



2011-12 | ANNUAL REPORT

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## Highlights

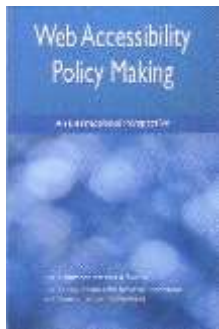
- A new improved edition of the Web Accessibility Policy Making: An International Perspective was published in partnership with G3ict and with support by Hans Foundation.
- A joint report of ITU and G3ict titled Making Mobile Phones and Services Accessible for Persons with Disabilities was prepared by the Centre for Internet & Society (CIS).
- Pranesh Prakash prepared the Consumers International IP Watchlist 2011 — India Report. It was recognized as the best developing country report by Consumers International.
- As an accredited NGO at WIPO, CIS was a negotiator for meetings and with the Third World Network conducted an Analysis of WIPO Treaty for the Print Disabled, distributing the analysis to delegates from 20 different countries, and gave its statements at the 22<sup>nd</sup> SCCR and 23<sup>rd</sup> SCCR.
- Pranesh Prakash wrote a detailed article Exhaustion: Imports, Exports and the Doctrine of First Sale in Indian Copyright Law in Manupatra Intellectual Property Reports, February 2011, Volume 1, Part 2, pp. 149-160.
- A report on the state of Open Government Data in India was published with the Transparency & Accountability Initiative. Nisha Thompson updated the first version and this was sent out for peer review.
- The first draft of Open Access to Scholarly Literature in India by Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam and Madhan Muthu surveying the scholarly and scientific publication in India was sent for peer review.
- A Wikipedia Reader titled Critical Point of View, edited by Geert Lovink and Nathaniel Tkacz was published in partnership with the Institute of Network Cultures.
- CIS in association with the Wikimedia Foundation produced a documentary film titled People are Knowledge. It was undertaken by Achal Prabhala as a short-term fellowship for exploring alternate methods of citation on the Wikipedia. The film has been viewed 3828 times on Vimeo.
- Draft chapters of the book on Privacy in India were brought out by Privacy International, UK Society in Action Group, Gurgaon and CIS.
- In partnership with Privacy International, UK and Society in Action Group, Gurgaon, we published outputs on IT Act, Limitations, Copyright, Internet Protocol, Media, Sexual Minorities, and UID.
- Seven open letters were submitted to the Parliamentary Finance Committee on the UID covering these aspects: SCOSTA standard, Centralized Database, Biometrics, Budget, Operational Design, Transactions, and Deduplication.
- In partnership with Google, initiated the Google Policy Fellowship Programme. Rishabh Dara was selected as a Fellow. He produced a report

- titled Intermediary Liability in India: Chilling Effects on Free Expression on the Internet 2011.
- Advised foreign governments such as the Government of Iraq on co-existence of GIF with other laws and policies, and Tajikistan on ICT in development.
  - Satyen Gupta, Sunil Abraham and Yelena Gyulkhandanyan produced a report titled Unlicensed Spectrum-Policy Brief for Government of India NTP '11.
  - Hivos and CIS consolidated their three year knowledge inquiry into the field of youth, technology and change in a four-book collective titled Digital AlterNatives with a cause?.
  - A peer-reviewed research paper titled Between the Stirrup and the Ground: Relocating Digital Activism by Nishant Shah and Fieke Jansen was published in *Democracy & Society*, a publication of the Center for Democracy and Civil Society, Volume 8, Issue 2, Summer 2011.
  - As part of the Pathways to Higher Education project with Higher Education Innovation and Research Application workshops in 9 colleges in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala were organised. Nishant Shah was the chief co-ordinator of these workshops.
  - The Researchers at Work programme published five monographs: Archives and Access, Porn: Law, Video & Technology, The Last Cultural Mile, Re:Wiring Bodies and Internet, Society and Space in Indian Cities. These were officially launched at a workshop Locating Internets held in CEPT, Ahmedabad.
  - CIS staff members, Sunil Abraham, Nishant Shah and Pranesh Prakash taught in institutions like Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai, Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad, Christ University, Bangalore, Pune University, University of Hyderabad, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, CEPT, Ahmedabad, University of California and University of Amsterdam.
  - CIS was featured about 200 times during the last one year in national and international press such as Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, Times of India, Hindustan Times, Hindu, NDTV, CNN-IBN, etc, and published op-eds in the Indian Express, Economic Times and columns in Business Standard and Deccan Herald.

## Accessibility

India has an estimated 70 million persons with disabilities who are unable to participate fully in information society as lack of compliance with accessibility standards make interfaces impossible to use and retrograde copyright and patent policies make it impossible to access knowledge. Accessibility for persons with disabilities is unavailable on most web interfaces, mobile interfaces, banking technology, telecommunication and electronic devices making life difficult for the elderly persons, illiterates, neo-literates, remote users and users of obsolete hardware. The programme seeks to address the problems faced by these sections of the society and has brought out reports such as Web Accessibility Policy Making, Making Mobile Phones and Services Accessible for Persons with Disabilities, Accessibility Policy Making: An International Perspective, e-Accessibility Policy Handbook for Persons with Disabilities, Universal Service for Persons with Disabilities: A Global Survey of Policy Interventions and Good Practices, etc.

### Key Research



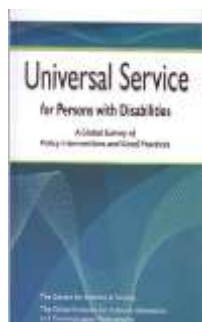
#### Web Accessibility Policy Making

G3ict and CIS published a new, improved edition of Web Accessibility Policy Making: An International Perspective. The report was published with the support of Hans Foundation. It provides an updated synopsis of the many policies that governments have implemented around the world to ensure that the Internet and websites are accessible to persons with disabilities. Axel Leblois, Executive Director of G3ict wrote the Foreword. The report describes web accessibility policy making in 14 countries and the European Union. Prashanth Ramadas, Asma Tajuddin, G Aravind, Katie Riesner, Sucharita Narasimhan, Bama Balakrishnan and Nirmita Narasimhan are the contributors.



#### e-Accessibility Policy Handbook for Persons with Disabilities (Russian Version)

United Nations Information Centre, Moscow has translated the English version of the kit to Russian. The Toolkit and its companion handbook have contributions from more than 60 experts around the world on ICT accessibility and is a most valuable addition to policy makers and regulators, advocacy and research organisations and persons with disabilities on the implementation of ICT dispositions of the CRPD. The handbook is a joint publication of ITU, G3ict and CIS, and supported by Hans Foundation.



