that contribute to a global, open, stable and secure Internet that is affordable and accessible to the entire Asia Pacific community.



Sonia Jorge

Founder and Executive Director

Global Digital Inclusion Partnership

Sonia Jorge is the Founder and Executive Director of the Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP). Sonia is an experienced leader and international digital policy expert. She had successfully led global coalitions, bringing together the private sector, governments, and civil society actors from across the globe to deliver the policies needed to reduce the cost to connect and make universal meaningful connectivity a reality

for everyone in global majority countries. As a policy advisor and gender equality advocate with experience in over 45 countries, she has led numerous digital policy and development projects in several regions and with international organisations, such as the World Bank, UNDP, UN Women, ITU, and for private sector companies and associations.

Sonia was recognised by apolitical as one of the World's 100 Most Influential People in Digital Government in 2019. She serves or has served as a member and expert in a number of Committees, including CGAP's Data Project, DFID's Digital Access Panel for Africa, the ITU-UN Women EQUALS Partnership, The World Economic Forum's Future of the Internet Initiative, the Broadband Commission Working Group on the Gender Digital Divide, the Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy (ACICIP) Subcommittee of the U.S. State Department on ICT4D, and the EU-AU Digital Economy Task Force. She is an Independent Board Director with KaiOS Technologies, an Advisory Board member of UNESCO's Cetic.br Regional Center and a frequent speaker at international, regional and national forums. Sonia was the co-founder and Executive Director of the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) until September 2022. She has a Masters in Public Policy from Tufts University and degrees in Economics and Business Finance from the University of Massachusetts.



Sowmya Kidambi

Director & CEO
Barefoot College

Sowmya Kidambi joined as Director and CEO of the Barefoot College, Tilonia in June 2023 after 25 years of working in the area of social accountability, transparency, monitoring and evaluation and governance with a specific emphasis on social audits. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay with a specialisation in Urban and Rural Community Development and a Diploma in Human Rights from the ISHR, Columbia University, New York. Sowmya began working with a grassroots movement, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, Rajasthan in 1998 and was part of the movement for the Right to Information and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. After 7 years of working with MKSS, she joined the Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up the first independent social audit society. She worked with the GoAP and Telangana for 18 years and for 13 years and headed the Social Audit Society. She has also worked internationally as a Technical Assistance Provider in Social Audits.



Rakshita Swamy

Founder and Director
SAFAR

Rakshita Swamy is the Founder and Director of SAFAR. She has worked towards advocating and institutionalising transparency, accountability and citizen participation in governance through her collaborations with Central and State Governments and Civil Society Organizations. Her work focuses on conceptualising, demonstrating and institutionalising mechanisms that enable disclosure of information, time-bound grievance redress and social audits in the delivery of schemes and functioning of public institutions. She worked with the Ministry of Rural Development with a mandate to support State Governments in implementing social audits under the MGNREGA, and drawing institutional synergies on social audits with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. She is associated with the Right to Information and Right to Work campaigns. She has a Masters in Social Policy and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Bachelors in Economics from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi.



Pankaj Pachauri

Senior Journalist

Pankaj Pachauri is a senior print and broadcast journalist with more than three decades of editorial and management experience in print and electronic media across three continents. He has worked in Delhi, London, Boston and Hong Kong with leading news organisations such as NDTV, BBC World Service (UK), Public Radio International (US), India Today magazine, The Sunday Observer and The Patriot newspapers. In 2017 he launched India's first app based TV News Channel, GoNews, and turned into an entrepreneur.

His espousal of free, secular and progressive journalism as a reporter, TV anchor and editor based in South-East Asia, Europe, the United States and India has won him several national and international journalism awards.

For over two years, he worked as the Communications Adviser to the Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, assisting his office in managing national and international

media. During his tenure with the Prime Minister's Office, he has designed and executed media strategy across various platforms for international events like the G20 Summits, NAM, ASEAN Summit, BRICS Summits and United Nations General Assembly.



Shaik Salauddin

Founder

Telangana Four-Wheeler Drivers' Association

Shaik Salauddin has been a driver organizer in Hyderabad since 2014, founding the Telangana Four-Wheeler Drivers' Association and later the Telangana State Taxi and Drivers' Joint Action Committee, uniting 20 drivers' unions. In 2019, he became the National General Secretary of the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFAT), representing 35,000 members across 15 cities. In 2022, he launched the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers' Union (TGPWU) to advocate for all gig and platform

workers, including those with Ola, Uber, Swiggy, and Zomato. In 2023, he received the Shram Shakti Award for his contributions to workers' rights in Telangana.



Dr. Srinivas Yanamandra

Head - Regulatory Affairs & Policy

One97 Communications Limited (PayTM)

Dr. Srinivas Yanamandra is currently the Group Head, Regulatory Affairs & Policy at One97 Communications Limited (PayTM). Prior to this, he held senior positions in compliance functions at BRICS New Development Bank (Shanghai), and IDFC First & ICICI Banks in Mumbai. Srinivas is a Chartered Accountant, a Cost & Management Accountant, a Fellow of

International Compliance Association (UK), a Certified Anti Money Laundering Specialist (USA),

Certified Global Sanctions Specialist (CGSS), and holds a doctorate from the University of Manchester (UK). His professional expertise spans across governance, risk management, financial crime compliance, electronic payments, digital currencies, economic sanctions, and fintech regulation. Srinivas was the recipient of "CA Global Achiever Award 2019" from the Institute of Chartered Accountant of India. He is a TEDx speaker, and is also

associated with various academic institutes as a guest faculty in India and abroad.”



Asif Ali Zaidi

Laywer
SFLC

Asif Ali Zaidi is a Delhi-based lawyer who has been associated with Software Freedom Law Center as a Policy Counsel. Asif studied law at Aligarh Muslim University and worked as Judicial Clerk in Telangana High Court for over three years. Since November 2022, has been involved in issues related to the intersectionality of Human And Digital Rights. He has co-authored papers on Digital Exclusion in PDS In India, Surveillance in MGNREGA Scheme, participated in a surveillance conference in Slovenia,

held a discussion on Data Protection Law at ISB and spoke to law students on digital rights.



Dr. Janki Srinivasan

Associate Professor
University of Oxford

Dr. Janaki Srinivasan prior to joining the University of Oxford as Associate Professor in Digital South Asian Studies was faculty at the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Bangalore and convenor of its Centre for Information Technology and Public Policy. She has a PhD in Information Management and Systems from the University of California Berkeley and Masters degrees in Physics and Information Technology from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and IIIT Bangalore.

Her research and writing have examined the politics of informational and digital exclusion in initiatives spanning varied digital technologies and parts of India. Her current interests include privacy and the algorithmic control of labour. For the past 5 years, as co-investigator on the Fairwork India team, she has been involved in researching and advocating for change in the precarious working conditions of digital platform-based gig workers in India.



Nilay Shah

Policy Counsel

Software Freedom Law Centre

Nilay Shah is a Policy Counsel at the Software Freedom Law Center India. He studied law at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai and has worked at the intersection of law, policy, and technology. He has worked with TMT teams at law firms prior to joining SFLC.in. His interests lie in technology law, international trade law, and policy research.



Rakesh Dubbudu

Founder

Factly Media & Research

Rakesh Dubbudu is the founder of Factly Media & Research, a prominent civic-tech, fact-checking, and public data initiative in India. With a career spanning over two decades, he has dedicated himself to championing transparency, information access, and combating mis/disinformation through innovative technology solutions. His work lies at the intersection of data access, information consumption, and technology, with a specific focus on AI-driven products that address the pressing challenges of the information age. In particular, he has championed the cause of the Right to Information legislation advocating for improved information access to the public.



Kritika Goel

Head

Logically Facts

Kritika Goel is the Head of Editorial Operations (India) at Logically Facts. She leads a team of over 20 multilingual fact-checkers and works towards mitigating the harms of online mis and disinformation. Earlier, she was working as the deputy editor (fact-check) at The Quint. She led their fact-checking initiative, WebQoof, and worked on several projects promoting media and digital literacy among women, students, and young adults in India.

She conceptualised and started an award-winning series, 'Verify Kiya Kya?', to make fact-checking simple and accessible. Her work as a fact-checker has won her recognition and several accolades.



Supriya Sharma

Executive Editor

Scroll

Supriya Sharma is the Executive Editor of Scroll, India's first digital-only news organisation which was founded in 2014 and has since won nearly 50 awards. In a career spanning more than two decades, Supriya has covered politics, conflict and development in some of India's most embattled regions. She has won every major journalism honour in the country, from the Ramnath Goenka Awards, the Red Ink Awards, the Chameli Devi Award for Outstanding Woman Journalist, among others. Her portfolio of award-

winning work includes reporting on the Maoist insurgency in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, dispatches from a crisscrossing train journey during national elections, and more recently, an investigative report on the Narendra Modi government's use of a federal investigative agency to target the political opposition.

In her role as an editor at one of India's small and independent newsrooms, Supriya has led sustained coverage of rising majoritarian politics and crony capitalism, but also a diverse range of stories on environment, climate, education, health and gender. Supriya is the co-author of *Love Jihad and Other Fictions, Simple Facts to Counter Viral Falsehoods* (Aleph Book Company, 2024), a book that debunks viral conspiracy theories that have been amplified by India's ruling party. She lives in Delhi.



