

Inclusive Digital Transformation

The DPI Approach and Beyond

Participant Profiles

Date: 10 January 2025

Venue: The Leela Palace
23, HAL Old Airport Road, HAL 2nd Stage,
Kodihalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560008

Supported by



Co-organised by



1. Abhishek Singh | Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Mr. Singh is a 1995-batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) with diverse experience in administration, law and order management, development program implementation, and policy formulation at the Central Government concerning the use of technology for improving governance. He is currently posted as the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), where he oversees responsibilities related to Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies, Cybersecurity, and Digital Skilling. Previously, he served as CEO of Karmayogi Bharat in the Department of Personnel & Training, as well as CEO of NeGD, DIC, and MyGov in MeitY, Government of India. From 2014 to 2017, he was the Executive Director of the Food Corporation of India, where he coordinated initiatives related to Information Technology, engineering, and storage.

2. Aditi Surie | Senior Consultant – Academics & Research, Institute for Human Settlements

Aditi is a senior researcher and faculty member at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), specializing in urban development in the Global South, as well as work, employment, and livelihoods in the context of digital transformations. At IIHS, she leads teaching, research, and policy initiatives at the intersection of these areas. She has published widely in both the press and peer-reviewed journals. Aditi co-edited *Platformization and Informality* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023), a volume in which scholars from Mumbai, Bengaluru, Jakarta, Cape Town, São Paulo, and other cities in the Global South explore the relationship between platformization and various forms of informality in work, governance, and politics.

3. Akshay S Dinesh | Co-Founder, Action for Equity

Akshay is a digital rights and free software advocate. He works as a public health expert, coder, researcher, and blogger. He is the co-founder of Action for Equity, which works on strengthening the people's health movement in Karnataka. He also acts as an editor for *Nivarana*, which looks to build a platform of reliable public health information. The effort to recenter the public in innovation extends to his work as the Head of Engineering at DemTech.ai, a citizen action platform that is open source, white label, and AI-based.

4. Alok Prasanna Kumar | Co-Founder and Lead, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

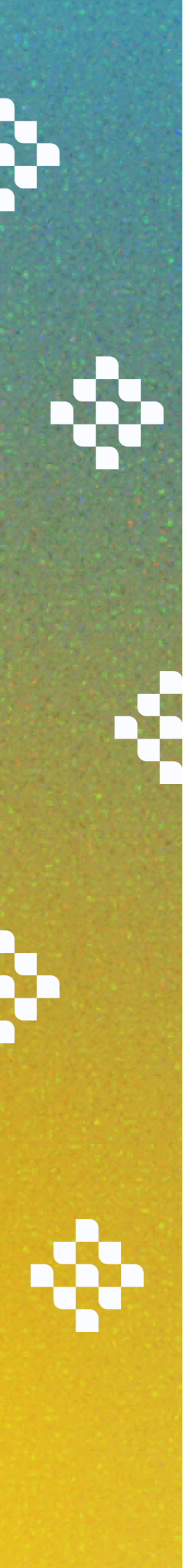
Alok is the Co-Founder and Lead of Vidhi Karnataka. His areas of research include judicial reforms, constitutional law, urban development, and law and technology. He graduated with a B.A. LL.B. (Hons) from the NALSAR University in 2008 and obtained a BCL from the University of Oxford in 2009. He writes a monthly column for the Economic and Political Weekly and has published in the Indian Journal of Constitutional Law and National Law School of India Review apart from media outlets such as The Hindu, Indian Express, Scroll, Quint, and Caravan. He has practiced in the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court from the chambers of Mr. Mohan Parasaran.

