THE CENTRE FOR internet & society

Annual Report

2020 - 2021

Contents

Highlights

- ❖ CIS worked with members of the Domestic Workers Rights Union to conduct field research on the lives and challenges of domestic workers in the platform economy. The following essays published on GenderIT capture their experiences of doing this research:
    - Parijatha G.P. wrote about a "gated society management app", MyGate, and the experiences of surveillance of migrant workers in Bengaluru.
    - Radha Keerthna wrote about the similarity in the conditions of domestic workers in the traditional and platform economy, particularly the invisibility of labour.
    - Sumathi, a union leader, reflects on her experience as an activist-researcher interacting with domestic gig workers through the course of the study.
    - Zeenathunissa shares the difficulty of speaking to domestic workers in the gig economy, especially when workers undergo constant surveillance by employers and companies.
- ❖ Supported by Azim Premji University, CIS commissioned a set of four field studies of platform workers delivering food and driving taxis for platform companies in Mumbai and New Delhi. The researchers involved wrote a series of essays that were published by Platypus blog of CASTAC:
    - Anushree Gupta explored women's presence as workers as well as passengers/customers in the ride hailing platform economy in Mumbai and related concerns of safety and risk mitigation.
    - Sarah Zia highlights how algorithmic management of work and revenue targets of gig workers impact their everyday lives and plans for the future.
    - Kinship networks are a critical source of safety and security for workers in the gig economy. Simiran Lalvani writes about the network among transportation workers in Mumbai, also reflecting on implications for those who are excluded.
    - Noopur Raval and Rajendra Jadhav describe the unregulated and exploitative temporal structures of gig work, and how work-time of gig workers get configured by customer-facing promises of platform companies.
    - The four researchers, led by Noopur Raval (co-PI for the project), held a roundtable discussion to reflect on methods, challenges, inter-subjectivities and possible future directions for research on the gig economy and its workers. Noopur Raval, Anushree Gupta, Rajendra Jadhav, Sarah Zia, and Simiran Lalvani — involved in this project on mapping digital labour in India's platform economies (in Mumbai and New

Delhi) [met in Bengaluru on 19 July 2019](#) to share their preliminary field insights along with reflections on what it meant to do such studies, how they went about studying gig-work, and challenges that arose in their work. Live stream of the discussions can be [accessed here](#).

❖ With Tandem Research, CIS organized a webinar to interact with unions representing gig workers and researchers studying labour rights and gig work, to uncover the experiences of gig workers during the lockdown. Based on the discussion, [a charter of recommendations was prepared](#) with contributions from participants, and was shared with public and private stakeholders.

❖ With support from three domestic workers' unions, the Domestic Workers Rights Union, Bruhat Bangalore Gruhakarmika Sangha, and Manegelasa Kaarmikara Union, Geeta Menon put together [a report that shines light on the plight of domestic workers in Bengaluru during the lockdowns](#), and now as the lockdown eases. It focuses on how government and administrative bodies, and resident welfare associations, have been culpable in further pushing domestic workers to the margins.

❖ Between July to November 2019, Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFAT) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), New Delhi office, conducted 2,128 surveys across 6 major cities: Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Jaipur, and Lucknow, to determine the occupational health and safety of app-based transport workers. [CIS published a press release and a study report](#).

❖ In December 2018, the Indian government released the draft Intermediary Guidelines, a set of rules, when notified, will be applicable to a host of internet services, like internet service providers and social media platforms. The rules propose mandating automated filtering of content, 'traceability' of content, and decrease the time available for services to respond to content takedown requests. CIS' response [analysed the constitutionality of these proposals, and examines their effect on the exercise of freedom of expression](#) in India.

❖ Amber Sinha's book "[The Networked Public: How Social Media is Changing Democracy](#)" was published by Rupa Publications.

❖ Based on publicly available information, Pallavi Bedi has presented [a comparative analysis of COVID-19 apps](#) launched by different state governments in India, and examines their governing policies regarding privacy and data protection.

❖ In light of the central-government's release of the contact tracing app Aarogya Setu, Siddharth Sonkar's report seeks to constructively engage with privacy concerns surrounding the app and its operations, and works towards [making](#)

privacy safeguards governing its operability more consistent with international best practices.