Universal Service for Persons with Disabilities: G3ict and CIS in cooperation with the Hans Foundation published the Universal Service for Persons with Disabilities: A Global Survey of Policy Interventions and Good Practices. The book consists of a foreword by Axel Leblois, an introduction and four chapters. Deepti Bharthur, Axel Leblois and Nirmita Narasimhan have contributed to the chapters. The report aims to highlight the extreme suitability of leveraging the Universal Service Fund (USF) to implement accessibility and assistive technologies in telecommunications. The report examines the evolution of the concept of USF, its minimum mandate and scope, funding sources, as well as project implementation mechanisms and showcases countries which are using the USF to fund accessibility projects through policies and programmes.

Making Mobile Phones and Services Accessible for Persons with Disabilities: This report by ITU and G3ict was prepared by CIS. The research was conducted with a view to identifying and promoting effective mobile solutions to benefit persons with disabilities. It contains a foreword, eleven chapters, a bibliography and glossary. Deepti Bharthur, Lakshmi Haridas, Axel Leblois, Pranav Lal, Peter Looms, Nirmita Narasimhan, Roopakshi Pathania, Deva Prasad, Mukesh Sharma and Susan Schorr are the contributors.

Accessibility Policy Making (Revised Edition 2011): In 2009, G3ict published a comparative review of the web and electronic accessibility policies of 15 countries and the European Union intended to serve as a guide to policy makers on how web accessibility has been implemented in different countries. The updated white paper includes Australia's Disability Discrimination Act Advisory Notes, issued by the Australian Human Rights Commission under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 in October 2010; the Equality Act 2010 (replacing the Disability Discrimination Act), the Statutory Code of Practice (2010), BS8878:2010 Web accessibility Code of practice replacing the PAS 78 and the e-Accessibility action plan in the U.K.; and the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 in the U.S.A.

## **Journal Articles**

Technology for Accessibility in Higher Education: Nirmita Narasimhan wrote an article in Enabling Access for Persons with Disabilities to Higher Education and Workplace - Role of ICT and Assistive Technologies. The IIMB Journal was brought out on the occasion of the conference 'never-the-less'.

The Business Case for Web Accessibility: NASSCOM Foundation published "Understanding WebAccessibility — A Guide to create Accessible Work Environments". In this handbook on web accessibility, Nirmita Narasimhan authored a chapter titled "The Business Case for Web Accessibility".

Barriers to Access in a Connected World: Hans Foundation published its Annual Review of 2011. Nirmita Narasimhan wrote an article in it. She wrote that accessibility is an imperative to achieve a truly inclusive and participatory society and every individual, corporation, organization and government has a crucial role to play in nurturing it.

## **Submissions**

- Accessibility in the New Telecom Policy 2011: Responding to the call for comments on NTP 2011, 27 organisations sent a joint letter requesting that accessibility for persons with disabilities be included specifically within the goals and objectives of the policy. CIS was a signatory in this. The submission was made to the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Government of India on December 9, 2011.
- CIS also gave feedback on the ICT Policy to the Kerala State Government, the Treaty for the Blind to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, and to finalize the questionnaire for the world-wide survey on implementation of the UNCRPD in 147 countries.

## **Collaborations**

### **NMEICT**

In partnership with IIT, Kharagpur, Daisy Forum of India and Inclusive Planet, CIS initiated the conversion of higher education books into Daisy formats. CIS oversaw the conversion for Tamil and Marathi books. The total budget of the pilot project was approximately Rs. 53 lakhs, the total number of books to be converted was approximately 200, out of that 25 each was to be converted into Marathi and Tamil. The project was completed in December 2011.

### **Inclusive Planet**

CIS is a strategic partner of Inclusive Planet in promoting electronic accessibility for the disabled and leveraging ICT to create community based solutions for the print impaired. Inclusive Planet's Web based community initiative is the fastest growing community for the print impaired to share accessible content, conversations and friends. The platform has over 10,000 members across 125 countries, and 25,000 accessible format materials and this growing community has created content, work and life solutions for the print impaired.

## Event Organised



**ITU Event in Delhi**

- ITU Tutorial on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (India International Centre, New Delhi, March 14 – 15): At the invitation of CIS, in cooperation with the ITU-APT Foundation of India, ITU organised a two-day Tutorial on Audio Visual Media Accessibility from March 14 to 15, 2012 at the India International Centre, New Delhi, India. The Tutorial was preceded by the fourth meeting of the Focus Group on Audio Visual Media Accessibility (FG AVA) on March 13, 2012. The meeting took place at the same venue and was hosted by CIS in cooperation with the ITU-APT Foundation of India. Sunil Abraham was the Master of Ceremony on Day 1, March 14, 2012. Ajoy Kumar also participated in the event.



## Events Participated

- Stakeholders Meeting of the USOF on Facilitating ICT Access to Persons with Disabilities in Rural Areas (New Delhi, September 7, 2011)



**USOF Stakeholders Meeting**

The Universal Service Obligation Fund a fund set up to provide universal access to telegraph services to rural and remote areas in India organized a stakeholders meeting to launch a new scheme for supporting pilot projects for facilitating access to persons with disabilities in rural areas. Nirmita Narasimhan participated in this meeting and made a presentation.

- Daisy Forum Meeting (Bangalore, May 20 – 21, 2011): Nirmita Narasimhan participated in the meeting organised by Daisy Forum of India and the Samarthanam Trust.
- Lirne Asia, (Colombo, April 6 – 8, 2011). Sunil Abraham and Nirmita Narasimhan participated in the event organised by Lirne Asia. Nirmita Narasimhan made a presentation on accessibility, met with the regulator of Sri Lanka and wrote a blog entry about her visit.

## Award

Nirmita Narasimhan received the NIVH Excellence Award from Justice AS Anand (retired), former chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, on International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped in Dehradun on December 3, 2011. The Tribune covered the award ceremony.



**Nirmita receives the NIVH Award**

## **Interviews**

- Girls in ICT Portal: ITU interviewed Nirmita and published her profile on their website.
- An Interview with David Baines: Maureen Agena interviewed David Baines, Deputy Director, Mada (Qatar Assistive Technology Center).
- Policy Spotlight: 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act: Jenifer Simpson, Senior Director for Government Affairs and head of the Telecommunications & Technology Policy Initiative at the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) elaborates more on the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act in this interview.

## **Blog Entries**

- The Case for Accessible Banking by Dinesh Kaushal.
- Indian Government Websites Not Accessible Enough for the Disabled by Srinivasu Chakravarthula.
- ICT Accessibility in Sri Lanka by Nirmita Narasimhan.
- An Analysis of the Comments by World Blind Union and the International Publishers Association by Rahul Cherian.