5. Amber Sinha | Information Fellow, Tech Policy Press

Amber works at the intersection of law, technology, and society, and studies the impact of digital technologies on socio-political processes and structures. His research aims to further the discourse on regulatory practices around the internet, technology, and society. He is currently an Information Fellow at Tech Policy Press. Until June 2022, he was the Executive Director of the Centre for Internet and Society, India (CIS). He led programs at CIS on civil liberties research, including privacy, identity, AI, cybersecurity, and free speech. He was instrumental in setting up a communications team at CIS and revamping its outreach and dissemination strategy and efforts. His research has been cited with appreciation by the Supreme Court of India and several government committees. He is a member of the Steering Committee of ABOUT ML, an initiative to bring diverse perspectives to develop, test, and implement machine learning system documentation practices. He also serves on the GPA Reference Panel of the Global Privacy Assembly. His first book, *The Networked Public*, was released in 2019. He studied law and humanities at the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

6. Amrita Sengupta | Research and Programme Lead, Centre for Internet and Society

Amrita is a Research and Program Lead at the Centre for Internet and Society, India. A trained sociologist, her 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. She is on the Board of The Green Web Foundation. This year, Amrita is also a CyberBricks fellow, at the Centre for Technology and Society-FGV.

7. Anita Gurumurthy | Co-Founder and Executive Director, IT for Change

Anita is a founding member and Executive Director of IT for Change where she leads research and advocacy on data and AI governance, platform regulation, and feminist frameworks on digital justice. She serves as an expert on various bodies – including as co-chair of the T20’s digital transformation working group on platform governance and has been part of the High-Level Committee of the NetMundial+10 under Brazil’s leadership, the UN Secretary-General’s 10-Member Group on Technology Facilitation, and the Paris Peace Forum’s working group on algorithmic governance. Anita is also a Board member of global justice organizations such as the ETC Group, and university centers such as the Tech & Policy Lab at the University of Western Australia, and the International Development and Social Change program of Loughborough University. Anita contributes regularly to academic and media spaces.

8. Anjula Gurtoo | Professor at the Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Science

Anjula is a Professor at the Department of Management Studies and Chair of the Centre for Society and Policy at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. She leads several national and international research projects in the domain of public and urban systems. She holds a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Delhi (1992) and a doctorate from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (1998). She has been a Fellow of the International University of Japan, Niigata (2015), the University of Leeds, United Kingdom (2006), and the Social Science Research Council, Washington DC, USA (2003). She has authored three books and over 70 research articles in leading international refereed journals. She is a recipient of various national and international recognitions. She also has expert membership in various government and academic committees.

9. Arjun Venkatraman | Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Arjun works as a Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), with a focus on digital technologies and AI. His work at the Foundation is focused on inclusivity in public technology, applications of emerging technology such as artificial intelligence for social good, and leveraging digital technology to advance gender equality. Prior to joining BMGF, he spent a decade in India enabling local technology adoption and ownership through The Mojolab Foundation. For his work, he was elected to the Ashoka Foundation in 2014.

10. Chatar Singh | Member, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan




Chatar is a member of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan and the Soochna Evm Rozgar Adhikar Abhiyan. He runs an E-Mitra Kendra (i.e. a Citizen Service Center) in Bhim, Rajasthan where he facilitates people, particularly those from disadvantaged communities—including persons with disabilities, Dalits, Adivasis, the elderly, and single women—in accessing government schemes, applying for benefits, and filing grievances. Based on his daily work, he has a precise understanding of how citizens are both empowered and disempowered, at the intersection of digital technology and rights. He has been a part of the statewide and national campaign to demand an accountability law and has been a part of a large collective effort to demand accountability for the denial of people's rights due to the arbitrary and undemocratic use of digital technologies.

11. Chinmayi Arakali | Head - Communications, IT for Change

Chinmayi is a seasoned communications professional with a multidisciplinary approach to her work. She has a deep-rooted passion for community engagement, having worked alongside rural women, adolescent girls, and tribal communities among others. This hands-on experience in the field shaped her understanding of social change and storytelling. An educator and a trained filmmaker with extensive experience in community media and short documentaries, she combines her visual storytelling skills with a strong foundation in design. Chinmayi is an alumnus of the National Institute of Design.