❖ Drawing from multifaceted research on surveillance around the world, Mira Swaminathan and Shubhika Saluja analyze the unique domain of lateral surveillance, and its heightened impacts on the 'culture of suspicion' created between social classes, especially during a pandemic.

❖ Torsha Sarkar examines content moderation measures taken by online intermediaries to tackle harmful information related to COVID-19 on their platforms, and the recommended ways in which information around these decisions can be preserved for better research going forward.

❖ Using information from court orders, user reports, and government orders, and running network tests from six ISPs, Kushagra Singh, Gurshabad Grover and Varun Bansal presented the largest study of web blocking in India. Through their work, they demonstrated that major ISPs in India use different techniques to block websites, and that they don't block the same websites.

❖ As the pandemic has compelled many to work from home, the adoption of employee monitoring technologies has gone up. Shweta Mohandas and Deepika Nandagudi Srinivasa analyzed different instances of such surveillance measures across workplaces, studying their impact on employee privacy.

❖ Researchers from industry and academia often use Internet measurements to gain insight into the functioning and usage of the Internet. Gurshabad Grover authored a set of guidelines to ensure that such measurements can be carried out safely, without any risk to user privacy.

❖ Amber Sinha wrote a paper on regulating sexist online harassment, and how online harassment serves as a form of censorship, for the "Recognize, Resist, Remedy: Addressing Gender-Based Hate Speech in the Online Public Sphere" project, a collaborative project between IT for Change, India and InternetLab, Brazil.

❖ CIS has researched on Bodies of Evidence, a series of essays exploring the intersections of data, bodies, gender and sexuality. The series is edited by Bishakha Datta and Richa Kaul Padte, and developed together by Deep Dives and the Centre for Internet and Society. Deep Dives is an award winning digital imprint of Point of View that specializes in long-form journalism, personal narrative, art, poetry, and fiction. The essay series is supported by the Big Data for Development network established by the International Development Research Centre, Canada.

❖ CIS-A2K team undertook a series of short-term studies in 2019-20. As part of this it published a short study on mapping the digital transition in selected Galleries,

[Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) institutions in Maharashtra](#), India, and exploring possibilities and challenges for collaborations with Wikimedia projects.

In the News

CIS was cited in around 35 news articles in the financial year 2020 - 2021. Leading publications such as Hindustan Times, Deccan Herald, Livemint, Times of India, among others consulted the organization for inputs.

- ❖ How to survive conronatimes? Internet's the word (Trisha Mukherjee; PTI; 6 April 2020).
- ❖ 'Locker room' scandal raises legal questions (Theres Sudeep; Deccan Herald; 7 May 2020).
- ❖ Net Neutrality in India: From Rules to Enforcement (Smriti Parsheera; Medianama; 18 May 2020).
- ❖ Experts wary of surveillance as government mulls ways to curb fake news (Saumya Tewari and Japnam Bindra; Livemint; 11 June 2020).
- ❖ India's Ban On Chinese Apps Shows Geopolitics Has Gone Digital (Yatti Soni; Inc42; 30 June 2020).
- ❖ India bans 59 Chinese apps including Tik Tok: How the ban may be enforced (Shilpa S Ranipeta; The News Minute; 30 June 2020).
- ❖ How Does A Section 69A Blocking Order Come Into Existence? (Aditi Agrawal; Medianama; 30 June 2020).
- ❖ Multiple service providers are blocking DuckDuckGo in India (Ivan Mehta; The Next Web; 1 July 2020).
- ❖ Centre used IT Act powers to block apps (Murali Krishnan; Hindustan Times; 1 July 2020).
- ❖ The Outline By Inc42+: India Uninstalls China, Geopolitics Goes Digital? (Yatti Soni; 4 July 2020).
- ❖ India's TikTok shutdown has left careers and fortunes in tatters (Varsha Bansal; WIRED, UK; 6 July 2020).
- ❖ Draconian law used to silence green websites (Theres Sudeep; Deccan Herald; 21 July 2020).
- ❖ Row rages over Facebook 'bias' (Theres Sudeep; Deccan Herald; 21 August 2020).
- ❖ Where the south Indian states stand in the fight against fake news and misinformation (Mithun M.K.; The News Minute; 3 September 2020).
- ❖ Online battleground: India bans 118 more apps, including PUBG (Pankaj Doval; 3 September 2020).
- ❖ Competition laws in focus amid Google, Paytm tussle (Abhijit Ahaskar and Prasid Banerjee; Livemint; 23 September 2020).
- ❖ Are private chats secure? (Tini Sara Anien; 29 September 2020).
- ❖ Is Facebook answerable to Delhi? (Geetika Srivastava; 9 October 2020).