Shruti Narayan

Asia Pacific Policy Counsel

Access Now

Shruti Narayan is Asia Pacific Policy Counsel at Access Now, a non-profit organisation which works to extend and defend the digital rights of people across the world. She works on issues of freedom of expression, internet shutdowns, surveillance and spyware, and data protection across South Asia, including a report on YouTube's inability to detect election misinformation. Shruti is a lawyer, with litigation experience in constitutional and criminal law.



Mrinalini Ravindranath

Research Head

Criminal Justice and Police Accountability

Mrinalini Ravindranath is a lawyer/researcher and Research Head at the Criminal Justice and Police Accountability Project. She is also an Inlaks Fellow for Social Engagement for 2022-2024. She has worked with rights-based organisations on issues of caste, gender and criminalisation of rights for over 5 years. She graduated with her BA/LLB from the National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. Her writings have been published in the Hindu, Indian Express and Scroll.in and she has been involved in civil society

submissions to various national statutory bodies and UN Committees.



Avnesh Baki

Lawyer and independent researcher
Criminal Justice and Police Accountability

Avnesh Baki is a lawyer and independent researcher currently working with the Criminal Justice and Police Accountability Project as a researcher. He has previously worked as a research associate in the office of the Addl. Advocate General of Telangana for a year from 2021-2022. His research interests include constitutional and Human rights, especially focusing on historically marginalised communities and identities, Indigenous sovereignties and federalism. He holds an LLM degree in law with a specialisation

in Human Rights Conflict and Justice from SOAS in 2023, University of London, United Kingdom and a B.A. LLB (Hons.) degree from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, India in 2021.



Akshay Nambi

Principal Researcher
Microsoft Research (MSR) India

Akshay Nambi is a Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research (MSR) India, with expertise at the intersection of systems engineering, AI, and machine learning. His work focuses on developing innovative solutions to tackle pressing global challenges, particularly in sectors such as education, agriculture, energy and transportation. Akshay's research is driven by real-world impact, and currently, his research centers on building reliable agentic AI

systems designed for everyday AI applications, with the goal of making technology more accessible and transformative for all.



Swetha Kolluri

Data Scientist

World Bank

Swetha Kolluri is a data scientist and a rural development professional with 15 years of professional experience in India and USA. She is a Fulbright-Nehru scholar and an environmental management graduate from Yale University. Her work encompasses diverse fields like climate change, agriculture and digital transformation. As Head of Experimentation at UNDP, she curated several digital public goods for climate resilience. At the World Bank, she advises the global digital

agriculture portfolio on AI systems for climate-smart agriculture in Asia and Africa. She is a Visiting Fellow at CSEP where she builds AI innovations to inform climate policies in India.



Rajesh Jalan

Chief Technology Officer

Cropin

Rajesh Jalan is the Chief Technology Officer and Head of Engineering at Cropin, the world's most advanced AI Platform for Food and Agriculture. He has over 25 years of experience building and leading software products and services engineering teams that are globally scaled and trusted. An inventor and innovator at heart, over the course of his career, Rajesh has been awarded 10 patents in various areas including code analysis, code optimisation and operating systems. Rajesh graduated from the

Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, with a Bachelor of Technology degree in Computer Science and a Master of Science in Mathematics. Rajesh lives in Hyderabad and enjoys reading Behavioral Economics and Psychology in his spare time.



Shweta Singh

Community Partnership & Sustainability leader
Corteva Agriscience

Shweta Singh is a dynamic leader with 19 years of extensive experience across diverse sectors, including FMCG, F&B, telecom, Automobile and Agriscience, currently serving as the Community Partnership & Sustainability leader at Corteva Agriscience.

With an MBA in International Business from IIFT, Delhi, and a B.E. in Computer Science, she brings a wealth of expertise in Sales, Marketing, Operations, Strategy and Sustainability to her role. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a remarkable ability

to drive strategic initiatives and foster robust community partnerships. At Corteva, she has been instrumental in developing and implementing sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity, reduce environmental footprints, and promote resilient food systems. She is passionate about fostering innovation and sustainability in Agriculture.



Dr. Shaik N. Meera

Director
ICAR ATARI

Dr Shaik N. Meera has notable professional accomplishments in the field of digital agriculture and extension systems, with substantial international experience. With over two decades of professional experience, Dr. Meera has led numerous impact acceleration efforts both in India and internationally. His expertise includes integrating cutting-edge digital technologies, modernising extension methodologies, and developing value chains that enhance agricultural sustainability.

Currently, he is serving as Director of ICAR ATARI Hyderabad, a Unit of the Federal Government of India, looking after Frontline Extension in four South Indian provinces (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry). Overseeing the operational management of 72 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Dr. Meera's leadership has facilitated advancements in technology dissemination, farmer capacity building, frontline extension activities and large-scale impacts in agri-food systems.

During 2020-22, he worked as Senior Technical Expert (Digital Agriculture and Extension Systems) at the United Nation's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

He designed and deployed innovative extension strategies and programs across the rural value chains in 18 countries in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia, and Europe (NEN) region. As a consultant, he extended technical support to national and international organisations in modernising their extension programs with Mobile and cloud computing.

He was a visiting researcher at Iowa State University (2010). He visited 25 countries to design, deploy, share, and learn the digital & extension development strategies for organisations. He received twelve national and international awards that include the prestigious ICAR Lal Bahadur Shastri Outstanding Young Scientist Award (2014) and the Indian Agriculture Leadership Award (2013). He published about 200 research papers, policy briefs, blogs, bulletins, books, etc.



Vaishali Soni

Design Specialist

Point of View

Vaishali Soni is the Design Specialist at Point of View. With over a decade of experience in journalism and design, Vaishali Soni specialises in combining storytelling with visual design to create research-driven campaigns for social impact. She has collaborated with organisations such as Gaysi, UNICEF, Design Beku, Katha, and Times of India. Currently, she manages the visual universe at Point of View, Mumbai, crafting visuals for social change. In addition, she facilitates art-based creative workshops

for digital advocacy, helping others use visuals as tools for social change.



Prarthana Mitra

Feminist Practitioner

Point of View

Prarthana Mitra (they/them) is a feminist practitioner based in New Delhi, India. At Point of View, as the Knowledge and Communications Manager, they are anchoring knowledge and communications for projects like The Digital Everyday (a residency on bodies, technologies and justice), and the EU's Gendered Disinformation project in India with

the Association for Progressive Communications, also completing a Fellowship with the Digital Rights in Asia Pacific 2024. Over 6 years in the South Asian culture and development sector, Prarthana has also led communications, strategy, research and outreach for UNICEF India, The Union, John Snow International, Clinton Health Access Initiative, Participatory Research in Asia, and Doc Society's Good Pitch and Climate Story Lab programmes. Keen on exploring gender, identity, and social justice through culture, they also write extensively on new media and audio practices with bylines in Gaysi, Border Movement, Doing the Rondo and Gulmohur Quarterly among others.



Amir Ullah Khan

Economist and Development Policy Professor
MCR Human Resource Development Institute

Amir Ullah Khan is an Economist and a Development Policy Professor at the MCR Human Resource Development Institute of the Government of Telangana. He was Research Director at CDPP and Visiting Professor at the Indian School of Public Policy in Delhi, Indian School of Business, Tata Institute of Social Science, Kautilya School of Public Policy and NALSAR in Hyderabad and at the Manipal Institute of Technology. A former civil servant of the 1993 batch of officers, Amir was a member of the G

Sudhir Commission of Inquiry on Socio-economic issues of the Government of Telangana and a member of the Kundu Committee of the Government of India. He headed Strategy and Policy Research as Deputy Director at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He also has served as Director of the India Development Foundation, a Policy Institute in New Delhi



Anshul Tewari

Founder
Youth Ki Awaaz

Anshul is a social entrepreneur and the Founder of Youth Ki Awaaz, India's largest civic engagement platform that uses polling, surveys and storytelling to transform youth voices into actionable insights for social transformation. Youth Ki Awaaz engages over 200,000 young people to share stories and take surveys every month, and has an audience of over 20 million people a month. He has worked across media, technology and citizen generated data to build and

scale community driven models of social change. Anshul is an Ashoka Fellow for social entrepreneurship and was named a Young Innovator by the United Nations ITU. He was also named a Forbes 30 Under 30 media influencer in 2018. He is also a founding trustee of the Misinformation Combat Alliance, a cross industry collaborative effort set up with the objective of combatting and limiting the spread of misinformation through targeted interventions and activities. Anshul also serves as a Board Trustee for the Internet Freedom Foundation that defends online freedom, privacy and innovation in India. He previously also served on the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Board for South and South East Asia.



Priyanka Dutt

Chief Advisor

Giving Tuesday India Hub

Priyanka Dutt is the Chief Advisor at the Giving Tuesday India Hub. A seasoned social impact leader, with over two decades of experience in the private and social sectors in India, using the power of media and communication to deliver social impact. A proven track record in leadership, organisational growth and business management, strategic and analytical thinking, creativity, communication, talent management, and program design and delivery.



Nivedita Krishna

Founder and Director

Pacta

Nivedita Krishna, Founder and Director of Pacta is a law and public policy consultant with 15 years of experience in the corporate and social sector. In the last decade, she has focused on law and policy initiatives in inclusion, data & technology, and philanthropy. She has worked on data privacy issues across geographies in public health, gender, and employment. Nivedita is also a legal consultant for the Azim Premji Foundation.