12. Chintan Donda | AI/ML Lead of Agriculture Solutions, Wadhvani AI

Chintan is an AI/ML Lead of Agriculture solutions at Wadhvani AI. After graduating from IIT Prayagraj, he has acquired over a decade of working experience in agriculture, education, health, mobile, advertisements, and AI accelerator domains. He has strong hands-on experience in building end-to-end AI software stacks, generative AI, LLMs, ML/DL modeling, data science, and engineering stacks.



Recently he has been deeply involved in developing the GenAI and LLMs applications in agriculture, and healthcare domains at Wadhvani AI. He is developing the production-grade conversational chatbots, RAG-QA pipelines, LLMs, and GenAI Ops platform and large-scale deployments with responsible AI. He is also developing an open-source Indian agriculture LLM to create a large-scale social impact on the Indian agricultural community. He is passionate about how GenAI and LLM solutions can be democratized for the betterment of society to create a positive global social impact.


13. Debananda Misra | Assistant Professor – School of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Debananda is an Assistant Professor at the School of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. He is also an Honorary Associate Professor at the UCL Institute for Global Prosperity at University College London, UK, and an Affiliate Member of the Centre for Innovation Research at Lund University, Sweden. He is the Associate Editor of the Higher Education Quarterly journal. Deb's research focuses on policy, organization, leadership, governance, and management in higher education, and on the societal roles of universities. He has published peer-reviewed articles in journals including in Higher Education, Journal of Workplace Learning, and Regional Studies. Prior to being an academic, Deb worked in the area of higher education management for over 10 years.

14. Deepika Mogilishetty | Chief of Policy & Partnerships, EkStep Foundation

Deepika is the Chief of Policy & Partnerships at EkStep Foundation. She works on diverse projects associated with creating and adopting digital public goods and infrastructure as part of the foundation's various missions such as Sunbird and DIKSHA. In addition, she leads the foundation's work in the early years, leveraging the power of networks and narratives to bring attention to the abundance and possibilities in the first 8 years of childhood through the Bachpan Manao initiative. She was part of the start-up team of Aadhaar and the law and policy advisor to UIDAI. She is a lawyer with a BA LLB (Hons) from NLSIU.

15. Eshani Vaidya | Senior Associate – Research and Policy Engagement, IT for Change



Eshani is a lawyer by training and a researcher at IT for Change. As a policy researcher, her work has been focused on critical analyses of government technologies in India, particularly in their early stages of development. This includes examining models of data ownership, community governance frameworks, and privacy-related harms. She has also worked on themes of platform governance, Big Tech regulation, and e-commerce policies in India.

16. Gurumurthy Kasinathan | Director and Lead – Education and Technology, IT for Change

Gurumurthy is one of the founders of IT for Change. He has 34 years of experience in the development and corporate sectors. His experience includes stints in the government and academia. Guru leads projects in the area of education, including research, demonstration projects, systemic teacher education reform, and policy advocacy. His areas of expertise include ICT integration in school education, teacher education, educational leadership, and free and open digital technologies. He was earlier with the Azim Premji Foundation, where he was deputed to work in the ‘Policy Planning Unit’ in the Karnataka education department. He has been a visiting faculty at TISS Mumbai and Hyderabad for their ‘Education Leadership and Management’ and ‘ICT and Education’ courses. Prior to that, he was with i-flex Solutions (now Oracle Financial Software Services) and A.F. Ferguson Management Consultancy Services.

17. Harikrishnan B | Communications Associate, IT for Change

Hari is a multidisciplinary visual artist passionate about storytelling and social justice. He blends skills in filmmaking, film editing, graphic design, photography, and illustration to craft compelling narratives that amplify marginalized voices. His collaborative work with indigenous communities and grassroots organizations has deepened his understanding of cultural preservation, human rights, and advocacy. A practicing filmmaker and media advocate, Hari’s projects include documenting lived experiences, with one of his documentaries shortlisted for the PSBT Doc Commune grant. He holds an MA in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and a BA in sociology.