❖ [Airtel Uses Specially Configured Routers To Block Websites: Why You Should Care](#) (Aditi Agarwal; Medianama; 12 October 2020).

❖ [Might withdraw intermediary immunity: IT ministry on Twitter geo-tag row](#) (earshot; October 2020).

❖ [43 new Chinese apps banned, 267 in all](#) (Pankaj Doval; Times of India; 25 November 2020).

❖ [Hate & Misinformation - Inside Bajrang Dal Pages on Facebook](#) (Sonal Gupta and Kritika Goel; The Quint; 21 December 2020).

❖ [Social media platforms step up efforts to fight vaccine-related misinformation](#) (Saumya Tewari; Livemint; 2 February 2021).

❖ [All about Section 69A of IT Act under which Twitter had withheld several posts & accounts](#) (Taran Deol; The Print; 2 February 2021).

❖ [Are the Government's Order Hampering Citizens Freedom of Speech](#) (Times Now; 10 February 2021).

❖ [Government tightens scrutiny on social media sites](#) (Saumya Tewari and Lata Jha; Livemint; 26 February 2021).

❖ [India announces new rules for social media companies](#) (Yeni Safak; 28 February 2021).

❖ [New rules to regulate social media spark concerns over privacy](#) (Saumya Tewari; Livemint; 27 February 2021).

❖ [New social media guidelines may prompt greater user surveillance by platforms](#) (Prasid Banerjee and Abhijit Ahaskar; Livemint; 27 February 2021).

❖ [IT Rules 2021: How Will Business Messaging Products Like Slack, Microsoft Teams Be Impacted?](#) (Aditya Chunduru; 3 March 2021).

❖ [Will new OTT, social media guidelines stifle all dissent](#)? (Theres Sudeep and Krupa Joseph; 6 March 2021).

❖ [Can traceability and end-to-end encryption co-exist? Here's the legal view](#) (Aditi Agrawal; Forbes India; 18 March 2021).

❖ [WhatsApp Dadagiri, Again?](#) (NDTV; 18 March 2021).

❖ [The Laws of the Land of Social Media](#) (Megha Bahree; The Bastion; 27 March 2021).

❖

Access to Knowledge

CIS is doing two projects – Pervasive Technologies supported by IDRC for research on pervasive technologies and intellectual property as social good and Wikipedia project supported by Wikimedia Foundation for growth of Indic language communities.

Wikipedia
Reports

❖ Mapping GLAM in Maharashtra (Subodh Kulkarni; 23 October 2020). Research was undertaken by Aaryaa Joshi, Dnyanada Gadre-Phadke, Kalyani Kotkar and Subodh Kulkarni. P.P. Sneha provided editorial support with external review by Sumandro Chattapadhyay.

❖ Understanding the Data Gaps on Wikidata Concerning Heritage Structures of West Bengal (Bodhisattwa Mandal; 20 November 2020). P.P. Sneha provided editorial support with external review by Sumandro Chattapadhyay.

❖ Bridging the Gender Gap: A Report on Indian Language Wikimedia Communities (Bhuvana Meenakshi; 31 December 2020). P.P. Sneha, Ambika Tandon and Sumandro Chattapadhyay gave editorial support.

❖ Content Creation on Eastern Punjabi Wikipedia (Satpal Singh; 31 December 2020). P.P. Sneha provided editorial support with external review by Sumandro Chattapadhyay.

❖ Wikipedia in the Classroom: A Study of the Wikimedia in Education at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) (Ananth Subray; 31 December 2020). P.P. Sneha provided editorial support with external review by Sumandro Chattapadhyay.