Dr. Arun Teja Polcumpally

Manager - Technology Policy

Pacta

Dr Arun Teja Polcumpally is a Technology Policy Manager at Pacta, responsible for designing and executing research programs at the intersection of digital technologies and society. His PhD focused on the geopolitical impact of AI surveillance through realist and neo-Gramscian lenses. He is a published author and was earlier associated with Wadhvani Foundation, and CDPP.



Ms Radhika Yelkur

Head - Partnerships

Naandi Foundation

Radhika heads partnerships in women empowerment at Naandi Foundation. Prior to this role, Radhika was National Head of Project Nanhi Kali, a girl child education project supporting 180,000 girls in government schools across 20 districts in 8 states. Co-managed by the KC Mahindra Education Trust, Nanhi Kali aims to support girls through their school years so that they complete school with life skills that will enable them to flourish in college and work.

Naandi Foundation is an NGO that works with girls

and women and farmers in alleviating poverty through education, skilling and support in regenerative agriculture practices.



Dr. Sharique Hassan Manazir

Assistant Professor

Kautilya School of Public Policy

Dr. Sharique Hassan Manazir is a distinguished scholar specializing in Policy Science, Science, Technology & Society (STS), and Digital Democracy. He is well known for his research on political willingness in policymaking, particularly in the context of digital democracy. Dr. Manazir earned his PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, where his research focused on citizen e-participation impact on public policy. As an Assistant Professor at the Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad, where he teaches

Foundation of Public Policy; Technology, Society & Governance Design Thinking for Citizen-Centric Public Policy. Formerly, he led Government Capacity Building and the Parliamentary and Legislative Support Programme at the Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business. He is the Area Editor of Data & Policy Journal, Cambridge University Press.



Romita Ghosh

Founder and CEO

iHeal HealthTech

Romita Ghosh is the Founder and CEO of iHeal HealthTech. She is a visionary leader revolutionising healthcare through AI and digital innovations. With over 17 years of experience, she has developed groundbreaking solutions like Maap AI, addressing malnutrition and bridging healthcare gaps across India. Romita's work has directly impacted over

500,000 lives, earning her prestigious accolades such as the Women Transforming India Award by Niti Aayog and being named among the Top 50 Women in

Innovation by CII PwC. An influential voice in digital health, Romita has co-chaired the UNGA Digital Health Summit and is a sought-after speaker on AI's role in transforming healthcare. Her leadership extends to mentoring entrepreneurs and advocating for women in science.



Dr Gopika Gopan K

Wadhvani AI

Dr. Gopika Gopan K is focused on developing scalable, high-impact AI-driven solutions that address the challenges faced by underserved communities, such as those aimed at TB eradication. Recipient of the Prof. Ravi Ravindran Gold Medal for her doctoral work at IIIT Bangalore, she began her career in academia with a post-doctoral stint before transitioning to industry. In her current role, she applies her expertise in machine learning to create deployable, real-world solutions in the healthcare and agriculture sectors. A responsible AI enthusiast, she assesses and integrates ethical considerations such as gender inclusivity and fairness for every AI-driven solution.



Dr. Aakansha Natani

Assistant Professor

IIIT Hyderabad

Dr Aakansha Natani is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Human Sciences Research Centre, IIIT Hyderabad, India, where she offers courses on 'Internet and Democracy' and 'AI and Human Rights' for undergraduate engineering students. In 2023, she was a D C Pavate Visiting Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge, UK. Recently, she was awarded the Jean Monnet Module Grant by the European Commission for her project on "Digital Democracy and Data Governance in the European Union"



Rajesh Chakrabarti

Dean

School of Management at Bennett University

Professor Rajesh Chakrabarti is the Dean of the School of Management at Bennett University. He is a renowned academic and thought leader in the fields of Finance, Management, and Public Policy. His educational journey began at Presidency College, Calcutta, where he earned his B.Sc. in Economics (1991). He then pursued his Post Graduate Diploma in Management from the prestigious Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (1993) before completing his Ph.D. in Management (Finance) from the University of California, Los Angeles (1999). Dr. Chakrabarti's academic career spans over two decades, during which he has held teaching positions at esteemed institutions worldwide. He has been a faculty member at the University of Alberta, Canada; Georgia Institute of Technology, USA; and the Indian School of Business (ISB). His expertise in Finance has been recognised globally, with visiting positions at institutions such as IIM Calcutta, Indian Statistical Institute Delhi, IIM Udaipur, ICN Nancy (France), and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.



Gomer Padong

Programs and Development Cooperation

ISEA

Gomer Padong serves as Supervising Programs and Development Cooperation Specialist at the Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA). He also coordinates Policy and Regulations for the Local Networks initiative with the Association for Progressive Communications and Rhizomatica. His work focuses on bridging the digital divide through sustainable, community-led solutions while advocating for inclusive Internet governance policies across Asia. Gomer brings valuable insights on community networks, digital rights, and social entrepreneurship to regional discussions.



Akhmat Safrudin

Asia Capacity Building Coordinator

LocNet

Akhmat Safrudin as the Asia Capacity Building Coordinator for LocNet, drives community-centered connectivity to bridge the digital divide. With 15+ years in ICT, including open source, IoT, and cybersecurity, he empowers rural communities through inclusive tech initiatives, fostering sustainable access solutions for marginalised populations across Southeast Asia.



Catherine Tionson

Development Cooperation Specialist

ISEA

Catherine Tionson works as a Supervising Programs and Development Cooperation Specialist at ISEA. She also coordinates the Gender Integration Strategy for Asia for the Local Network Initiative with the Association of Progressive Communications and Rhizomatica. Her work focuses on promoting gender and women's economic empowerment among social enterprises and community-centred connectivity initiatives in Asia. With her more than 20+ years of development work, Cathy brings valuable insights on community networks, feminist internet and social entrepreneurship to the table.



Amitabh Kumar

Co-Founder- Director

Social & Media Matters

Amitabh Kumar is at the forefront of global expansion as the Go-to-Market leader at Contrails.ai, a startup dedicated to AI-powered trust and safety solutions. At Contrails.ai, Amitabh is scaling his vision for enhancing online safety across international borders, leveraging cutting-edge AI to safeguard digital interactions.

Amitabh spearheaded the initial Go-to-Market strategies for acclaimed online safety programs like Social Surfing and TweeSurfing. These initiatives

have reached over 100,000 individuals in person across India, Nepal, and Bhutan, with workshops conducted in more than 150 cities globally. His advocacy efforts have facilitated significant partnerships with tech leaders, including engagements with Mark Zuckerberg’s Meta, Jack Dorsey’s Twitter and Reed Hastings Netflix, cementing his status as a leader in online safety and digital citizenship.



Mili Dangwal

Digital Swaraj Fellow

Digital Empowerment Foundation

Mili Dangwal is a Digital Swaraj Fellow from the inaugural cohort, where she engaged deeply with the digital and social landscapes of rural Tamil Nadu, particularly supporting communities producing GI-tagged products through digital and artisan empowerment.

Now a part of the Communications and Media team at the Digital Empowerment Foundation, Mili plays a key role in expanding projects through social media advocacy, content curation, and event coordination.

She envisions studying the impact of technology in societal contexts to enhance capacity-building and drive transformative change in underserved communities.



Sumaiya Khan

Student

St. Xavier's College,

Sumaiya Khan is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree as an English Major at St. Xavier's College, Goa. She has dabbled her hand at storytelling, poetry, theatre and public speaking and believes that words are spells waiting to be spoken or, in her case, written. In July 2022, her collection of 21 poems titled "PAPER BOAT" was published and selected after a nationwide writing challenge. She has since continued to publish her writings on online platforms, including Youth Ki Awaaz and Substack. In November 2023, she won first

place in a National Level Story Writing Competition organised by Shiv Nadar University, Delhi, for her short story titled "A Little Time Out", inspired by her mother's many teachings of life.

Her other forms of creative expression include rap, monologues and script writing in Hindi, English and Konkani. She has an abiding interest in the traditions and folklore of her native Goa. Reading a good book, sipping a cup of tea and spending time with her numerous dogs are what make her the happiest.



Dr. Arpita Kanjilal

Research - Consultant

Digital Empowerment Foundation

At Digital Empowerment Foundation, Dr. Arpita Kanjilal leads projects, programs and advocacy efforts focused on last-mile connectivity, digital rights, and development in India. Her doctoral research and professional background in the Human Rights and Development Sector spans diverse areas, including linguistics, gender and sexuality, digital rights advocacy, human rights advocacy, constitutional morality, and legal reforms. Her work is informed by an understanding of marginalised positions

within society and strives for meaningful impact across all indicators of socio-economic development. Arpita focuses on research and policymaking that account for ground realities and lived experiences of diverse communities, all aimed at advocacy-oriented engagement.



Syed Mohammad Haroon

Lead - Digital Security Trainings
SFLC

At Software Freedom Law Center, Syed Mohammad Haroon leads the vertical of Digital Security Trainings and Internet Shutdowns Tracker. He also represents SFLC.in in litigations affecting citizens' digital rights - having appeared at the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and Hon'ble District Court of Saket.



Swineryy

Swineryy is one of Pakistan's and South Asia's most beloved comedy accounts on Instagram, featuring short clips of original animated characters. Using Animoji animations on an iPhone, Swineryy has generated a collection of transgressive characters on social media that challenge norms in her country. The creator works anonymously, voices the characters and writes their stories alone.