18. Harsh Nisar | Advisor (IT), National Highways Authority of India

Harsh is currently an Advisor (IT) at the National Highways Authority of India, where he focuses on integrating emerging technologies throughout the lifecycle of highways—from construction to traffic management. He has over 9 years of experience as a technologist within the Indian Government. He began his career as a Data Scientist in the rural skills division under the Ministry of Rural Development, transitioning to Rural Connectivity and later founding and leading the pan-Ministry interdisciplinary Data & Insights Unit. His projects include developing algorithms for resource allocation to women self-help groups, optimizing rural road investments, leveraging satellite imagery to map previously uncharted habitations, and utilizing AI for risk analysis in government schemes. Harsh has helped establish interdisciplinary innovation teams across various ministries, focusing on bringing young, diverse talent into the government, ranging from product design, qualitative research, human-computer interaction, data science, and technical expertise to improve how governments design, develop, and deploy technology.

19. Julia Powles | Director – University of Western Australia (UWA) Tech & Policy Lab & Associate Professor of Law and Technology at UWA Law School

Julia Powles is the Co-Founder and Director of the UWA Tech & Policy Lab and Associate Professor of Law and Technology at the University of Western Australia. She is an international research leader in privacy, intellectual property, internet governance, and the law and politics of data, automation, and artificial intelligence. Her current research interests include Big Tech culpability, tech crimes, and data governance in health and performance contexts. Julia has served on federal and state committees on generative AI in education, AI and copyright, privacy and responsible information sharing, responsible AI, and robotics. Prior to joining UWA, she worked at Cornell Tech, NYU, Cambridge, The Guardian, and the World Intellectual Property Organization. Julia studied genetics, biophysics, and law at ANU and UWA, and received her master's from Oxford and PhD from Cambridge.

20. Laurent le Danois | Team Leader – Cooperation Section, Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan

Mr. le Danois has over 30 years of experience in development and international cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, the Indian subcontinent, and Africa. He holds domain-specific experience in the implementation of health and education policies, political economy analysis, the involvement of civil society in public policies, local governance, social inclusion as well as global partnerships, in particular the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) as well as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and, more recently, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). He holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from the University of Liverpool.

21. Luke Coates | Deputy Consul-General – Australian Consulate-General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr. Coates is now Deputy Consul-General at the Australian Consulate-General in Bengaluru. He completed a Master of International Politics at PKU in 2014 before going on to work in a number of research and communication roles in Beijing. He joined the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2016, and was Consul at the Australian Consulate-General in Shenyang.

22. Mandvi Kulshreshta | Senior Program Adviser, Socio-Economic Transformation, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES-India)

Mandvi is an urbanist and feminist, currently working as a Program Adviser for the Socio-economic Transformation workline at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES-India) office. The program looks at building progressive discourses for

the Future of Work and Social-Ecological Transformation aspects in India.

She has cross-sectoral knowledge and understanding of issues related to climate change, urbanization, energy transition, digital transformation and gender equality. She is interested in the social, economic, and ecological aspects of development policymaking. Her key interest lies in exploring different methods for devising narratives and discourses for bringing social change and furthering inclusive development. She has a Masters in Planning (specialization in Urban Planning) from the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi.

23. Mansi Kedia | Senior Fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

Mansi is a Senior Fellow at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations with over fourteen years of experience in public policy. Her research focuses on issues of the digital economy including governance of the internet, impact of emerging technologies, competition, and digital public infrastructure. She was Co-Chair of the T20 Task Force on Our Common Digital Future: Affordable, Accessible and Inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure (2023), a Mid-Career Fellow of ISOC (2022), and a member of the Direct Tax Committee (2017). She earned her B.Sc. Economics from St. Xavier's, Kolkata, MBA from ISB, Hyderabad, and a PhD from IIFT, New Delhi.