Blog Post

❖ Wiki Women for Women Well-Being: An Initiative to Bridge the Gender Gap in the Wikimedia Community (Nitesh Gill and Shruti Anandan; 28 December 2020).

Copyright
Articles

❖ Research Publishing: Is 'One Nation, One Subscription' Pragmatic Reform for India? (Anubha Sinha; The Wire Science; 23 October 2020).

❖ Update on Publisher's Copyright Infringement Suit against Sci-Hub and LibGen in India (Anubha Sinha; InfoJustice; 8 March 2021).

Event Participation

❖ 2021 India International Virtual Summit (Organized by ITECHLAW; 16 March 2021). Anubha Sinha made a presentation on State of Copyright Exceptions in the Digital Environment.

Openness
Article

❖ The STI Policy Proposes a Transformative Open Access Approach for India (Anubha Sinha; The Wire; 20 January 2021).

Event Participation

❖ A Martyr and a Warrior: Guerilla open access movement and the continuing battle for radical access to scholarly literature (Organized by Azim Premji University, Bengaluru; 22 March 2021). Anubha Sinha was a speaker in the symposium.

Internet Governance

As part of its research on privacy and free speech, CIS is engaged with two different projects. The first one (under a grant from Privacy International and IDRC) is on surveillance and freedom of expression (SAFEGUARDS). The second one (under a grant from MacArthur Foundation) is on restrictions that the Indian government has placed on freedom of expression online.

Intermediary Liability
Submission

❖ Response to the 'Call for Comments' on the Santa Clara Principles on Transparency and Accountability (Torsha Sarkar and Suhan S with editorial support from Gurshabad Grover; 1 July 2020).

Reports

❖ Investigating TLS blocking in India (Simone Basso, Gurshabad Grover and Kushagra Singh; OONI; 8 July 2020).
❖ Platforms as Gatekeepers: Threats to Digital Space (Torsha Sarkar and Gurshabad Grover; India Digital Freedom Series; October 2020).

Articles | Blog Posts

❖ Why should we care about takedown timeframes? (Torsha Sarkar; 4 April 2020).
❖ Donald Trump is attacking the social media giants. Here's what India should do differently (Anna Liz Thomas and Gurshabad Grover; Scroll.in; 25 June 2020).
❖ Remove misinformation, but be transparent, please! (Torsha Sarkar; CyberBRICS; 25 June 2020).
❖ Separating the Wheat from the Chaff: The Use of AI in Content Moderation (Shweta Mohandas and Torsha Sarkar; RGNUL Student Research Review; 7 September 2020).

❖ Intermediary liability and Safe Harbour: On due diligence and automated filtering (Law and Other Things; Gurshabad Grover and Anna Liz Thomas; 25 November 2020).

❖ Notes from a Foreign Field: The European Court of Human Rights on Russia's Website Blocking (Gurshabad Grover and Anna Liz Thomas; Indian Constitutional Law and Philosophy; 5 February 2021).

❖ New intermediary guidelines: The good and the bad (Torsha Sarkar; Down to Earth; 26 February 2021).

Events Participation

❖ Health, encryption, & COVID-19: Keeping people and countries safer online (Organized by Internet Society; 14 May 2020). Gurshabad Grover participated in the webinar.

❖ Transnational chat: Should we worry about governments taking our data to fight the pandemic? Experts answered your questions (Organized by the Correspondent; 27 May 2020). Gurshabad Grover participated in the live chat.

❖ Encryption: Issues Around Online Violence against Women (Organized by Medianama with support from Internet Society; 5 June 2020). Mira Swaminathan and Gurshabad Grover participated in the webinar.

❖ Virtual RFCs We Love (Organized by India Internet Engineering Society; 12 June 2020). Gurshabad Grover participated as a panelist in this virtual session.

❖ Content regulation and human rights (Organized by GNI and SFLC; 26 June 2020). Gurshabad Grover participated in the discussion.

❖ On Web Censorship: legalities and technicalities (Organized by Thus; 29 June 2020). Gurshabad Grover was a speaker.

❖ Chinese apps ban: India-China cyber face-off (Organized by Medianama; 30 June 2020). Gurshabad Grover and Torsha Sarkar participated in the discussion.