Rama Devi Lanka

Director - Emerging Technologies
Government of Telangana

Rama Devi Lanka leads the Emerging Technologies Wing of the Information Technologies, Electronics and Communication Department (ITE&C) of the Government of Telangana. Her role is to formulate and execute policy frameworks that would create a conducive ecosystem for the growth of emerging technologies in the State, build institutions of

excellence and assist the government in leveraging these technologies for better governance and in improving service delivery to citizens.



Aindriya Barua

Founder and AI engineer

Shhor AI

Aindriya Barua (They/Them) is a queer Indigenous neurodivergent political artist and AI engineer from Tripura, India, and the founder of Shhor AI, an initiative combating online hate speech and doxxing, specifically addressing hate speech against no marginalised communities in the Indian context and its linguistic diversity. Shhor AI was born out of Aindriya's own lived experience of facing online hate as a political artist. Their early work gained significant

recognition in 2022 when they were awarded by UNFPA for their contributions to addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Since then, Shhor AI has grown into a thriving community effort and earned further accolades, including the JUST AI Award from the Digital Empowerment Foundation. Aindriya continues to use their art to make technology and digital rights more accessible, merging technology, art, and social justice to create safer, more inclusive digital spaces for vulnerable communities.



Chanukya Patnaik

Founder & CEO

AI Planet

Chanukya Patnaik is an entrepreneur, problem solver, and data scientist passionate about making AI accessible to all. As the Founder & CEO of AI Planet, he leads a global community of over 300,000, focusing on democratising AI and using it to solve real-world problems. Recognised in Belgium's 40 under 40 for its societal impact, Chanukya advises Swiss scaleups like AI Business School and Global AI Hub and has delivered talks at prominent institutions, including

TEDx Luxembourg and Stanford. Committed to responsible AI usage, Chanukya aims to harness AI's potential to address pressing global challenges and create a better future.



Atharva Joshi

Product Manager

Civis

Atharva Joshi is a Product Manager at Civis, leveraging his expertise in technology and analytics to promote constructive dialogue between governments and citizens. With a foundation in Computer Science, he has cultivated skills in data-driven product development, automation, and AI-driven tools for citizen engagement, deliberation, consensus-building, and collective intelligence generation. Atharva has been recognised with multiple awards and grants

for his contributions to sustainable energy and healthcare research and is an active community volunteer.



Prabodh Mahajan

Co-founder and COO

Learn and Empower

Prabodh Mahajan is a compassionate first-generation entrepreneur and resilient leader with over four years of experience as Co-founder and COO. He excels in community-focused, tech-driven product development, operations management, and social policy for accessibility and inclusion. Prabodh led the creation of two AI-driven platforms, scaling his deep-tech startup to a \$1.03 million valuation, impacting 12,000+ deaf users across India, APAC, UK, and the

USA, with partnerships from MEITY and state governments. He has collaborated with 12+ organisations focused on disability and inclusion. As a dedicated learner, he seeks to drive impactful solutions for social empowerment and well-being.



Naveev Singh

Founder and CEO
PhyFarm

Naveen Singh, Founder and CEO of PhyFarm, is dedicated to bringing meaningful change to Indian agriculture through technology and AI. An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Naveen was a founding member of a business that reached \$100 million in Annual Recurring Revenue, providing him with extensive experience in building impactful solutions. With over a decade in software development and seven years focused on

cloud-connected and AI-powered agricultural hardware, he's driven by a commitment to making technology accessible and practical for farmers.

At PhyFarm, Naveen focuses on creating simple, data-driven, AI-enhanced tools that help farmers manage their resources efficiently. His work goes beyond just developing new technologies; it's about offering real support to farmers and addressing everyday agricultural challenges. Naveen's goal is to build a more sustainable future for Indian farming, benefiting both farmers and the environment.



Abdul Shaban

Professor and Chairperson
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)

Abdul Shaban is a Professor and Chairperson of the Centre for Public Policy, Habitat and Human Development, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. He has served as chairperson of the International Relation Office (IRO), and Deputy Director of TISS, Tuljapur Campus. His area of work relates to regional economic growth, cities, entrepreneurship, and creative industries. Prof. Shaban has been a member

of various committees, commissions, and policy think tanks in these areas. He has also been a visiting professor/fellow at several leading universities outside India, which include LSE, Muenster University, Erasmus University, and Paris Diderot University (University Paris Cite). He has also been awarded various research grants from corporates and national and international agencies. He has been associated with different Journals as an editor or as a member of the editorial boards. He teaches and has published on Digitalization, Urbanization, and Socio-economic Development.



Prof. Sachidanand Sinha

Visiting Professor
IMPRI

Prof. Sachidanand Sinha is a former Professor of Social Geography & Regional Development Planning at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is currently an Honorary Visiting Professor at IMPRI, New Delhi, and President of the Institute of Indian Geographers, Pune.



Dr. Prashant Narnaware (IAS)

Commissioner, Women and Child Development
Government of Maharashtra

Dr. Prashant Narnaware is an IAS officer from the 2009 batch. Currently he is Commissioner of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra. Earlier, among others, he has served as the Commissioner of Social Welfare, Government of Maharashtra, and Collector of Dharashiv (Osmanabad) and Palghar.



Dr. Neha Gupta

Postdoctoral Fellow
Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Dr. Neha Gupta is a postdoctoral fellow at the School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. She has widely researched digitalisation and planning in India.



Dr Christian Handke

Associate Professor
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Dr Christian Handke is an Associate Professor of Cultural Economics at Erasmus University Rotterdam. His research focuses on cultural economics and the economics of copyright, innovation and technological change, cultural/creative and media industries, as well as on text and data mining. Christian Handke has been a consultant for a variety of public and private organisations, including the European Commission. He is the Associated Editor of the Journal of Cultural Economics.



Dr Markha Valenta

Utrecht University in the Netherlands

Dr Markha Valenta is affiliated with Utrecht University in the Netherlands. She is the President of the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) and Director of Community-Engaged Research & Teaching (UCU).



Zinat Aboli

Scholar
University of Paris City

Zinat Aboli is a scholar at the University of Paris City, with a deep focus on digitalisation, gender, and entrepreneurship. She specialises in transdisciplinary approaches that foster inclusive development, emphasising how digital solutions can support marginalised groups.



Juan Angel Demerutis Arenas

Professor

University of Guadalajara, Mexico

Juan Angel Demerutis Arenas has been a professor and researcher at the Planning Department of the College of Art, Architecture and Design (CUAAD) of the University of Guadalajara, Mexico, since 1994. His research has focussed on urbanism and digitalisation. Thirsty and Power- Hungry? Understanding the Environmental Aspects of AI by Digital Empowerment

Foundation (DEF), The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) & Youth Ki Awaaz (YKA)



Amrita Sengupta

Research and Programme Lead

CIS

Amrita Sengupta is Research and Programme Lead at CIS, Amrita's research focuses on areas such as gender and technology, digital cultures, ethics in research methods, digital access, algorithmic biases in tech design, and sustainability. She is a Research and Programme Lead at the Centre for Internet and Society, India. A trained sociologist, Amrita's research interests

and work lie in the areas of artificial intelligence, trust and online harms, platform accountability, information disorders, gender and technology, and sustainability and tech. She holds an undergraduate degree in sociology from Miranda House, Delhi University and a postgraduate degree in internet studies from the Oxford Internet Institute. In the past, Amrita has worked in managing and implementing large-scale people practices, diversity and inclusion in the workplace, as well as in conducting and leading long-form research on the impacts of tech on businesses and society, with both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. This year, Amrita is also a CyberBricks fellow at the Centre for Technology and Society-FGV.



Prof. Radhika Krishnan

IIIT Hyderabad

Prof. Radhika Krishnan is a faculty member at IIIT Hyderabad, Prof. Radhika's research interests lie in Political Ecology, Labour and Technology, Environment and Politics, and Just Transition.



Deepak Krishnan

Deputy Director

World Resource Institute India's Energy Program.

Deepak Krishnan is the Deputy Director of World Resource Institute India's Energy Program. Currently, he leads the work on Industrial Decarbonisation, EVs and provides expert support to colleagues working on Urban Energy and State Energy Transitions, Responsible Energy, Critical Minerals and Circularity.



Anushka Jain

Research Associate

Digital Futures Lab

Anushka Jain is a research associate at Digital Futures Lab. She is a lawyer and policy researcher interested in disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence. She is interested in the intersection of AI, gender, and the information ecosystem. She has also worked extensively on digital rights issues such as privacy, freedom of speech, surveillance, and data protection. She works as a Research Associate at Digital Futures Lab. She has done her LL.M. in Intellectual Property and Technology Law from Centre for Post-Graduate Legal Studies at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat and her B.A. LL.B. from Institute of Law, Nirma University, Ahmedabad.



Shreeja Sen

Research Manager

Digital Futures Lab

Shreeja Sen is Research Manager at Digital Futures Lab focusing on Responsible AI and Future of Work in the digital economy. Her research interests lie at the intersection of emerging technologies and rights of workers in an increasingly precarious workplace, and the regulation of such technologies for an equitable and just society. Before joining DFL, Shreeja spent three years at IT for Change, where she led research on workers' rights in the algorithmified platform workplace, and contributed regularly to questions of digital and data governance, Big Tech accountability, and digital trade. She enjoys writing and editing, and has engaged in the same through her work experience over the last 8 years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Law from Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow and a Master's in Public Policy from National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.