**Mada Assistive Technology Center at Qatar**

## Access to Knowledge

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and questions of ownership and control of information have become crucial with the emergence of digital technologies and the unprecedented growth of the Internet and other related technologies. Inequitable distribution of IPR, royalty outflows, beneficiaries of intellectual property regimes, the lack of balance in IPR regimes at the local, national and international levels between consumer rights and IPR-owners'/corporation's rights, and the overall harm to creativity, freedom of speech and innovation caused by excessive regimes of copyright, patents, trademarks, and the like have thrown up a number of issues. The programme seeks to address these issues and has brought out a report titled Consumers International IP Watchlist 2011, made submissions such as Analysis of WIPO Treaty for the Print Disabled and the WIPO Broadcast Treaty, and published an article on copyright in Manupatra titled Exhaustion: Imports, Exports and the Doctrine of First Sale in Indian Copyright Law.

## Key Research

Consumers International IP Watchlist 2011 — India Report: Pranesh Prakash prepared the India Report for the Consumers International IP Watchlist 2011. It was published on the A2K Network website. According to the report India's Copyright Act is a relatively balanced instrument that recognises the interests of consumers through its broad private use exception, and by facilitating the compulsory licensing of works that would otherwise be unavailable. The report was recognized as the best developing country report by Consumers International.

## Op-ed / Columns

- Patented Games (Sunil Abraham, Economic Times, March 8, 2012)
- Photocopying the past (Sunil Abraham, Indian Express, September 2, 2011).
- Govt for Legalising Parallel Import of Copyright Works; Publishers Oppose (Shamnad Basheer, Economic Times, March 17, 2011).

## Blog Entries

- Calling Out the BSA on Its BS by Pranesh Prakash.
- Copyright Amendment Bill in Parliament by Nirmita Narasimhan.
- Analysis of Copyright Expansion in the India-EU FTA (July 2010) by Snehashish Ghosh.
- CIS Hosts Scanned Version of George Orwell's Books vs. Cigarettes

## WIPO Forums

CIS is an accredited NGO at WIPO and has given policy briefs to delegations from various countries. CIS participated at the WIPO last year in a number of ways:



**CIS Seat in the main room at WIPO**

- Analysis of WIPO Treaty for the Print Disabled: CIS and the Third World Network conducted an analysis of the "Consensus document on an international instrument on limitations and exceptions for persons with print disabilities presented by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, and the United States of America. The analysis was distributed to delegates from 20 different countries.
- WIPO Broadcast Treaty at SCCR: Two different sessions of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights were held in Geneva. The 22<sup>nd</sup> session was held from June 15 to June 24, 2011 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> session from November 22, to December 2, 2011. Pranesh Prakash participated in both the events and CIS delivered its statement, and made it available in print form as well. At the 23<sup>rd</sup> session, Pranesh Prakash delivered the statement on a new proposal made by South Africa and Mexico (SCCR/23/6) on a treaty for broadcasters.
- Intervention on Future Work of the WIPO Advisory Committee on Enforcement: The seventh session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) was held in Geneva on November 30 and December 1, 2011. Pranesh Prakash intervened during the discussion of future work of the ACE with his comments.

- Comment at ACE on the French Charter on the Fight against Cyber-Counterfeiting: The seventh session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Advisory Committee on Enforcement was held on November 30 and December 1, 2011. Pranesh Prakash responded to a presentation by Prof. Pierre Sirinelli of the École de droit de la Sorbonne, Université Paris 1 on 'The French Charter on the Fight against Cyber-Counterfeiting of December 16, 2009' with a comment.

## Events Organised

- Gandhi, Freedom and the Dilemmas of Copyright: (CIS, Bangalore, January 30, 2012). Prof. Shyamkrishna Balganesha from the University of Pennsylvania gave a lecture on Gandhi, Freedom, and the Dilemmas of Copyright.
- Partners in Crime: (Srimiti Nandan Cultural Centre, Palace Road, Bangalore, September 9, 2011). A film titled Partners in Crime by Paromita Vohra was screened. Vikalp@Smriti Nandan was a co-organiser for the event.

## Events Participated

- Consumers International Global Meeting (Kuala Lumpur, March 7 – 10, 2012). Pranesh Prakash participated in the global meeting organised by Consumers International and spoke on UN Consumer Guidelines. Robin Brown, Tobias Schönwetter and Guilherme Varella were the other speakers in the session.
- Expert Meeting on Freedom of Expression and Intellectual Property Rights: (Free Word Centre, Farringdon Road, London, November 18, 2011). The meeting was organized by ARTICLE 19. Nineteen international scholars, experts and human rights activists met to explore the antagonistic relationship between Intellectual Property (IP) and the rights to freedom of expression and information. Pranesh Prakash was one of the participants.
- Publishing Next, 2011 : ( Housing Board Colony, Margao, Goa, September 16 – 17, 2011). Pranesh Prakash spoke in the panel on Copyright Issues in Publishing. The event was organised by Cinnamon Teal Publishing.
- Global Congress on Intellectual Property and the Public Interest: (American University, Washington College of Law, Washington DC, August 25 – 27, 2011). Sunil Abraham and Pranesh Prakash participated in the event and spoke in the session on Enforcement & the Internet. The event was co-organized by American University Washington College of Law's Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property, Fundação Getulio Vargas's Center for Technology and Society (Brazil), the American Assembly at Columbia University and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (Geneva).
- Rethinking Intellectual Property and Development after 15 years of TRIPS (Conference Hall, IIFT Bhawan, IIFT, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi, April 28 – 29, 2011). Pranesh Prakash was a speaker in the session on Access to

Knowledge, Education and Learning. The event was organised by Centre for WTO Studies.

- Consumers International World Congress - Day 3 roundup (Kuala Lumpur, May 5 2011): Sunil Abraham was a speaker and made a presentation which focused on privacy, access and activism in the digital world. His interview was published in the Consumers International Blog. The event was organised by Consumers International.
- Global IP Convention, 2011 (Lalit Ashok Hotel, Bangalore April 28 – 30, 2011): Sunil Abraham was a speaker in the session on Technology Transfer, Licensing and Commercialization.

## News & Media Coverage

- Twists and turns of the SOPA opera (Hindu, January 15, 2012).
- Copyrights Amendment Bill to Be Tabled in Indian Parliament – Parallel Import provisions have Been Removed (infojustice.org, September 5, 2011).
- 2(m) or not 2(m) (Business Standard, February 19, 2011).