❖ Social media, not just fun and games anymore (Organized by Deccan Herald; 28 August 2020). Gurshabad Grover was a panelist.

❖ Monitoring internet networks using Ripe Atlas Probe (Organized by Has Geek; 8 September 2020). Gurshabad Grover was a speaker.

❖ Coalition of India for a Progressive and Holistic Encryption Regime (CIPHER) (Organized by Ashoka University and DSCI; 26 February 2021). Gurshabad Grover was a panelist.

❖ 2nd UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights (Organized by United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner; 15 March 2021). Torsha Sarkar took part in a panel discussion.

- ❖ [New Intermediary guidelines: A means towards a surveillance state?](#) (Organized by Thus; 15 March 2021). Torsha Sarkar and Gurshabad Grover participated in a discussion.
- ❖ ["Feel the Chill": Impact of AI content moderation on fundamental rights and security](#) (Organized by KU LEUVEN; 25 March 2021). Shweta Mohandas was a speaker.

Television Interviews

- ❖ [व्हाट्सऐप खतरनाक हो गया? तो सुरक्षित कौन है?](#) (Alok Adda on YouTube; 13 January 2021).
- ❖ [WhatsApp's Attempts to Explain Policy: A 'Signal' for Your Privacy?](#) (NDTV; 13 January 2021). Gurshabad Grover was a panelist.

Freedom Speech & Expression

Reports

- ❖ India Digital Freedom Series: Internet Shutdowns, Censorship and Surveillance (A series of reports on digital rights and civic space in India, focusing on four areas where restrictive policies threaten fundamental freedoms and impede public participation: internet shutdowns, censorship, platform governance and surveillance.)
  - - [Introduction, Background and Methodology](#) (Arindrajit Basu; 26 December 2020).
  - - [Internet Shutdowns: Threats to Digital Access](#) (Torsha Sarkar, Manogna Matam and Gurshabad Grover).
  - - [Censorship: Threats to Expression](#) (Matam Manogna, Torsha Sarkar, Gurshabad Grover and Kanav Khanna).
  - - [Platforms as Gatekeepers: Threats to Digital Space](#) (Torsha Sarkar and Gurshabad Grover).
  - - [Surveillance and Data Protection: Threats to Privacy and Digital Security](#) (Mira Swaminathan and Arindrajit Basu).

Submission

- ❖ [Response to Mozilla DNS over HTTPS (DoH) and Trusted Recursive Resolver (TRR) Comment Period](#) (Gurshabad Grover and Divyank Katira; 19 January 2021).

Article

- ❖ [Rumours, Misinformation and Self-Verification of Facts in the Age of COVID-19](#) (Mira Swaminathan; The Wire; March 31, 2020).

Events Participation

- ❖ Roundtable on Freedoms of Association, Peaceful Assembly and Expression in Times of Coronavirus (22 April 2020). Gurshabad Grover attended the event.
- ❖ Webinar on CSO responses & strategies to C-19 regulatory measures in Asia (13 May 2020). Torsha Sarkar attended the event.

Privacy and Cyber Security

Research Papers

- ❖ [Widening the Horizons of Surveillance](#) (Mira Swaminathan and Shubhika Saluja; edited by Arindrajit Basu, Aayush Rathi and Shweta Mohandas; 8 January 2021).
- ❖ [The Competition Law Case against WhatsApp's 2021 Privacy Policy Alteration](#) (Aman Nair and Arindrajit Basu; 31 December 2020).

Submission

- ❖ [CIS Comments on the National Strategy on Blockchain](#) (Vipul Kharbanda and Aman Nair; 31 December 2020).

Articles

- ❖ [The Entrepreneurs of International Law: A Brief History](#) (Arindrajit Basu; RGNUL Student Research Review; 2 February 2021).
- ❖ [Patching the gaps in India's cybersecurity](#) (Arindrajit Basu and Pranesh Prakash; The Hindu; March 6, 2021).