Nina Bual

Co-Founder

Cyberlite

Nina Bual is the Co-Founder of Cyberlite, a leading social enterprise dedicated to promoting sustainable and equitable cyber safety and generative AI education across the Asia-Pacific region, with offices in Singapore and India. Cyberlite designs and implements comprehensive programs for child online safety and cyber resilience building in diverse communities, with an innovative approach to localisation that aligns with international policies and curricula. Nina is an active online safety advocate and speaker at international events organised by the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE), ECPAT, and the GFCE. Cyberlite is also the recipient of the Digital for Life Catalyst award by Singapore's President Shanmugaratnam for its significant contributions to child online safety education.



Professor Pramod Nayar

UNESCO Chair in Vulnerability Studies

University of Hyderabad

Professor Pramod Nayar is UNESCO Chair in Vulnerability Studies, Department of English, University of Hyderabad. He is Senior Professor and holder of the UNESCO Chair in Vulnerability Studies at the University of Hyderabad. His most recent books include: Vulnerable Earth (Cambridge), Nuclear Cultures

(Routledge), The Raj (Bloomsbury), The Human Rights Graphic Novel (Routledge) among others.



Professor Vasuki Belavadi

Director CDLTR

University of Hyderabad

Professor Vasuki Belavadi is the Director of the Centre for Digital Learning, Training & Resources (CDLTR) at the University of Hyderabad. Vasuki Belavadi graduated with MA (Communication) in 1993 and completed his Ph.D. from University of Hyderabad in 2016. He worked for about 11 years in the Print, TV and NGO sectors

in various capacities like City Reporter, Correspondent, Sub-editor, News Producer & Programme Co-ordinator. He has taught at Manipal Institute of Communication and Tezpur University. He specialises in video production & has good grounding in radio programming & production too. His research interests include pedagogy of video production and community media. He is the author of Video Production (Oxford University Press, 2008), the first to be published in India. Vasuki Belavadi conducts capacity sharing training in Participatory Video, particularly for children & adolescents.



Professor Atul Negi

University of Hyderabad

Professor Atul Negi is associated with the School of Computer and Information Sciences, University of Hyderabad. He received the degree (Hons.) in electronics and communication engineering from Osmania University, Hyderabad, the M.Sc. (Engg.) degree from IISc, Bangalore, and the Ph.D. Degree from the University of Hyderabad. He was a Co-Founder Member and a Moderator of the Linux User Group,

Hyderabad, and a Life Member of the Indian Unit of International Association for Pattern Recognition. He has been an Investigator with funded projects from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, and the Indian Space Research Organization. He has more than 100 peer-reviewed contributions in journals and conferences. He received the Inspiring Teacher 2010 Award from Teachers Academy, Hyderabad, India, and was invited to deliver the KK Nair Memorial Lecture, IETE, in 2012. He has been an Invited Speaker at various corporates, and at various conferences and workshops. He served as a Proceedings Editor and the Track Chair (Computing Track) for the IEEE Indicon 2011. He serves as a reviewer for a number of journals and also on the TPCs for various conferences, such as ICDAR, the IEEE SMC, IJCAI, and IJCNN.



Dr. Salman Abdul Moiz

University of Hyderabad

Dr Salman Abdul Moiz is a Professor at the School of Computer and Information Sciences, University of Hyderabad. He received B.Sc (Electronics) from Osmania University, MCA from Osmania University, M.Tech (CSE) from Osmania University, and M.Phil (CS) from Madurai Kamaraj University and Ph.D (CSE) from Osmania University. He worked as a

Research Scientist at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Bangalore. He has published numerous papers in various National/International Conferences and Journals. His areas of interests include Mobile databases, Software Process Improvements; Component based software development & Disaster Recovery.



Dr Madhavi Ravi Kumar

University of Hyderabad

Dr Madhavi Ravi Kumar is currently working at the Department of Communication, S N School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad. She is a journalist, academician and researcher for over 20 years. She obtained her PhD in Journalism and Mass Communication from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam and M.Phil from University of Madras, Chennai. Prior to joining the University of Hyderabad,

she was with Asian College of Journalism, Chennai. She had been associated with media organisation and NGOs like The Indian Express, The Hindu, The Week, NDTV, All India Radio and M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in various capacities.



Jenny Sulfath

Manager

Digital Empowerment Foundation

Jenny Sulfath, with her five years of dedication to research and advocacy in social exclusion, has made impactful strides in both academic and development sectors. Her academic grounding in Women's Studies equips her with an essential intersectional perspective for analyzing and tackling social exclusion issues. Her

career is marked by a focus on scrutinizing policy frameworks and initiating projects that illuminate the lived experiences of those facing exclusion. During her Master's studies, Jenny conducted significant research on informal workers in the service sector, earning recognition in local publications and influencing discourse on women workers' rights in Kerala. Her time as a senior researcher at the Centre for Equity Studies led to a published book by Yoda Press, shedding light on the lives of circular migrants in Delhi. Currently, Sulfath is managing the communication team at the Digital Empowerment Foundation. Jenny ensures that research findings are accessible to a broader audience. She specializes in narrative writing, contributing to books, chapters, and online articles.



Dr. Saleema Razvi

Senior Research Economist

Copenhagen Consensus Center

Dr. Saleema Razvi is a Senior Research Economist at the Copenhagen Consensus Center, where she focuses on prioritization of policy options based on economic, social and environmental cost-benefit analyses. She has worked across the developing world in several African, Central Asian and Pacific countries. Saleema has written extensively on public health issues, non-communicable diseases, digital health, health sector regulation and growth, and the impact of liberalization on healthcare service delivery. She has written for mainstream newspapers, including a series of columns on Health policy for the LiveMint. She has earlier worked with the National Council for Applied Economic Research, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, Population Foundation of India and UNICEF.



Upasana Hembram

Associate Program Officer

Internet Society Foundation

Upasana Hembram began working with the Internet Society Foundation in April 2023 as an Associate Program Officer. In this role, I support the Research, Building Opportunities/ Leveraging Technologies (BOLT) and the Peering and Interconnection (IXP) grant programs. Hembram comes with a diverse professional background, having worked across public policy, social impact consulting, civic technology and technology policy. Most recently Hembram was endowed with the Young Leaders in Technology Policy Fellowship by Omidyar Network and University of Chicago Trust in India, where I worked with a civic tech organization and a think tank to advocate for responsible use of public interest technologies. Prior to that she was a social impact consultant providing strategic advisory and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) support to social enterprises. Hembram undergraduate background is in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. She is passionate about building a digital future where digital and information technologies are accessible, sustainable, trustworthy, safe and inclusive to all.



Lauren Grubbs

Lead - Digital Inclusion

USAID

Lauren Grubbs has been with USAID for four years in the Technology Division of the Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub. She is on the Digital Inclusion team and leads the gender digital divide portfolio. She is currently the AOR for the Women in the Digital Economy Fund and has been the Activity Manager for the WomenConnect Challenge and the Microsoft Airband Digital Inclusion project. Previously, she has worked at the US State Department's Office of Global Women's Issues to cover their technology-facilitated gender-based violence portfolio, Mercy Corps' Gender Equality and Social Inclusion team, and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine.



Urvashi Aneja

Founder & Executive Director

Digital Futures Lab

Urvashi Aneja is a researcher, policy analyst and entrepreneur whose work seeks to drive an equitable and just distribution of technology gains. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Digital Futures Lab, a multi-disciplinary research collective studying the societal impacts of technology transitions in India and

the Majority Word.

Her current work focuses on the ethics and governance of Artificial Intelligence and she currently leads multiple global projects on Responsible AI, including Generative AI, in LMICs. She regularly advises governments and industry on technology policy. She was recently recognised in Tech Crunch's 2024 list on Influential Women in AI, and among the top AI researchers in India. She has also written extensively on platform governance, the future of work, and gender and digital rights.

She is currently a member of the UN committee on Safe DPI; the Government of Telangana's committee on Responsible and Ethical AI; a member of the Expert Advisory Committee for the Global Index on Responsible AI; and on the advisory board for Quad 9. She is also an associate fellow at the Center for Responsible AI, at IIT Madras.

Urvashi has a PhD from the University of Oxford. She was previously a Fellow at Chatham House and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Indian Institute of Technology,

Mumbai. From 2017 to 2021, Urvashi was the Founder and Director of Tandem Research.



K Mohan Raidu

President

ISOC - Hyderabad Chapter

K Mohan Raidu is the CEO of Informatics India, a Software Development Company at Hyderabad, India. He is a Member of ICC Digital Economy Commission and its ExecComm. Mr.Raidu is the President of InternetSociety Hyderabad Chapter and Chapter Advisory Council Representative. This has enabled him to be active on ICANN WGs on ALAC, CPWG, GNSO, UASG, & be a member of APRALO, IGF, APrIGF & IIGF etc., His is the APRALO's only nomination for ChAd Council Steering Group now. He has made his Chapter join the Global Encryption Collision.Future of Internet, Workshop-Universal Acceptance for Globally Connected Internet, APrIGF 2021-HyderabadLocal Hub and Virtual Workshop on Internet Measurement are a few of events, he organized from ISoc India Hyderabad Chapter. Remote Hub of IGF and A Webinar on Community Networks are being planned. He is EXec Comm Member of CCICI (Cloud Computing Innovation Council of India) and he is handling the eGov WG there. Mr. Mohan is a Past Chair of CSI Hyderabad Chapter (Computer Society of India) and a Past RVP there. He is Member of HYSEA - Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association.