**Participants at the Consumers International World Congress**

## Openness

The advent of the Internet has radically defined what it means to be open and collaborative. Even the Internet is built upon open standards and free/libre/open source software. The broad rubric of the 'Openness' programme focuses to provide evidence based research that will help inform policy and practice of the local, national, regional, bilateral and international policies and practices around Open Government Data, Open Access to Scholarly Literature, Open Access to Law, Open Content, Open Video, Open Standards and Free/Libre/Open Source Software. The programme has resulted in reports such as [Open Government Data Study](#), [Online Video Environment in India](#), a reader on the Wikipedia titled [Critical Point of View: A Wikipedia Reader](#) and a film titled [People are Knowledge – Experimenting with Oral Citations on Wikipedia](#).

## Key Research

### Open Data



Open Government Data Study: The Transparency and Accountability Initiative (TAI) made a grant of Rs. 8,96,000 to produce a study on Open Government Data in India. A report was written by Glover Wright, Pranesh Prakash, Sunil Abraham and Nishant Shah. Pranesh Prakash and Glover Wright, an intern from Columbia University did the primary research. This report looks at some of the landscape relevant to open government data in India, starting from the current environment in government, the state of civil society, the media, the policies that affect it from the Right to Information Act, standards-related policies, e-governance policies and the copyright policy along

with a few case studies from government, civil society organisations and public-private partnerships, and profiles some civic hackers. The report was featured in the Transparency and Accountability Initiative website in May 2011.

Open Government Data in India (v2): The first draft of the second version of the Open Government Data Report by Nisha Thompson was sent for peer review. The updated version includes additional case studies as well as a potential policy (National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy) that would create a central government data portal. There are additional government case studies regarding e-governance and how they are changing the way data is collected and distributed. The report also looks at the issues around open data at the city and panchayat level and profiles new projects that are working to fill that void. It also includes a deeper account of the global perspective on open government data and how India's experience with open data will be different from what the west is doing.

Opening Government: The Transparency & Accountability Initiative published a book titled "Opening Government: A Guide to Best Practice in Transparency, Accountability and Civic Engagement across the Public Sector". The report is an account of the state of the art in transparency, accountability and citizen participation across 15 areas of governance, ranging from broad categories such as access to information, service delivery and budgeting to more specific sectors such as forestry, procurement and climate finance. CIS contributed a chapter on Open Government Data.

#### Events Organised

- Workshop on Biodiversity Informatics (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Bangalore, November 25, 2011): Sunil Abraham was a speaker in the session on Open Data in the Scientific Realm. He spoke on various national and international initiatives on open data in the scientific realm and the various international initiatives on scientific data sharing.
- Geekup on Open Data in Bangalore (Centre for Internet & Society, Bangalore, January 25, 2012): Hapee de Groot from Netherlands gave a lecture. The lecture was organised by HasGeek.

#### Event Participated

- 3rd Canadian Science Policy Conference (Ottawa Convention Centre, Canada, November 16 – 18, 2011): Sunil Abraham spoke in the session on Global Implications of Open and Inclusive Innovation.

#### **Open Access**

Open Access to Scholarly Literature in India: A first draft of the report on open access to scholarly literature, with a special focus on scientific literature by Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam and Madhan Muthu was circulated for peer review. The report surveys the field of scholarly and scientific publication in India and provides a detailed history of the open access movement in India.

It notes that Indian science has "low but increasing research productivity helped by increasing investments on R&D, and low but moderately improving visibility", and that the best way to boost visibility and impact of Indian science are by pursuing a nation-wide open access policy.

Thus, it recommends that all publicly funded research in India should be made open access and provides suggestions on how this could best be achieved. It points out the need to go beyond open access mandates, to practical aspects like training of repository maintainers and of researchers for self-archiving. In addition, it points out the need for more effective advocacy and for a judicious mixture of both top-down and bottom-up approaches for bringing about the realization of the benefits of open access.



## Event Organised



**Dr. Francis Jayakanth receives the award from Prof. MS Swaminathan**

- Francis Bags EPT Award for Open Access in Developing World: Dr. Francis Jayakanth from the National Centre of Science Information, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore was selected for the inaugural EPT Award for Open Access in the Developing World. The award function organised by the Electronic Publishing Trust for Development and the Centre for Internet and Society was held at the Sambasivan Auditorium, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Chennai on February 14, 2012. Leading luminaries such as Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam, Prof. G Baskaran and Prof. K Mangala Sunder participated in the award felicitation ceremony.

## Events Participated

- Open Access to Academic Knowledge (National Centre for Science Information, Bangalore, November 2, 2011): Tom Dane participated in the workshop on open access.
- Open Access Week at National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) (KTMD Seminar Hall in NAL, Bangalore, October 24, 2011): The fifth anniversary of the Open Access week was celebrated from October 24 to 30, 2011 all over the world. In India, Prof. Balaram gave a lecture on Science Publishing: Issues of Access and Dr. L Venkatakrishnan spoke on Open Access: Promised Utopia or Eventual Reality? Tom Dane participated in the event.

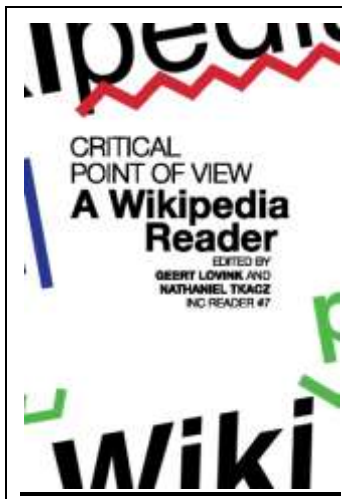
## Interviews

- An Interview with Francis Jayakanth: Dr. Francis Jayakanth, recipient of the inaugural EPT Award for Open Access in the Developing World was interviewed by Prasad Krishna on behalf of CIS.
- Q&A on open access with Subbiah Arunachalam of the Centre for Internet and Society (Bangalore) (published by Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University): Amrit Dhir of Harvard Law School interviewed Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam.
- An Interview with Professor Arunachalam: Tom Dane interviewed Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam on the current state of open access, what the Indian open access experience might teach the rest of the world and his view on the future of the Open Access movement.

## Open Access to Law

Free Access to Law Is it Here to Stay? Good Practices Handbook: CIS partnered with the South African Legal Information Institute and LexUM, Montreal to examine the sustainability of open access to legal publishing online through a comparative focus on initiatives throughout Asia, Africa, Canada and Australia. The project was funded by the Open Society Institute and the International Development Research Centre. CIS oversaw the case studies from India, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Philippines. The outputs of the project have been a research methodology guide, an environmental scan report, a collection of case studies and the Good Practices handbook. Gathered from the experiences of the eleven countries across Africa and Asia the research provides a brief summary of the nine “Good Practices” that emerging FAL initiatives can consider.

