Trajectories of Platform Power in the AI Age:
Infrastructure, labor, and India's place in the global digital economy

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Date: 2 April, 2026 | **Time**: 12:00 – 17:30 | **Venue**: Samagata Foundation, Church Street, Bengaluru

Co-organizers: IT for Change; Dr. Aditya Ray, UWE Bristol; Christine Ithurbide, CNRS – IRN South Stream Network.

Aim and Rationale

This roundtable brings together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, journalists, and labor organizations to examine how platform power is evolving in India in the context of rapid advances in digital ecosystems, infrastructures, and artificial intelligence.

Platforms are no longer simply intermediaries connecting markets. They increasingly function as core infrastructures shaping economic activity, labor relations, and governance arrangements. As new digital technologies scale and become embedded across platform ecosystems, questions of technological dependence, autonomy, and control are becoming more central.

India occupies a particularly important position within these debates. As one of the world's largest digital and outsourcing services markets and a major hub of digital labor and platform adoption, India sits at the intersection of global technological influence and domestic digital innovation. Recent international discussions on artificial intelligence (AI) governance, including those convened under India's leadership at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, have highlighted both the promise and the tensions surrounding emerging digital futures. Aspirations for technological leadership, digital sovereignty, and AI-driven growth coexist with persistent questions about platform dominance, infrastructural dependence, regulatory capture, and the concentration of technological power.

This roundtable, therefore, examines how global technology systems shape India's digital economy; how domestic platforms, workers, and institutions negotiate these dynamics; and what these evolving trajectories mean for labor, governance, and development.

We propose to ask the following main questions in the roundtable:

1. What is the relationship between the emerging Indian tech and AI ecosystem and the global tech ecosystem — how has it evolved so far, and what is needed in terms of governance?

2. How can we better understand 'platform power' from the perspective of workers, labor processes, and regulatory actors — what progress has been made so far, what has changed with AI, and what governance responses are needed?

Detailed agenda

Time	Agenda
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch and registration
13:00 - 13:10	Welcome and opening remarks
13:10 - 15:00	**Round 1**: Platform Infrastructures, Global Tech Power, and India's Digital Ecosystem Brief opening presentations by: • Aarti Reddy, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) • Balaji Parthasarathy, Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bangalore • Christine Ithurbide and Philippe Bouquillion, CNRS – IRN South Stream Network • Shobhit S., IT for Change Followed by a guided discussion amongst all participants.
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 - 17:20	**Round 2**: Labor, Work, and Regulation in the Platform Economy Brief opening presentations by: • Nandini Chami, IT for Change • Mohan Mani, Center for Labour Studies, NLSIU Bangalore • Ritvik Gupta, Aapti Institute Followed by a guided discussion amongst all participants.
17:20 - 17:30	Closing remarks