Ananya Bhattacharya

Reporter

Rest of World

Ananya Bhattacharya is Rest of World reporter based in Mumbai, India, she has over nine years of experience writing on India's tech sector, global economics, and South Asia's startup scene.



Varnika Yertha

Lead - Data Strategy

Pratham Books

At Pratham Books StoryWeaver, Varnika Yertha leads data strategy and focuses on strategic efforts in the product & technology ecosystem. Prior to this, Varnika has had extensive experience leading analytics teams at digital platforms in the marketing and fintech domain. She holds an MS in Business Analytics from the

University of Connecticut and a BE from Manipal University.



Hayley Pottle

Digital Inclusion Analyst

Digital Futures Lab

Hayley Pottle is a Digital Inclusion Analyst on the Digital Inclusion team within the Inclusive Growth, Partnerships, and Innovation (IPI) Bureau's Innovation, Technology and Research (ITR/T) Hub at USAID. As a Digital Inclusion Analyst, she contributes to the team's gender digital divide portfolio under the Digital

Strategy including the Women in the Digital Economy Fund (WiDEF) and ICT policy work including supporting the management of the ProICT activity under the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP). Prior to joining USAID, Hayley worked at the Institute of International Education (IIE) as a Program Manager and as a Program Manager for TechGirls, a U.S. Department of State initiative. She obtained her Master of Arts in International Education, specialising in Gender and Development at George Washington University and her Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications and Business from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Rahul Paith

CEO

MATH

Rahul Paith, an experienced business executive with over 17 years of diverse experience across Fortune 100 companies, startups, and government entities, is currently at the helm of the Department of Science and Technology and T-Hub's Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence (CoE), MATH. As the chief executive officer of MATH (Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub), Paith leads the world's largest AI/ML ecosystem initiative. Under his leadership, MATH is fostering innovation across biotech, fintech, foodtech, manufacturing, and more, connecting startups, academia, government, and industry. Paith is instrumental in shaping the future of technology and entrepreneurship.



Radhika Sarin

Director-Accelerator

WiDEF

Radhika Sarin is the Director-Accelerator for the Women in the Digital Economy Fund (WiDEF) and is based in New Delhi, India. Radhika leads the WiDEF Accelerator in India, that aims to identify, fund and accelerate investment in solutions to close the gender digital divide, thereby improving women's livelihoods, economic security and resilience. Prior to this, Radhika was a Senior Manager at the GSMA Innovation Fund, engaging with startups driving digital innovation and socio-economic impact in Asia and Africa. Radhika joined the GSMA's Mobile for Development team in 2018 as a Market Engagement Manager in the Digital Utilities team, managing grants and enabling partnerships between mobile network operators and startups.

Radhika has over 11 years of experience in working across telecom, development sector consulting and driving digital innovation. Prior to the GSMA, Radhika worked at IPE Global and Vodafone UK. Radhika holds an MSc in Economics from the University of Warwick in the UK and a BA in Economics from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.



Kaustubha Kalindi

Program Manager

Tattle Civic Tech

Kaustubha Kalindi is a lawyer and program manager of Uli at Tattle Civic Tech. She has extensively worked extensively in the field of technology law and policy on matters relating to online gender-based violence (OGBV), artificial intelligence, platform governance and open source software in India.



Anirban Dasgupta

Assistant Professor

IIIT Hyderabad

Professor Anirban Dasgupta is a development economist trained at Calcutta University and the University of California, Riverside, where he received his PhD in 2006. Before joining IIIT Hyderabad in December 2022, he taught at South Asian University, New Delhi and the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. His teaching interests include poverty and inequality, development strategy and inclusive growth, and methodology of social sciences. Anirban's research areas are agrarian studies, development theory and growth processes. Most recently he has started working on the digital economy. He has published articles in the Journal of Peasant Studies, European Journal of Development Research, Development and Change, Conservation and Society and Economic and Labour Relations Review. He has contributed to multiple edited volumes and co-edited two books on development studies.



Siddhartha Malempati

Directing Councilor-General

Commons Collective

Siddhartha Malempati, Directing Councilor-General of Commons Collective, is a seasoned professional with 17 years of diverse experience across Computer Science, Patent Law, and Economics. As the Directing Councilor-General of the Commons Collective, Siddhartha leads a global network of activists, researchers, and practitioners advocating for the commons as a force for social progress. An accomplished entrepreneur, he co-founded Helico Consulting, Octacomm Technologies, and Radius EduTech, pioneering solutions in cloud computing, video conferencing, and learning management.



Rahma Utami

Founder & Accessibility Director

Suarise

Rahma Utami is the founder & accessibility director of Suarise and the initiator of the A11yID community which has promoted and accommodated disability inclusion in the digital sector since 2017. Previously, Rahma was a creative strategist at a digital agency for 10 years and an accessibility consultant at Ability Net, England. Together with Suarise, Rahma is also pushing for the publication of national web accessibility guidelines to Indonesia's Ministry of Communication and Digital which is supported by Open Government Indonesia (OGI).

ORGANISERS

Digital Empowerment Foundation

The Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), founded in 2002, is dedicated to digitally empowering India's most underserved communities, with a vision of inclusivity in the digital era. Established at a time when digital access was limited, DEF recognised the need for equitable access to technology and information for people across rural and marginalised areas. Over the past two decades, DEF has built a vast network of 1,000 Community Information Resource Centers, supported by 10,000 digital ambassadors, impacting over 30 million lives. Their focus on digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and functional skills empowers individuals, especially women, youth, and the differently-abled, to build sustainable livelihoods. DEF's initiatives span vital areas such as education, health, and livelihoods, bridging the digital divide in India's most remote and under-resourced communities. By prioritising access, capacity-building, and contextualising digital tools, DEF plays a transformative role in ensuring that technology is an enabler, not an obstacle, for all.

Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP)

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) is an independent research organisation dedicated to influencing public policy with a focus on improving the lives of vulnerable populations. Through research, training, and outreach, CDPP seeks to foster policy interventions that address issues related to health, education, gender, migration, and infrastructure. The organisation emphasises the importance of evidence-based approaches to policymaking and supports the development of inclusive welfare systems. CDPP is actively engaged in publications, organising events, and providing insights that advocate for equitable development policies.

Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Government of Telangana

The Telangana Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) has established itself as a leader in digital transformation through innovative initiatives and infrastructure development. With its flagship program, Digital Telangana, the department has expanded digital access across the state, aiming to make high-speed internet and digital literacy universal. Projects like T-Fiber and Hyderabad City Wi-Fi ensure connectivity in both urban and rural areas, bringing essential services closer to citizens.

Beyond connectivity, Telangana ITE&C emphasises the use of Emerging Technologies, driving advancements in AI, blockchain, cybersecurity, and more. Through initiatives like the Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence and specialised tech hubs, the department fosters a culture of innovation, preparing a skilled workforce to meet the demands of a digital economy. Programs focusing on skill development, e-governance, and electronic services further empower residents and enhance public administration.

With its focus on accessibility, innovation, and skill-building, the Telangana IT

department continues to shape a future-ready state, setting a benchmark for digital governance in India.

T-Hub, Hyderabad

T-Hub, India's largest technology innovation ecosystem, is redefining the landscape for startups by fostering a culture of entrepreneurship that drives transformative change. Located in a massive 5,85,000-square-foot facility, T-Hub offers a unique environment designed to support up to 1,000 startups with world-class resources, mentorship, and collaboration spaces. T-Hub's mission extends beyond incubation; it serves as a catalyst and a global launchpad, providing startups with the critical support needed to reach new heights in innovation and impact. By offering resources that address each stage of a startup's growth, T-Hub establishes a gold standard in empowering entrepreneurs to challenge norms, disrupt industries, and bring new ideas to life. With an emphasis on community building and market access, T-Hub is creating a thriving hub that places startups at the forefront of global innovation, reinforcing India's position in the global tech ecosystem.

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

APNIC Foundation

The APNIC Foundation is a prominent organisation dedicated to driving digital growth and fostering community empowerment across the Asia Pacific region. With its technical roots, the Foundation focuses on creating a secure, affordable, and open Internet that can be easily accessed by all. In collaboration with the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), it works to bridge the digital divide by investing in education, training, and capacity building.

The Foundation's initiatives span multiple areas, including community development, research, and human capacity building, all aimed at strengthening the region's digital infrastructure and promoting sustainable development. By funding and managing numerous projects, often in partnership with APNIC, the Foundation ensures that its activities align with the region's needs and APNIC's priorities. These projects not only focus on Internet development but also on cultivating a network of skilled trainers and technical experts, further enhancing the region's digital resilience.

Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) is an international network of civil society organisations founded in 1990, dedicated to empowering and supporting people working for peace, human rights, development and protection of the environment, through the strategic use of information and communications technologies (ICTs). We work to build a world in which all people have easy, equal and affordable access to the creative potential of ICTs to improve their lives and create more democratic and egalitarian societies.

APC's strength lies in the fact that we don't get excited about the internet for the internet's sake. We are committed activists who want to use it to make the world a better place.

We help people to get access to the internet where there is none or it is unaffordable, we help grassroots groups use the technology to develop their communities and further their rights, and we work to make sure that government policies related to information and communication serve the best interests of the general population, especially people living in the global south.

Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP)

The Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP) is a leading force dedicated to advancing meaningful connectivity for marginalised communities worldwide. By promoting universal access to the Internet, GDIP works to bridge the digital divide through strategic initiatives focused on affordability, accessibility, and sustainability. The organisation aims to create inclusive digital ecosystems that empower individuals and communities across the globe, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region. GDIP's efforts include advocating for policy changes, building human capacity through training and education, and supporting local innovation. Through these programs, GDIP ensures that digital inclusion becomes a catalyst for positive societal change, especially for underserved populations. By working

closely with a diverse network of partners, GDIP strives to make the Internet a tool for economic and social empowerment, fostering a future where everyone can participate in the digital economy.

ASSOCIATE PARTNER

Internet Society

For over 30 years, the Internet Society has been working toward an Internet for everyone. The Internet Society supports and promotes the development of the Internet as a global technical infrastructure, a resource to enrich people's lives, and a force for good in society. The work of Internet Society aligns with their goals for the Internet to be open, globally-connected, secure, and trustworthy. The organisation focuses on building and supporting the communities that make the Internet work by advancing the development and application of Internet infrastructure, technologies, and open standards, and advocating for policy that is consistent with their view of the Internet.

Broadband India Forum (BIF)

Broadband India Forum (BIF) functions as an independent policy forum and think-tank that works for the development & enhancement of the entire broadband ecosystem in a holistic, technology-neutral and service-neutral manner. BIF's endeavour is to promote, support and enhance all policy, regulatory & standards initiatives for the proliferation of high-quality broadband in the country to empower consumers with efficient and economical broadband to realise the true Digital India. BIF works closely with the Government and the Regulator in this mission. Formed in October 2015, BIF is a dedicated forum with participation from all stakeholders, including Technology Providers, Telecom Operators, Internet Service Providers, Value-Added Service Providers, Satellite Operators and service providers, MSOs, Startups and professional entities, as well as seasoned Industry professionals who are familiar with different technologies, operations, regulations and policies. BIF has, in this short period of time, established itself as a thought leader, having contributed significantly to regulatory and policy consultations and built up a good level of credibility, reputation and standing with key institutions in India.

Purpose

Purpose uses public mobilisation and storytelling to help the leading organisations, activists, businesses, and philanthropies engaged in this fight, and create campaigning labs and new initiatives that can shift policies and change public narratives when it matters most. Founded in 2016, Purpose India is based in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. Purpose India combines local knowledge with a global perspective to drive transformational systemic change. Their initiatives span across urban and rural India, with significant interventions in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Delhi. Purpose's work in India revolves around critical social issues such as Climate Action, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Public Health, Gender, and Equity.

Purpose collaborates with leading philanthropies and non-profit organisations including the Ikea Foundation, United Nations, David & Lucille Packard Foundation, Fondation L'Oréal, John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation, and Porticus Foundation – enabling them to achieve meaningful outcomes for the communities we serve.

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIITH)

International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIITH) is an autonomous university, founded as a not-for-profit public-private partnership (N-PPP) in 1998, and is the first IIIT in India under this model. Over the years, the institute has evolved strong research programmes in various areas, with an emphasis on technology and applied research for industry and society. The institute facilitates interdisciplinary research and a seamless flow of knowledge. Several world-renowned centres of excellence are part of IIITH's research portfolio. It has established various joint collaboration and co-innovation models with an industry outreach spanning significant national and multinational companies. Its innovative curriculum allows students the flexibility of selecting their courses and projects. Apart from academics, the institute provides students with a comprehensive environment that promotes art and culture, sports, societal contributions and self-governance.

University of Hyderabad (UoH)

Established on October 2, 1974, by an Act of Parliament (Act No. 39 of 1974), the University of Hyderabad (UoH) has grown in stature from its initial home in Sarojini Naidu's Golden Threshold residence at Abids, Hyderabad, to the now 1800-plus-acre campus in Gachibowli, the most happening area of Hyderabad, surrounded by major software and financial companies as well as other educational institutions. In its twelve Schools, 16 Centres and the College of Integrated Studies, the University offers postgraduate and research programmes in several areas of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Performing & Fine Arts, Communication, Management, Medical Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics and Statistics, Computer and Information Sciences, and Education.

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU)

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is a Central University established by an Act of Parliament in 1998. The headquarters and main campus of MANUU is located in Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana State, over an area of 200 acres. The University is named after Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the freedom fighter and outstanding scholar, who as the first Education Minister of Independent India envisioned and laid the foundation of technical, scientific and higher education in India. MANUU currently offers 97 programs in both regular and distance modes. It offers 25 PhD programmes, 27 PG programmes; 15 UG programmes, 02 PG Diploma, and 19 Diploma programmes including technical diploma programmes through Polytechnics, and 09 certificate courses. It also offers vocational programmes through Industrial Training Institutes (08 Certificate Trades).

Commons Collective

Commons Collective is a community-driven organisation dedicated to creating a more equitable, just, and sustainable world. Centered around the concept of the commons, it focuses on empowering communities to collectively manage resources such as land, water, and knowledge. The organisation champions participatory democracy, social justice, and ecological sustainability. By promoting decentralised decision-making, transparency, and cooperation, Commons Collective envisions a world where communities control their resources and tackle global issues like climate change and economic inequality through shared governance. Join the movement for a fairer, sustainable future.

Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK)

Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge was established by the Government of Telangana for enhancing skilling synergy among institutions of Government, and other stakeholders. Since its inception in 2014, TASK has taken on the mandate of skilling the youth of the state and making them more employable. Being a dynamic organisation that is sensitive to industry requirements, TASK is continuously evolving and bringing new programs with innovative pedagogies under its umbrella to address all the requirements of the 21st-century workplace.

The Barabari Collective

The Barabari Collective is a Section 8 Non-Profit upskilling students toward Tech and Design employment opportunities using a contextualised Onsite-Online model for every community.

The collective has mentored 70+ candidates toward employment opportunities, running cohorts across Maharashtra, Telangana and U.P.

SESSION PARTNERS

Software Freedom Law Center

The Software Freedom Law Center (SFLC.in) is a prominent legal services organisation dedicated to defending digital rights and freedoms in India. With a focus on technology policy, civil liberties, and privacy, SFLC.in advocates for the open-source software movement and works to ensure equitable access to digital resources. They offer legal support for privacy violations, censorship, and the misuse of technology while also providing education on cybersecurity and digital rights. SFLC.in's initiatives include defending freedom of speech, addressing AI regulations, and enhancing legal frameworks for digital security. Through collaborations with technologists, policy analysts, and lawyers, SFLC.in empowers individuals and organisations to navigate the challenges of the digital world.

Access Now

Access Now is a global organisation dedicated to defending and extending the digital rights of users worldwide. With operations in over 75 countries, the organisation focuses on privacy, freedom of expression, and open Internet access. Through policy advocacy, technical support, and legal expertise, Access Now addresses pressing challenges faced by journalists, activists, and civil society groups, particularly in areas prone to digital censorship and threats. Their Digital Security Helpline offers real-time assistance, helping individuals and organisations at risk safeguard their online presence.

Working closely with policymakers, Access Now strives to shape human rights-centered technology policies, combat online abuses, and hold corporations accountable for digital rights violations. Access Now's initiatives are grounded in the belief that an open, secure internet is vital for freedom, democracy, and innovation, and they aim to foster a digital environment where human rights are upheld and protected for all.

Criminal Justice and Police Accountability Project

The Criminal Justice and Police Accountability Project (CPA Project) works to address systemic issues within India's criminal justice system, particularly focusing on caste-based discrimination in policing. Founded to challenge colonial-era practices, the CPA Project advocates for the rights of marginalised communities, including Denotified and Tribal groups, who continue to face stigmatisation and injustice. Through legal interventions, research, and public advocacy, the project seeks to dismantle entrenched biases, ensuring that these communities are not subjected to arbitrary arrests or unfair treatment. The CPA Project also focuses on enhancing public awareness and creating long-term systemic change through a rights-based approach to criminal justice reform. The organisation's efforts aim to reshape India's criminal justice landscape to be more inclusive, fair, and just for all citizens.

Digital Green

Digital Green is a global development organisation working to create a world where farmers use technology and data to build prosperous communities. We join forces with governments, private agencies and, most importantly, rural communities themselves to co-create digital solutions that are of the community and for the community. When farmers have the tools they need to connect with one another, they're far more likely to apply what they've learned on their farms and in their households – improving their own livelihoods and those of others in their community in a manner that's nutrition-sensitive, climate-resilient, and inclusive.

Pratham Books StoryWeaver

StoryWeaver is a digital platform dedicated to providing free access to a wide range of stories for children in multiple languages. The initiative aims to promote literacy and empower children globally by offering age-appropriate, engaging content that reflects diverse cultures and experiences. StoryWeaver focuses on publishing open-source children's books, which are available for download and sharing, fostering creativity and supporting learning in underserved communities. It encourages collaboration by allowing educators, writers, and illustrators to contribute and share stories, making quality educational

resources accessible to all. The platform aims to make stories available in languages that are often underrepresented in children's literature.