## Critical Point of View



Critical Point of View: A Wikipedia Reader: As part of the CPOV project with the Institute of Network Cultures, we published a Wikipedia reader titled Critical Point of View. The Reader is edited by Geert Lovink and Nathaniel Tkacz. The essays, interviews and artworks brought together in this reader form part of the overarching Critical Point of View research initiative, which began with a conference in Bangalore (January 2010), followed by events in Amsterdam (March 2010) and Leipzig (September 2010). The Reader collects original insights on the next generation of wiki-related research, from radical artistic interventions and the significant role of bots to hidden trajectories of encyclopaedic knowledge and the politics of agency and exclusion.

## **Wikipedia**

People are Knowledge – Experimenting with Oral Citations on Wikipedia: In association with the Wikimedia Foundation, CIS produced a documentary film “People are Knowledge”. The film evolved out of a project on Oral Citations in India and South Africa funded by the Wikimedia Foundation, and undertaken by Wikimedia Foundation Advisory Board Member Achal Prabhala as a short-term fellowship, to help overcome a lack of published materials in emerging languages on Wikipedia. New Delhi-based filmmaker Priya Sen directed the film, with additional assistance from Zen Marie who handled the shooting in South Africa. The film explores how alternate methods of citation could be employed on Wikipedia, documenting a series of specific situations with regards to published knowledge, and subsequently, with oral citations. The film has been viewed 3828 times on Vimeo.

Monthly Wikipedia Meetup: CIS has been hosting the Wikipedia meet-up (a monthly get-together of wikipedians including contributors and users) at its office in Bangalore. There would be a few focused talks by Wikipedians to share experience / expertise followed by demos and open discussions on topics of common interest. Twelve meetings were held from April 2011 to March 2012: April 10, 2011, May 8, 2011, June 12, 2011, July 10, 2011, August 14, 2011, September 11, 2011, October 23, 2011, November 13, 2011, December 11, 2011, January 15, 2012, February 12, 2012, and March 11, 2012.

## **Free & Open Source Software**

### Events Organised

- Free Arduino Workshop (For Beginners) (Centre for Internet & Society, Bangalore, March 3, 2012): The Arduino workshop was organised in CIS office.
- The Impact of Regulation: FOSS and Enterprise (IGF, Nairobi, September 28, 2011): Sunil Abraham participated in the workshop.

## **Submissions**

- Comments on Technical Standards for Interoperability Framework for E-Governance in India (Phase II): The e-Governance Standards Division called for public comments on the draft of the Technical Standards IFEG Phase II. CIS submitted its comments on sections 5.2.8, 5.2.13, 5.2.15, and 5.2.23.
- Comments on the draft National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (Submitted to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, Ministry of Science and Technology). A draft of the 'National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy', which some hope will be the open data policy of India, was made available for public comments in early May.
- Comments on Draft National Policy on ICT in School Education (Submitted to the Ministry of Human Resources Development). The Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Human Resources Development

invited comments on its latest draft of the National Policy on ICT in School Education.

## News & Media Coverage

- Will open access replace costly commercial publishing models? (Hindu, February 19, 2012).
- Research papers will be available in public domain (Hindu, February 15, 2012).
- Inaugural EPT Award for Open Access: The Electronic Publishing Trust for Development announced the winners of a new annual award to be made to individuals working in developing countries who have made a significant personal contribution to advancing the cause of open access (OA) and the free exchange of research findings.
- Portal augurs well for transparency (The Hindu, July 25, 2011)
- Growing Wikipedia: The India Chronicles (Tory Read, a professional researcher, writer and journalist was commissioned by the Wikimedia Foundation to create a vivid description of its work in India).



Wikipedia Meetup at CIS Office

## Internet Governance

Governments and private corporations are engaging in human rights violations online. Many different rights are impacted by internet governance policy changes. The growing phenomenon of illegal electronic surveillance by state and non-state actors and censorship of speech online are some specific problems that the Internet Governance programme seeks to address by providing evidence based research that will help inform policy and practice of the local, national, regional, bilateral and international privacy regime in the interests of the public in sectors key to information societies with a particular focus on information technology, privacy and freedom of expression. The programme has resulted in outputs such as Banking, Telecommunications, Consumer Protection, IT Act, Limitations, Copyright, Internet Protocol, Media, Sexual Minorities, UID and policy submissions such as, NIA Bill, IT Act, National Policy on Electronics, Cyber Café Rules, Security Practices Rules, and Intermediary Due Diligence Rules.

## Privacy

### Key Research

Privacy in India — An Early Draft: Privacy India in partnership with Privacy International, UK, CIS and Society in Action Group, Gurgaon, has brought out the draft chapters of its book on privacy in India. These include the Country Report, Telecommunication and Internet Privacy, E-Governance Identity and Privacy, Finance and Privacy, Health and Privacy, and Transparency and Privacy. The chapters are an early draft which is in the process of being reviewed and updated.

Privacy & Sexual Minorities (by Danish Sheikh): The paper examines the status of sexual minorities in the light of privacy framework in India. Culling out some real life examples based on various studies, media reports and judgments from the Supreme Court and the High Courts of Delhi and Allahabad, the research brings to light the privacy violations being committed by both individuals as well as state authorities.

Privacy & Media Law (by Sonal Makhija): Makhija, a Bangalore-based lawyer, tries to delineate the emerging privacy concerns in India and the existing media norms and guidelines on the right to privacy. The research examines the existing media norms (governed by Press Council of India, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Code of Ethics drafted by the News Broadcasting Standard Authority), the constitutional protection guaranteed to an individual's right to privacy upheld by the courts, and the reasons the State employs to justify the invasion of privacy.

Seventh Open Letter to the Finance Committee: A Note on the Deduplication of Unique Identifiers (by Hans Varghese Matthews): Sahana Sarkar on behalf of the Centre for Internet & Society had sent in a Right to Information application on June 30, 2011 to Ashish Kumar, Central Public Information Officer, UIDAI. The UIDAI sent in its reply.

Through the seventh open letter, Hans attempts to characterize in an abstract way the replies that CIS managed to elicit and makes some elementary observations.