24. Namita Singh | Director of User Experience, Digital Green

Namita is the Director of User Experience at Digital Green, committed to leveraging technology to improve the lives of smallholder farmers. With over 17 years of experience in participatory technologies, social development, and gender inclusion, she works to make technology accessible to underserved communities. Currently, she leads the development of Farmer.Chat, an AI-based chatbot providing real-time, personalized agricultural advisories in local languages for farmers and extension agents in India, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Her work emphasizes inclusivity, particularly gender inclusion, and involves extensive field research to ensure the solutions are contextually relevant. Her efforts have made Farmer.Chat a valuable resource addressing the needs of farmers and extension agents. A passionate advocate for digital inclusion and equality, Namita frequently speaks at national and international forums. She holds a PhD in Participatory Technologies from the Open University, UK, and an MA in Social Work from TISS, India. She is also a published author.

25. Nandini Chami | Deputy Director and Fellow – Research & Policy Engagement, IT for Change

Nandini's work largely focuses on research and policy advocacy in the domains of digital rights and development, and the political economy of women's rights in the information society. She is part of the organization's advocacy efforts around the 2030 development agenda on issues of 'data for development' and digital technologies and gender justice.

She also provides strategic support to IT for Change's field center, Prakriye. This includes training programs for women's rights groups on adopting digital tools in their field practice and critical 'education for empowerment' for rural adolescent girls. She has a Master's in Urban and Rural Community Development from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

26. Natasha Susan Koshy | Fellow – Research & Policy Engagement, IT for Change

Natasha contributes to work on platform economies at IT for Change. Previously an academic, with a PhD in Social Science from Syracuse University, Natasha's long-standing interests lie at the confluence of food, gender, the care economy, science and technology, the environment, and climate change. She also has a particular interest in ethnography-based pedagogy and inquiry. Prior to joining IT for Change, Natasha held positions at the Office of the Commissioners for the Right to Food, as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Nanyang Technological University, and as faculty at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She has also contributed in an advisory and consultancy capacity for non-profit and academic-led projects on food and social security.

27. Nikhil Dey | Co-Founder, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

Nikhil is a co-founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) along with Shankar Singh and Aruna Roy. Since 1990, they have been full-time workers of the MKSS. In this capacity, they have been involved in the struggles of the poor for justice, including grassroots struggles for land and the payment of minimum wages. They have also been a part of the organization's involvement in collective larger campaigns—most notably for the people's Right to Information (RTI), and the Right to Work (MGNREGA). They are also part of continuing efforts by people's movements to build institutions of participatory democracy such as *jan sunvais*. In Rajasthan, they are members of the Soochna Rozgar (SR) Abhiyan which has made huge gains in advancing rights-based legislations such as the Right to Health, Urban Employment Guarantee, Right to Social Security Pension, Gig Workers' Social Security law amongst others.

28. Nithin BU | Technology Assistant, IT for Change

Nithin has extensive experience in graphic design, video editing, and VFX, and has worked for several TV channels and film production houses. He also has experience managing IT systems and networks at a large higher education institution in Karnataka. He brings together his diverse experience to contribute toward EdTech projects at IT for Change. He has a keen interest in computer networking, servers, and cloud infrastructure.

29. Pallavi Bedi | Senior Researcher, Center for Internet and Society

Pallavi is a Senior Researcher at CIS, where she works on privacy and data protection. She is a lawyer by training and holds a BA, LLB (Hons) degree from the National Law Institute University, Bhopal, and an LLM from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

30. Raelene Cully | Operations Coordinator – Tech & Policy Lab, University of Western Australia

Raelene Cully is the Operations Coordinator of the UWA Tech and Policy Lab at the University of Western Australia. An experienced senior administrator, she has worked in the higher education sector since 2005 and before that in the private sector, including in finance, secondary education, retail, and primary industry. Prior to joining the Lab, she worked as School Operations Coordinator for the UWA Law School and as Senior Administrator for the School of Arts and Sciences at Notre Dame University.