Blog Posts

- ❖ [The Boss Will See You Now - The Growth of Workplace Surveillance in India, is Data Protection Legislation the Answer](#)? (Shweta Mohandas and Deepika Nandagudi Srinivasa; 31 December 2020).
- ❖ [PDP Bill is coming: WhatsApp Privacy Policy analysis](#) (Pallavi Bedi and Shweta Reddy; 18 January 2021).
- ❖ [Recommendations for the Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-Win) platform](#) (Pallavi Bedi; 25 March 2021).

Events Participation

- ❖ [The Health ID and the Health Data Management Policy: What does it mean for healthcare landscape in India?](#) (Organized by SFLC.in; 18 March 2021). Pallavi Bedi was a panelist.

Artificial Intelligence and New Age Technologies

Submission

- ❖ [CIS comments on the Revised Non Personal Governance Framework Report](#) (Pallavi Bedi, Anubha Sinha and Aman Nair; 31 December 2020).

Interview

❖ In Conversation with Arindrajit Basu, Research Manager at the Centre for Internet and Society (Analytics India Magazine; 11 January 2021).

Blog Posts

❖ TikTok: It's time for Biden to make a decision on his digital policy with China (Aman Nair; 22 January 2021).

❖ The Government needs to make sure our emails don't destroy the environment (Aman Nair; 25 January 2021).

Event Participation

❖ From the Arab Spring to the Capitol Attack (Organized by VIDHI Centre for Legal Policy; 8 February 2021). Aman Nair participated in the Twitter chat.

Gender

Article

❖ How helpful are Helpline Numbers? (Ambika Tandon and Mira Swaminathan; GenderIT.org; 26 February 2021).

Researchers at Work (RAW)

The researchers@work programme at CIS produces and supports pioneering and sustained trans-disciplinary research on key thematics at the intersections of internet and society; organize and incubate networks of and fora for researchers and practitioners studying and making internet in India; and contribute to development of critical digital pedagogy, research methodology, and creative practice.

Research Papers

❖ Ethics and Human Rights Guidelines for Big Data for Development Research (Amber Sinha, Manjri Singh, Rajashri Seal, Pranav Bhaskar Tiwari and Pranav M Bidare; 19 May 2020). In four parts: Review of Principles of Ethics in Biomedical Science; Review of Principles of Ethics in Computer Science; Summary of Review of Codes of Ethics for Big Data and AI; Extended Review of Codes of Ethics for Big Data and AI

❖ Brindaalakshmi. K - Gendering of Development Data in India: Beyond the Binary (Brindaalakshmi. K; 30 June 2020). In four parts: Introduction, Research Method, and Summary of Findings; Legal Rights and Enumeration Process; Identity Documents and Access to Welfare; Digital Services and Data Challenges

❖ Between Platform and Pandemic: Migrants in India's Gig Economy (Kaarika Das and Srravy C; Futures of Work; Issue 18; 16 March 2021).

Reports

❖ [DWRU, BBGS & MKU - The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Invisible Workers of the Household Economy](#) (Geeta Menon; edited by Aayush Rathi and Ambika Tandon; 16 June 2020).

❖ [IFAT and ITF - Protecting Workers in the Digital Platform Economy: Investigating Ola and Uber Drivers' Occupational Health and Safety](#) (Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFAT) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), New Delhi office; Supported by Akash Sheshadri, Ambika Tandon, and Aayush Rathi; 25 August 2020).

❖ [IFAT and ITF - Locking Down the Impact of Covid-19](#) (Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFAT) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), New Delhi office; 17 September 2020).

❖ [Domestic Workers' Access to Secure Livelihoods in West Bengal](#) (Anchita Ghatak; Parichiti; 30 December 2020).

❖ [Data Systems in Welfare: Impact of the JAM Trinity on Pension & PDS in Odisha during COVID-19](#) (Sameet Panda; with support from Privacy International, UK; 26 February 2021). Additional research support by Apurv Vivek and Vipul Kumar, and editorial contributions were made by Ambika Tandon.

Submission

❖ [Inputs to the public consultation on the draft Code on Social Security (Central) Rules, 2020 - Joint submission by an alliance of trade unions and civil society organisations](#) (Aayush Rathi and Ambika Tandon; IT for Change; 22 December 2020).