### **Research Outputs by Prashant Iyengar**

Prashant Iyengar worked as a Lead Researcher in Privacy India, and authored the following chapters:

- IP Addresses and Expeditious Disclosure of Identity in India: Iyengar reviews the statutory mechanism regulating the retention and disclosure of IP addresses by Internet companies in India and provides a compilation of anecdotes on how law enforcement authorities in India have used IP address information to trace individuals responsible for particular crimes.
- Copyright Enforcement and Privacy in India: Copyright can function contradictorily, as both the vehicle for the preservation of privacy as well as its abuse, writes Iyengar. The research examines the various ways in which privacy has been implicated in the shifting terrain of copyright enforcement in India and concludes by examining the notion of the private that emerges from a tapestry view of the relevant sections of Copyright Act.
- Limits to Privacy: The paper examines the limits to privacy for individuals in light of the provisions of the Constitution of India, public interest, security of state and maintenance of law and order. The article attempts to build a catalogue of all these justifications and arrive at a classification of all such frequently used terms invoked in statutes and upheld by courts to deprive persons of their privacy.
- Privacy and the Information Technology Act — Do we have the Safeguards for Electronic Privacy?: How do the provisions of the Information Technology Act measure up to the challenges of privacy infringement? Does it provide an adequate and useful safeguard for our electronic privacy? Prashant Iyengar gives a comprehensive analysis on whether and how the Act fulfils the challenges and needs through a series of FAQs while drawing upon real life examples.

### **Comments**

- Right to Privacy Bill 2010: CIS has given specific recommendations and comments on the Right to Privacy Bill, 2010, which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha by Rajeev Chandrashekar.

### **Events Organised**

- Climate Change and Controversy Mapping (Devechia Centre for Climate Change, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, March 19 – 21, 2012): The event was organised by CIS in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science. Professor Bruno Latour, Dean for Research at Sciences Po, Paris gave lecture at this three-day workshop.
- Cartonama Workshop (CIS, Bangalore, March 2 – 3, 2012): The workshop was organised by Has Geek in partnership with CIS. The workshop provided an intensive, hands-on training for managing and building location based services. Schuyler Erle and Mikel Maron spoke at the event.

- GeekUp with Erica Hagen (CIS, Bangalore, March 1, 2012): Has Geek organized this GeekUp along with CIS. Erica Hagen of the GroundTruth Initiative gave a lecture on the theme: "From Information to Empowerment: Unpacking the Equation".

### **Privacy Matters**

On March 24, 2010, CIS entered into an agreement with Privacy International, United Kingdom and Society in Action Group, Gurgaon for a two-year research and advocacy project on Privacy in Asia. Prashant Iyengar and Elonnai Hickok were the main researchers working on this project. Themed workshops on privacy across the country were organised in Kolkata, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Guwahati, including the High Level Privacy Conclave and the All India Privacy Symposium in Delhi. CIS also engaged with government officials on the issue of privacy by regularly sending feedback and comments on government measures that have an impact on privacy, including the rules framed under the Information Technology Act, and its comments have been solicited on the drafting of a comprehensive privacy bill for India:



- All India Privacy Symposium: (India International Centre, New Delhi, February 4, 2012): Experts gathered in Delhi for a public symposium on privacy, transparency, e-governance and national security in India. The event was organized by Privacy India in partnership with the International Development Research Centre, Canada, Privacy International, UK, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and Society in Action Group, Gurgaon. The webcast of the event is online. Sunil Abraham was a Symposium Advisor and moderated in the panel on Privacy and Transparency. Elonnai Hickok gave the welcome address and spoke in the session, "The Way Forward". Prashant Iyengar was the moderator for the panel on Privacy and Banking. Malavika Jayaram spoke in this panel. Natasha Vaz participated in the event and prepared a report.
- The High Level Privacy Conclave (Paharpur Business Centre, Nehru Place Greens, New Delhi, February 3, 2012): India is in dire need of privacy law; experts say government is ironically creating huge national security risks in attempts to prevent crime and terrorism. The event was

organized by Privacy India in partnership with the International Development Research Centre, Canada, Privacy International, UK and Society in Action Group, Gurgaon. Sunil Abraham was a Conclave Advisor and the moderator for the session on Internet and Privacy, Malavika Jayaram moderated in the panel on National Security and Privacy, and Elonnai Hickok spoke in the session "The Way Forward". Natasha Vaz participated in the event and prepared a report.



- Privacy Matters — Analyzing the Right to "Privacy Bill" (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, January 21, 2012): A public conference "Privacy Matters" was held at the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai. It was the sixth conference organised in the series of regional consultations held as "Privacy Matters". The conference analyzed the Draft Privacy Bill and the participants discussed the challenges and concerns of privacy in India. The event was organized by Privacy India in partnership with International Development Research Centre, Canada, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, the Godrej Culture Lab, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and CIS, Bangalore. Na. Vijayashankar (popularly known as Naavi) delivered the key note address on the quest of a good privacy law in India. Dr. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, N S Nappinai, Apar Gupta, Danish Sheikh, Menaka Guruswamy, and R. Ramakumar were the other speakers. Natasha Vaz participated in the event and prepared a report.



- Privacy Matters, Chennai (Madras Institute of Development Studies,



August 6, 2011): The event was attended by consumer activists, grass root NGO representatives, students, local press, and advocates. Prashant Iyengar gave an introduction to the objectives of Privacy India, and briefed the gathering about the thematic “Privacy Matters” consultations previously held across the country in Kolkata, Bangalore, Guwahati, and Ahmedabad. The event was organised by Privacy India, Society in Action Group, IDRC, the Centre for Internet & Society, Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group, and Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. Natasha Vaz participated in the event.

- Privacy Matters, Guwahati (Don Bosco Institute, Karhulli, Guwahati, June 23, 2011): It was organised by IDRC, Society in Action Group, IDEA Chirang, an NGO initiative working with grassroots initiatives in Assam, Privacy India and CIS and was attended by RTI activists and grass roots NGO representatives from across the North Eastern region: Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Assam and Sikkim. The event focused on the challenges and concerns of privacy in India.
- Geekup @ CIS (CIS, Bangalore, December 27, 2011): Shyam Mani gave a talk.
- Whose Data is it Anyway? (CIS, Bangalore, January 24, 2012): The event was organised by Tactical Tech and CIS. Siddharth Hande and Hapee de Groot gave public lecture.
- Dialogue Cafe @ Centre for Internet and Society (CIS, Bangalore, December 2, 2011): Kavita Philips gave a lecture.