31. Rakshita Swamy | Founder and Director, Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research

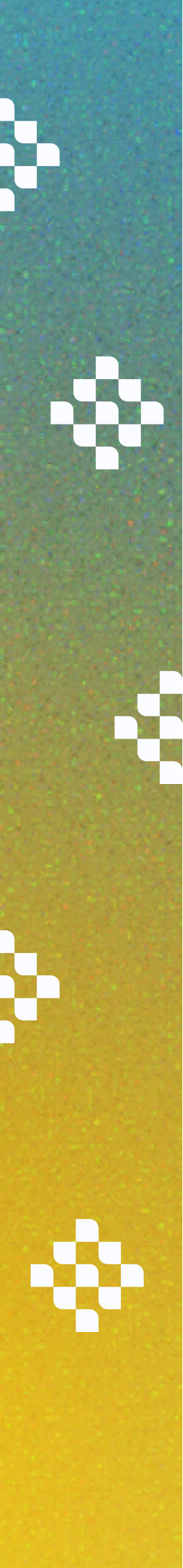
Rakshita works on institutionalizing mechanisms of social accountability in the delivery of schemes and functioning of public institutions, at the intersection of government and civil society organizations. These include establishing decentralized and citizen-centered grievance redressal mechanisms, systems for access to information, social audits, etc.

32. Ramya Chandrashekar | Researcher, The National Centre for Scientific Research

Ramya is a lawyer and researcher. Her focus areas are legal and governance mechanisms for open non-government data. She is working on the Open Data Ecosystem (ODECO) Project – a 4-year Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network initiative (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020). Ramya has worked with the Berkeley Centre for Law and Technology as a biometrics regulatory fellow. She has also worked with the Data Justice Lab at Cardiff University as a Data Justice Fellow.

33. Rudraksh Lakra | Associate – Research and Policy Engagement, IT for Change

Rudraksh's academic and professional pursuits lie at the confluence of technology, human rights, political economy, and post-colonial studies. His professional background includes advising clients on complex issues surrounding data protection, artificial intelligence, internet governance, cloud computing, and cybersecurity.



During law school, he engaged in technology, law, and media-related work through internships at think tanks, law firms, litigation chambers, and through his academic work. As a fellow at the Institute for Internet & the Just Society, he conducted research on digital constitutionalism.

34. Sadhana Sanjay | Lead – Research and Policy Engagement, IT for Change

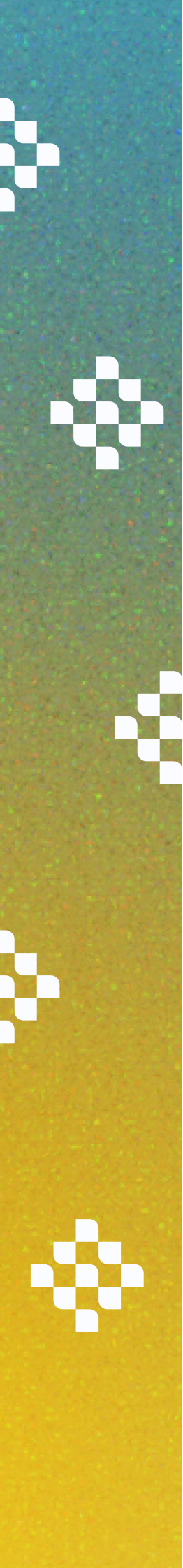
Sadhana has a background in law and holds a master’s degree in international law and development from Leiden University. At IT for Change, she researches the digital economy, with a focus on labor and worker well-being, algorithmic management, the political economy of data, Big Tech regulation, and digital trade. On these issues, she works closely with global and regional coalitions and engages with national, regional, and multilateral policy consultations. She takes a keen interest in the multilateral governance of the digital economy, and in exploring how community and people-led alternatives can help build a just and inclusive digital economy while challenging the corporate capture of digital spaces.

35. Saloni Mishra | Associate – Research and Policy Engagement, IT for Change

Saloni has a background in law and is interested in how labor, technology, and urban geography intersect. During her law school years, she was involved in progressive student movements in and around Delhi, which encouraged her to pursue the social sciences. She has experience working in corporate and court settings and has also held senior editorial positions with various university-affiliated platforms. She takes a keen interest in the digital economy and in studying people-focused alternatives to the corporatized encroachment of online spaces.

