

# Parminder Jeet Singh I Curriculum Vitae 2019

---

Executive Director  
[parminder@itforchange.net](mailto:parminder@itforchange.net)

IT for Change  
# 393, 17th Main Road  
35th Cross, Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block  
Bangalore, Karnataka - 560041

Parminder Jeet Singh is Executive Director at IT for Change. He has a degree in journalism and masters in economics. He has worked earlier for an insurance company and in police service; thus has a background in commercial and government sectors, before moving to civil society.

Parminder's current focus is on Internet governance, e-governance, digital economy, geopolitics of the digital world, democracy in the digital age, and technical governance of the Internet. He is considered as a key contributor in shaping a Southern discourse on global Internet governance, and a positive rights centred approach to Internet and digital policies. He has participated in and led major global and national level networks in these areas. He closely interacts with policy makers at global and national levels in these areas, and has been responsible for major policy influences.

He frequently contributes op-eds to major Indian dailies, and leading journals. He has also contributed to peer-reviewed global journals and book collections. Earlier, in 2001, he co-authored a book on 'Governance@Net: New Governance Opportunities for India'.

He has participated in ministerial level round tables at various UN venues. In recognition of his long standing civil society work in the IT and Internet area, he was invited to address the UN General Assembly in December, 2016.

Parminder has been a special advisor to the chair of the UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) (2008-12). He has also served as a special advisor to the UN Global Alliance on ICTs and Development. He was a member of the UN Working Group on improvements to the IGF, and later the Un Working group on "enhanced cooperation" (on global Internet policy mechanisms). Parminder was the first elected co-coordinator of Internet Governance Caucus, the primary global IG coalition in post WSIS years (2006 - 2008). He was a founding member of other two key global coalitions, BestBits and Internet Rights and Principles Coalition. He also helped found the IGF dynamic coalitions on net neutrality and community networks. He has shaped and led many global campaigns on Internet issues.

Parminder played an instrumental role in the formation of Just Net Coalition, a coalition of 36 global and national organisations working for a just and fair Internet, and leads the secretariat of this coalition. He has advised key organisations like UNDP, GTZ-Germany, ActionAid, SIDA, on their e-governance thinking. He has been an advisor to projects of WWW Foundation, Association for Progressive Communications and Diplo Foundation.

Parminder has been regularly presenting to and interacting with developing countries delegates at the South Centre, Geneva, an inter-governmental think-tank of developing countries, on issues of Internet governance and digital economy. Over the last two years, he has written background papers on digital economy and developing countries for the South Centre, Commonwealth Secretariat, and UN-CTAD.

Parminder interacted closely with the Indian delegation to the WTO ministerial in Buenos Aires in 2017, on issues of e-commerce, and made a presentation to a group of ministers including India's H'ble minister for commerce and industry. IT was a result of these interactions, that he was made a part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Think-tank that developed the draft e-commerce policy in 2018.

Earlier, In India, Parminder has spearheaded the establishment of IT for Change's community informatics project in a rural community in Mysore (supported by the Department of IT), its e-governance research, and its engagements in key cyber policy areas of net neutrality and technical governance of the Internet. He was invited by the Karnataka Knowledge Commission in 2011 to support them in evolving an institutional model for setting up community knowledge centres across rural Karnataka. Parminder was a member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group for India IGF. Has been a member of IT ministry's committee on IT for Masses (2015). Parminder has been a member of the governmental committee on operationalising proactive disclosure provisions of India's right to information law.

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- Singh, Parminder Jeet; and Rashmi Banga, 2019, *BRICS Digital Cooperation for Industrialisation*, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Singh, Parminder Jeet: 2018, *Digital Industrialisation in Developing Countries*, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Singh, Parminder Jeet, 2018, [Tap the Value of Indian Data](#), Economic Times
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2018, [Bring data under the rule of law](#), The Hindu.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2018, AI Superpower or Client Nation? The Hindu.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2018, [The Non-politics of Outrage](#), The Hindu.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2017. Open Institutions and their Relevant Publics. Chapter in a book on Open Development (title awaited) being put together by the Strengthening Information Society Research Capacity Alliance -III.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet, 2017, [Digital Trade Games](#), The Hindu
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. Forthcoming. [Developing Countries in the Emerging Global Digital Order](#). Background paper for South Centre, Geneva, presentation, published by IT for Change.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2016. [Free Basics, now through the backdoor](#). The Hindu.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2016. [What Free Basics did not intend to do](#). The Hindu.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2016. [A borderless economy that will be controlled](#). The Hindu.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2015. [Net Neutrality is basically internet egalitarianism](#). *Economic and Political Weekly* (Vol L19).
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. June 2015. [Who rules cyberspace?](#) The Hindu
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2014. [Fork in the Road to the Future of Global Governance of the Internet](#). An article in a special issue "[Digital Debates](#)" brought out by Observer Research Foundation, Delhi and Global Policy Journal.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2014. [Global Internet Governance: a developing country perspective](#). An article in the Third World Resurgence, Malaysia.

- Singh, Parminder Jeet and Gurumurthy, Anita. 2014. [Establishing public-ness in the network: New moorings for development—A critique of the concepts of openness and open development](#). In: Matthew L. Smith and Katherine M. A. Reilly. ed. *Open Development: Networked Innovations in International Development*, pp. 173-198. Cambridge, M: MIT Press.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2012. [A false consensus is broken](#). The Hindu.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2012. [Hyping one threat to hide another](#). The Hindu
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2012. [Beauty lies in the 'domain' of the highest bidder](#). The Hindu
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2012. [India's proposal will help take the web out of U.S. control](#). The Hindu.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2012. [E-governance in India: Existing context and possible scope for UNDP programing over 2013-18](#). UNDP.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2012. [A Development Agenda in Internet Governance](#). IT for Change.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet; Gurumurthy, Anita; and Chami, Nandini. 2011. [Exploring an institutional model for Samudaya Jnana Kendras: a research study](#). Karnataka Knowledge Commission, Government of Karnataka, India.
- Gurumurthy, Anita and Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2011. Comments on the Final Report of the Research Project - '[Mediating Voices and Communicating Realities](#) - Using information crowdsourcing tools, open data initiatives and digital media to support and protect the vulnerable and marginalised' by Evangelia Berdou,' Institute of Development Studies, UK.
- Gurumurthy, Anita; Singh, Parminder Jeet; Kalley, Aparna; Arakali, Chinmayi and Thimmaiah, Krupa. 2011. [Digitising a Feminist Stratagem](#) - What Mahiti Manthana has taught us about women's empowerment. Women in Action.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet . 2010. [From a Public Internet to the Internet Mall](#). Economic & Political Weekly, 45 (42).
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2010. [ICTs in social protection systems](#) – Making the strategic choices first,' policy brief, IT for Change.
- Gurumurthy, Anita and Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2010. [Reclaiming development in the information society](#), in Wichterich C. (ed.), *In search of economic alternatives for gender and social justice: Voices from India*, Brussels: WIDE, pp. 20-25.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet . 2009. [ICTs for Community Development](#). Policy Brief. IT for Change.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2008. [Digital Inclusion Policies – Some Lessons from India](#). Policy Brief. Association for Progressive Communications.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2008. [Recommendations for meaningful and successful e-governance in India](#) , Policy Brief. IT for Change.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2008. [Rethinking ICTD – 'Back to the basics' of development](#). Issue paper. IT for Change.