Exposing Data Event at CIS Office

- Exposing Data: Art Slash Activism (CIS, Bangalore, November 28, 2011): The public discussion was organised by Tactical Tech and CIS. Ward Smith, Stephanie Hankey, Marek Tuszinsky, Ayisha Abraham and Zainab Bawa spoke in this event.
- Droidcon India, first Android Conference in Bangalore (MLR Convention Centre, Bangalore, November 18 – 19, 2011): The event was organised by Droidcon.com, Bangalore Android User Group, MobileMonday Bangalore, Medianama, Android Advices and CIS.
- The 2nd IJLT-CIS Lecture Series (National Law School of India University, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore, May 21 and 22, 2011): The event was organised by the Indian Journal of Law and Technology and the Centre for Internet & Society. The main theme for this year was Emerging Issues in Privacy Law: Law, Policy and Practice.
- Hack Night in CIS — A Meeting of Java Script Hackers (CIS, Bangalore, September 24, 2011): CIS co-organized a hack night in conjunction with the tech-event organizers, HasGeek, at its office. The event brought together local java script hackers on a common platform. Tom Dane and Kiran Jonnalagadda participated in the event.
- Prime Security: The Mathematics of RSA Encryption (CIS, Bangalore, September 9, 2011): Rohit Gupta gave a public lecture.
- The Mirror in the Enigma: How Germany lost World War II to a Mathematical Theorem (CIS, Bangalore, August 12, 2011): Rohit Gupta gave a short lecture.
- Socio-financial Online Networks: Globalizing Micro-Credit through Micro-transactional Networked Platforms (CIS, Bangalore, July 8, 2011): Prof. Radhika Gajjala gave a lecture.
- Internet Surveillance Policy: "...the second time as farce?" (TERI, Bangalore, June 27, 2011): Caspar Bowden gave a public lecture.
- Panel Discussion on UID – Its Feasibility, Utility and Legality (TERI, Bangalore, May 26, 2011): A panel discussion on "UID, its feasibility, utility and legality" was organised by Citizen's Action Forum, Grahak Shakti and CIS.
- Privacy By Design (CIS, Bangalore, April 16, 2011): CIS hosted Privacy by Design, an Open Space meant to foster discussions around questions related to how privacy is being designed into technological systems. The workshop examined questions like: How do we imagine privacy? How is privacy being built into technological systems?
- FUEL Kannada - Workshop on Kannada Computing Terminology (CIS, January 28 – 29, 2012): CIS hosted this workshop organised by Sanchaya.net and sponsored by Red Hat.

### **Events Participated**

- UID: Questions without Answers – A Talk by Usha Ramanathan (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, September 6, 2011): Usha Ramanathan gave a public lecture. She was speaking in her personal capacity and the opinions reflected at the event are necessarily not those of CIS. The event was organised by Concern,

an IISc Student group. Natasha Vaz participated in the event and prepared a report.

- Gary Chapman International School on Digital Transformation (Porto, Portugal, July 17 – 22, 2011): Sunil Abraham participated in the event and made a presentation titled UID: The World's Largest Biometric Database. It was covered by the International School on Digital Transformation.
- Current and future priority research areas in India (Bangalore, July 15, 2011): The event was organised by Swissnex India together with its Indian knowledge partner on multi-disciplinary research, Center for Study of Science Technology and Policy. Sunil Abraham was a speaker in the session on Clean Technologies.
- Meeting of Expert Committee on Public Libraries (Vidhana, Soudha, Bangalore, June 10, 2011). The meeting was organised by Karnataka Knowledge Commission. Sunil Abraham participated in the event.
- Ninth Workshop on Media Economics (Marriott Courtyard, Moscow, October 28 – 29, 2011): Sunil Abraham participated in the event as a speaker in the session on Global New Media Policy.
- Constitution of Group of Experts to Deliberate on Privacy Issues: Pranesh Prakash is part of a Small Group of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice A.P. Shah, Former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court, to identify the privacy issues and prepare a paper to facilitate authoring the Privacy Bill.
- International Conference on Mobile Law (ASSOCHAM House, New Delhi, March 1, 2012): Pranesh Prakash spoke in the panel on Mobiles - Privacy and Social Media. The event was organised by Cyberlaw Asia, Mobilelaw.Net and Pavan Duggal Associates.
- Future of Integrated Science Education in Higher Education in India (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, January 2 – 3, 2012). The event was organised by the Higher Education Innovation and Research Application (HEIRA) at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS) and the Centre for Contemporary Studies (CCS). Nishant Shah participated in the workshop.

### **Columns/Op-eds**

- Why your Facebook Stalker is Not the Real Problem (Nishant Shah, FirstPost, March 20, 2012).
- Personal Data, Public Profile (Nishant Shah, The Financial Express, February 13, 2012).
- Do we need the Aadhar scheme? (Sunil Abraham, Business Standard, February 1, 2012).
- Keeping it Private (Nishant Shah, Indian Express, January 15, 2012).
- Click to Change (Nishant Shah, Indian Express, January 1, 2012).
- Sense and Censorship (Sunil Abraham, Indian Express, January 20, 2012).
- Of Surrogate Futures and Scattered Temporalities (Nishant Shah, The Broker, December 28, 2011).
- The Historian Wins Over the Biographer (Nishant Shah, Biblio Vol. XV Nos. 11 & 12, November- December 2011).

- [What is Dilligaf?](#) (Nishant Shah, GQ India, September 4, 2011).
- [Privacy and Security Can Co-exist](#) (Sunil Abraham, Mail Today, June 21, 2011).
- [Snooping can Lead to Data Abuse](#) (Sunil Abraham, Mail Today, June 9, 2011).
- [The Digital is Political](#) (Nishant Shah, Down to Earth, June 15, 2011).
- [Say 'Password' in Hindi](#) (Nishant Shah, Indian Express, June 5, 2011).
- [A Street View of Private and the Public](#) (Prashant Iyengar, Tehelka, June 4, 2011).
- [Power to the People](#) (Nishant Shah, Indian Express, May 15, 2011).