36. Shankar Singh | Co-Founder, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

Shankar is a co-founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) along with Nikhil Dey and Aruna Roy. Since 1990, they have been full-time workers of the MKSS. In this capacity, they have been involved in the struggles of the poor for justice, including grassroots struggles for land and the payment of minimum wages. They have also been a part of the organization’s involvement in collective larger campaigns – most notably for the people’s Right to Information (RTI), and the Right to Work (MGNREGA).



They are also part of continuing efforts by people's movements to build institutions of participatory democracy such as *jan sunvais*. In Rajasthan, they are members of the Soochna Rozgar (SR) Abhiyan which has made huge gains in advancing rights-based legislations such as the Right to Health, Urban Employment Guarantee, Right to Social Security Pension, Gig Workers' Social Security law amongst others.

37. Tanuj Bhojwani | Independent

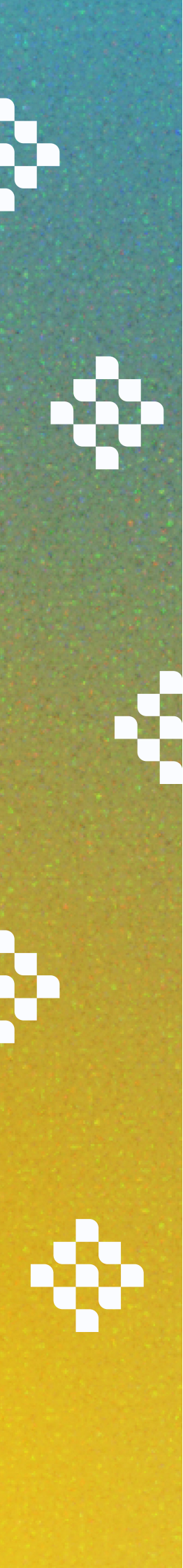
Tanuj was the head of People+AI, a non-profit dedicated to using AI for social good. He is the founding and current Board Member of the Digital Public Goods Alliance. As a former Fellow at the iSPIRT Foundation, Tanuj worked on policy issues related to digital identity, payments, data protection, and drones, aiming to achieve a Digital India. Most recently, he co-authored a book with Nandan Nilekani titled, *The Art of Bitfulness*, a compendium of strategies to help readers develop a healthier relationship with technology.

38. Tom Loss | Researcher, University of Western Australia

Tom Loss is a Research Associate at the UWA Tech & Policy Lab at the University of Western Australia, where he is the Project Lead on the DFAT-funded collaborative project with IT for Change, 'Effective Ethical Frameworks for the State as an Enabler of Innovation' (2023-25). Since joining the Lab in 2022, he has worked on a range of projects, including examining the impacts of concentrated corporate power through the activities of multinational tech firms such as Uber and Facebook/Meta. Prior to joining the Lab, Tom studied Philosophy at Murdoch University.

39. Unnikrishnan P.V. | Member Secretary, Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council

Unnikrishnan P.V., with 37+ years of multifaceted expertise, leads Kerala's Knowledge Economy transition. Holding degrees in EC Engineering and e-Gov, he excelled in government roles, including that of COO/CEO. He boasts rich experience in tech development, 5 years at KSSP research center, and mission-critical project management, receiving national and international accolades.



He served on the SPB, Kerala, and as a SteP Trainer for NISG, enhancing infrastructure, energy, and governance. As a consultant, he contributed to knowledge management and led Kerala's innovation promotion for four years. Currently, Unnikrishnan directs the Kerala Knowledge Mission, focusing on democratizing innovation, social enterprises, and decentralization. His flagship project aims to employ two million educated individuals in Kerala, reflecting his commitment to socio-economic growth through knowledge and innovation.

40. Viraj Desai | Senior Associate – Research and Policy Engagement, IT for Change

Viraj is a researcher at IT for Change, focusing on alternative digital platforms. Their work supports women-led agricultural cooperatives and collectives in developing governance principles that secure cooperatives' positions in the market while protecting their data interests. Viraj's research explores the intersection of labor, data governance, and gender. Their research interests include seeking ways for cooperatives to leverage platform technologies without replicating the extractive logics of platform capitalism.