Articles | Blog Posts

❖ [COVID-19: and relief measures for gig workers in India](#) (Zothan Mawii; Tandem Research; 14 April 2020).

❖ [COVID-19 Charter Of Recommendations on Gig Work](#) (Aayush Rathi and Ambika Tandon; 30 April 2020).

❖ [Failures in the digitisation of India's food security programme: the exclusion of married women of Odisha](#) (Sameet Panda and Vipul Kumar; Privacy International 23 March 2021).

❖ [From Health and Harassment to Income Security and Loans, India's Gig Workers Need Support](#) (Zothan Mawii, Aayush Rathi and Ambika Tandon; 30 April 2020).

❖ [A Compilation of Research on the Gig Economy](#) (Aayush Rathi, Ambika Tandon and Sumandro Chattapadhyay; 19 May 2020).

❖ ['I feel the pain of having nowhere to go': A Manipuri Trans Woman Recounts Her Ongoing Lockdown Ordeal](#) (Santa Khurai; 22 June 2020).

❖ [Kolkata's trans community has been locked out of healthcare and livelihood](#) (Raina Roy and Abhiraj Bag; 1 August 2020).

Essay

❖ [Data Lives of Humanities Text](#) (P.P. Sneha; 23 December 2020).

Events Organized

❖ [Making Voices Heard - The Present and Future of Voice Interfaces in India](#) (Organized as part of Mozilla 2021 festival; 16 March 2021). Shweta Mohandas, Sumandro Chattapadhyay, Saumyaa Naidu and P.P. Sneha were speakers.

❖ [Building a Platform Governance Research Network](#) (26 March 2021). Pranav Bidare, Ambika Tandon, Shweta Mohandas, and Aayush Rathi participated in the event.

Events Participation

❖ [Gender, Health & Surveillance in India](#) (Organized by Internet Democracy Project; 20 November 2020). Aayush Rathi and Ambika Tandon were panelists. Recording of the event can be accessed on [YouTube](#).

❖ [Panel at International Development Conference 2021](#) (Organized by IDC; 12 February 2021). Aayush Rathi was a panelist.

❖ [OER OpenGLAM Ontologies: Metadata for Educational Justice](#) (Organized by Mozilla; 9 March 2021). P.P. Sneha was a speaker.

❖ Reigniting the Research Spark: Exploring New Methodologies and Perspectives (Organized by St. Xavier's College; Mumbai; 15 March 2021). P.P. Sneha presented on Digital Humanities research methods.

Announcement

❖ [Call for Papers: #CultureForAll Conference](#) (P.P. Sneha; 22 December 2020). Sahapedia in collaboration with the Azim Premji University, The Centre for Internet and Society and the University of Cape Town invited papers in cultural mapping for the Culture For All conference scheduled for March 2021.

Digital ID

Blog Post

❖ [Podcast: Use of Design Methodology and Policy Insights](#) (Saumyaa Naidu, Yesha Paul and Shruti Trikanand; 20 January 2021).

Event Participation

❖ [IPPN Annual Conference](#) (Organized by Indian School of Business; 27 March 2021). Saumyaa Naidu was a panelist and presented the Exploratory Research

Maps as part of a panel discussion on 'Anticipating Unintended Consequences in Policy-making through Design'.

Telecom

The growth in telecommunications in India has been impressive. While the potential for growth and returns exist, a range of issues need to be addressed for this potential to be realized. One aspect is more extensive rural coverage and the second aspect is a countrywide access to broadband which is low at about eight million subscriptions. Both require effective and efficient use of networks and resources, including spectrum.

Articles

❖ High priced restrictive entry, distorted regulations make India's telecom sector unattractive (Rekha Jain; Economic Times; 20 May 2020).

❖ What BharatNet can learn from the rural-roads scheme: involve states, local bodies, private sector (Rekha Jain; ET Prime; 20 May 2020).

❖ Short on Spectrum: Need for an enabling policy and regulatory environment (Rekha Jain; Tele.net; 20 May 2020).

❖ Kick-start the economy with cash flow (Shyam Ponappa; Business Standard; 24 May 2020).

❖ The Huawei Factor in US-India Relations (Arindrajit Basu and Justin Sherman; 22 March 2021).