USAID

USAID is actively involved in digital empowerment through its various initiatives aimed at closing the gender digital divide and supporting inclusive, digital economies. One significant effort is the Women in the Digital Economy Initiative, which seeks to address the barriers preventing women's full participation in the digital economy. This initiative partners with governments, private sector organisations, and multilateral groups to improve women's access to digital resources, with a focus on making internet access and devices affordable and secure. Through the initiative, USAID also addresses the need for tailored digital tools and services that cater to women's specific needs, such as mobile devices, applications, and financial services. This aligns with their broader mission of supporting women's economic security, resilience, and livelihood through enhanced digital inclusion. USAID's collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to launch the Women in the Digital Economy Fund (WiDEF) further accelerates progress by directly funding evidence-based solutions and scaling impactful initiatives.

Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH)

MATH is an AI incubation hub designed to foster innovation and growth in the AI sector. With a mission to empower over 150 AI startups annually and create 500+ AI-related jobs by 2025, MATH is at the forefront of AI development. The hub provides essential resources, a collaborative ecosystem, and physical space to help startups scale and succeed. Through its strategic focus on research, innovation, and global positioning, MATH aims to shape the future of AI technology, supporting startups that drive global technological advancement. The hub's vision, "AI Everywhere," emphasises its commitment to creating a significant impact in the AI landscape worldwide.

Point of View (POV)

POV thrives on a hybrid, intersectional, and inclusive approach. It integrates past work on gender, sexuality, and violence with a present focus on digital tech, disability, and storytelling. Their work bridges digital and physical spaces, while addressing both grassroots issues and global concerns. The team is diverse, encompassing various generations and identities, including women, queer, trans, and disabled individuals. This multi-faceted approach gives them unique insights and the ability to create impactful change through innovative and accessible methods.

Pacta

Pacta is a unique law firm and policy think tank based in Bengaluru, dedicated to serving the social sector in India. As the only law firm focusing exclusively on the legal needs of non-profits, Pacta offers tailored services to a diverse range of clients, including NGOs, philanthropies, family foundations, CSR entities, and social startups. The firm's expertise spans various legal areas such as education, IT & data privacy, dispute resolution, and employment law, with a special focus on disability inclusion, gender & sexuality, and philanthropy. In addition to legal services, Pacta runs a policy think tank, contributing

evidence-based research that shapes public policy for marginalised communities. Their work includes workshops, resources, and publications like the “Pulse” newsletter, which decodes complex legal issues for non-profits and social enterprises. Pacta’s commitment to building a robust legal framework for the social impact sector enables its clients to navigate the legal landscape effectively, ensuring compliance and promoting positive societal change.

Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA)

ISEA aspires to be a leading resource institution nurturing a broad-based learning and action network on social entrepreneurship and enterprise development in Asia. ISEA seeks to synergise and enhance knowledge creation, learning exchange and capacity development among social enterprises and their resource institutions to catalyse the consolidation of a fragmented social enterprise sector in the region.

ISEA also seeks to build bridges and interfaces between the social enterprise sector and the business community towards creating new models and benchmarks for pursuing social responsibility in the markets of Asia. ISEA strives to develop a common understanding of social enterprises and their role in promoting social equity and sustainability, towards advancing a movement for social entrepreneurship in the region.

Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)

Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) is a grassroots organisation based in rural Rajasthan, focused on empowering workers and peasants through the promotion of social and economic rights. Established in 1990, MKSS has played a significant role in advocating for transparency, accountability, and the implementation of key policies such as the Right to Information (RTI) Act and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). MKSS is a pioneer in utilising the RTI to fight corruption and ensure fair wage distribution in government programs.

Through its various campaigns, such as the Jawabdehi Yatra (Accountability March), MKSS works to hold the government accountable for its promises to rural citizens. The organisation’s approach combines direct action with policy advocacy, offering a model of grassroots activism that links local issues with national policy change. MKSS also supports allied organisations and networks, strengthening its impact across broader socio-political issues. Their work emphasises the importance of empowering marginalised communities, ensuring they have the tools and information necessary for democratic participation and securing their rights.

Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research (SAFAR)

Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research (SAFAR) is a collective of activists, researchers and development practitioners. SAFAR works at the interface of the state, law and society to deepen institutions and practices of social accountability and improve access to welfare rights.

LibTech India

LibTech India (Liberation Technologies) is a research-driven organisation focused on enhancing transparency and accountability in India’s public service delivery systems. It

works at the intersection of technology, governance, and social impact, utilising technology to improve government programs like MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and PM Kisan. Through action research, LibTech India addresses the challenges in public services, such as exclusions, delays, and inefficiencies, ensuring that the intended benefits reach the marginalised. The organisation's efforts include real-time data analysis, research publications, and the use of Right to Information (RTI) to promote transparency. It also trains civil society groups and government officials to ensure better implementation of welfare schemes across states like Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. Their commitment to grassroots-level engagement and social innovation aims to bridge the gap between technology and effective governance.

Youth Ki Awaaz

Youth Ki Awaaz is a platform that empowers young people in India to voice their opinions and share stories on a wide range of social, political, and environmental issues. By focusing on topics such as gender equality, climate change, education, and mental health, it creates an inclusive space for marginalised communities, giving them a platform to be heard. Youth Ki Awaaz nurtures a community of activists and changemakers, encouraging youth to engage in meaningful discussions, raise awareness, and drive positive change. Their work extends to fostering awareness campaigns, providing resources for activism, and creating opportunities for young individuals to participate in social impact initiatives. With its wide reach and inclusive approach, Youth Ki Awaaz plays a pivotal role in shaping the youth discourse in India, advocating for a more equitable and inclusive society. By leveraging digital tools, the platform allows youth from all walks of life to engage in public conversations, ensuring that diverse voices are amplified and heard at a national level. Through its work, Youth Ki Awaaz continues to inspire and empower young people to act as catalysts for social transformation, shaping the future of India's youth-led activism.

Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU)

The Telangana Gig and Platforms Workers Union (TGPWU) is an independent, worker-led union that was founded in 2021 to advance the interests of gig and platform workers in Telangana, India. The Union works towards the benefits of a wide variety of gig and platform workers, ranging from app-based taxi drivers or motorcycle riders for mobility platforms (Uber, Ola, Rapido), delivery agents for logistics and e-commerce platforms (Dunzo, Delhivery, Shadowfax, Amazon, Flipkart) and food delivery platforms (Zomato, Swiggy), and 'freelance' or 'part-time' workers for gig marketplace platforms (Urban Company, Housejoy).

Tattle Civic Technologies

Tattle is a collective platform focused on addressing the growing concerns around digital harms, misinformation, and online violence. With a community of technologists, researchers, and artists, Tattle works towards creating tools and datasets that help identify and respond to harmful content, such as deepfakes, disinformation, and online gender-based violence. Their innovative projects include developing accessible technology for media literacy, such as the "Viral Spiral" card game, designed to explore biases and identity in digital spaces.

Tattle also operates Uli, a platform empowering users to tackle online gender-based violence through localised content moderation. Tattle aims to foster a healthier digital ecosystem by collaborating with experts and leveraging responsible AI. Through a blend of research, tech, and creativity, Tattle offers a unique, intersectional approach to tackling digital harms while building community-driven solutions for a safer online environment.

The Women in the Digital Economy Fund (WiDEF)

The Women in the Digital Economy Fund (WiDEF) focuses on tackling the gender digital divide by funding and scaling evidence-based solutions that enhance women's livelihoods, economic security, and resilience. It aims to improve access to affordable digital technology, increase digital literacy and skills, and elevate online safety for women and girls. With a commitment to closing the gender gap in digital inclusion, WiDEF supports initiatives that address key barriers like limited access to devices and online tools. It is partnered with global organisations such as USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and is currently offering funding opportunities for entities in India targeting digital inclusion. Through its efforts, WiDEF is making a significant impact in creating more equitable, accessible, and safe digital spaces for women worldwide.

The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS)

The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) focuses on research, advocacy, and policy engagement related to digital rights in India. The organisation works on a range of issues, including digital inclusion, privacy, cybersecurity, and the impact of technology on marginalised communities. They are particularly active in addressing the challenges of internet access and governance, privacy concerns, and promoting transparency in policy discussions surrounding digital rights.

CIS engages with stakeholders through public consultations, partnerships with various organisations, and awareness-building campaigns. They also analyse laws, such as data protection regulations, and advocate for policies that ensure the protection of digital rights, especially for vulnerable groups.

Suarise

Suarise addresses key challenges faced by visually impaired individuals in Indonesia. It focuses on equipping the blind with digital content writing skills, promoting mobility through digital platforms, and enhancing accessibility to online information. By training the blind in digital content creation, Suarise opens opportunities for remote work and employment, fostering inclusivity. Additionally, it works to improve access to digital platforms, which are often not designed with accessibility in mind. Suarise aims to close the gap, providing equal opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for people with visual impairments.

Digital Futures Lab

Digital Futures Lab is a multidisciplinary research network dedicated to examining the intersection of technology and society in the global south. Founded in 2021, it focuses on evidence-based research, participatory foresight, and public engagement to

identify pathways toward equitable and sustainable futures. The lab's work aims to ensure technology's role in shaping safe, inclusive, and caring futures, particularly for marginalised communities. Its research addresses critical issues like digital inclusion, justice, and policy transformation in the evolving technological landscape.

Cyberlite

Cyberlite is dedicated to providing free educational resources for cyber safety, AI, and digital wellbeing, aiming to ensure equitable and sustainable online safety education across Asia-Pacific nations. They offer a range of teaching materials, workshops, and training programs for students, educators, and parents. Their mission is to empower young people from diverse backgrounds with the knowledge to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. Cyberlite collaborates with organisations to promote digital citizenship and online safety education.



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