### **News & Media Coverage**

- [Gone in a flash](#) (Times of India, April 16, 2011)
- [Beyond Clicktivism](#) (Outlook, April 18, 2011)
- [Dark waders](#) (Time Out Bengaluru, Vol. 3, Issue 20, April 15 - 28, 2011)
- [Iraqi delegation in Bangalore to study e-governance projects](#) (Economic Times, April 20, 2011)
- [India Proposes Restrictions on Tapping Telephone Calls](#) (PC, World, April 16, 2011; TechWorld, April 26, 2011; CIO, April 26, 2011)
- [The world is your oyster, by invitation only](#) (LiveMint, April 26, 2011)
- [Iraqi Minister meets Secretary, Indian Ministry of Panchayat Raj](#) (Karnataka News Network, April 27, 2011)\
- [India Can Restrict 'Objectionable' Web Content under New Rules](#) (TMCnet Legal, April 27, 2011)
- [Thousands queue for iPad 2 across Asia](#) (AFP, April 28, 2011)
- [India's cyber cafes going porn-free](#) (msnbc.com, April 28, 2011)
- [Sony site flaw puts focus on Internet security](#) (Mail Today, May 20, 2011)
- [As Simple as a Tweet](#) (Deccan Chronicle, May 24, 2011)
- [Take charge of Facebook](#) (LiveMint, May 24, 2011)
- [Sunil Abraham, CIS : "Avec l'e-G8, Nicolas Sarkozy veut promouvoir de nouvelles restrictions à la liberté d'expression"](#) (LeMagIT, May 24, 2011)
- [NGOs say eG8 report must stress internet rights](#) (TELECOMPAPER, May 26, 2011)
- [Google Unveils Controversial Street View Mapping in B'lore](#) (Economic Times, May 27, 2011)
- [Women in love with Facebook](#) (Deccan Herald, May 27, 2011)
- [Google now stalks your street](#) (The Hindu, May 27, 2011)
- [Mobile education comes to villages](#) (Mail Today, May 27, 2011)
- [Public data on the Web leaves much to be desired](#) (May 28, 2011)
- [Transparent Government, via Webcams in India](#) (New York Times, July 17, 2011). Also featured in [Wprost](#) (Polish), [ictnews](#) (Vietnamese) and [in@rret sur images](#) (French)
- [NYT lauds Oommen Chandy's 24/7 office webcast](#) (Deccan Chronicle, July 19, 2011)
- [Facebook, my boyfriend is lousy](#) (Bangalore Mirror, July 24, 2011)

- [IISc students boycott UID, don't want Big Brother to keep watch](#) (Bangalore Mirror, August 23, 2011)
- [Net Gain](#) (Telegraph, August 24, 2011)
- [When revolutions go viral](#) (Times of India, August 27, 2011)
- [Digital divide: Why Irom Sharmila can't do an Anna](#) (FirstPost, August 25, 2011)
- [India's social media "spring" masks forgotten protests](#) (Reuters, August 25, 2011)
- [India's vanishing fingerprints put UID in question](#) (FirstPost, October 24, 2011)
- [Twitter, Facebook take the lead in blogosphere as blog searches fall by half](#) (Economic Times, November 17, 2011)
- [Is Facebook tracking your virtual footprints?](#) (MidDay, November 22, 2011)
- [Move over Kolaveri di, here comes Gowda](#) (dailybhaskar.com, November 28, 2011)
- [On the net, red herring](#) (Times of India, December 4, 2011)
- [Why this 'kolaveri di' is India's coming of age](#) (Hindu, December 4, 2011)
- [Phishing Attacks on the Rise](#) (News 9, December 2, 2011)
- [Los internautas indios se oponen a la censura a través de la Red](#) (Diario de Navarra, December 7, 2011)
- [Much at stake for tech sector in UID project](#) (Economic Times, December 12, 2011)
- [When the digital spills into the physical](#) (MidDay, December 18, 2011)
- [2011: The year India began to harness social media](#) ( Sunday Guardian, January 1, 2012)
- [Trail of the Trolls](#) (Telegraph, January 4, 2012)
- [Facebook, Google face censorship in India](#) (SmartPlanet, January 5, 2012)
- [Revealed: Bangalore's Basic Instincts](#) (Bangalore Mirror, January 8, 2012)
- [NGO questions people's privacy in UID scheme](#) (January 11, 2012)
- [Activists cry foul against Aadhaar](#) (Telegraph, January 12, 2012)
- [Google to change privacy policy to use personal info of users](#) (Punjab Newslines, January 27, 2012)
- [Google move is not good for netizens, say experts](#)
- [Tweeple say it pithily with hash tags](#) (Hindu, February 11, 2012)
- [New Bill to decide on individual's right to privacy](#) (Tehelka, February 6, 2012)
- [Common man as crusader](#) (Hindustan Times, February 4, 2012)
- [India needs an independent privacy law, says NGO Privacy India](#) (Economic Times, February 2, 2012)
- [Developing location-based services](#) (Hindu, February 26, 2012)
- [Grooming the geek](#) (LiveMint, February 24, 2012)
- [Developing location-based services](#) (Hindu, February 26, 2012)
- [India debates limits to freedom of expression](#) (Washington Post, February 13, 2012)
- [Digitisation is making e-learning simple](#) (Deccan Herald, February 13, 2012)
- [India's Big Bet on Identity](#) (IEEE Spectrum, March 2012 issue)
- [Click, Play, Watch](#) (MidDay, March 18, 2012)

- [Is your facebook page your mini resume?](#) (IBN Live, March 26, 2012)
- [Data protection experts slam state for sending mass SMSes](#) (March 25, 2012)

### **Peer Reviewed Articles**

- [Material Cyborgs: Asserted Boundaries](#) (Nishant Shah, European Journal of English Studies, Volume 12, Issue 2, 2008): In this peer reviewed article, Nishant Shah explores the possibility of formulating the cyborg as an author or translator who is able to navigate between the different binaries of 'meat-machine', 'digital-physical', and 'body-self', using the abilities and the capabilities learnt in one system in an efficient and effective understanding of the other.
- [Internet and Society in Asia: Challenges and Next Steps](#) (Nishant Shah, Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, Volume 11, Number 1, March 2010): The ubiquitous presence of internet technologies, in our age of digital revolution, has demanded the attention of various disciplines of study and movements for change around the globe. As more of our environment gets connected to the circuits of the World Wide Web, we witness a significant transformation in the way we understand the politics, mechanics and aesthetics of the world we live in.
- [Now Streaming on Your Nearest Screen](#) (Nishant Shah, Journal of Chinese Cinemas, Volume 3, Issue 1, June 2009): Digital cinema, especially the kinds produced using mobile devices and travelling on Internet social networking systems like YouTube and MySpace, are often dismissed as apolitical and 'merely' a fad. Moreover, content in the non-English language, due to incomprehensibility or lack of understanding of the cultural context of the production, is labelled as frivolous, or inconsequential.

### **Blog Entries**

- [SCOSTA and UID Comparison not Valid, says Finance Committee](#) by Elonnai Hickok.
- [Whole Body Imaging and Privacy Concerns that Follow](#) by Shristi Goyal.
- [Cybercrime & Privacy](#) by Merlin Oommen.
- [Financial Inclusion and the UID](#) by Elonnai Hickok.
- [CCTV in Universities](#) by Elonnai Hickok.
- [Re-thinking Key Escrow](#) by Natasha Vaz.
- [UID: Nothing to Hide, Nothing to Fear?](#) by Shilpa Narani.
- [An Overview of DNA Labs in India](#) by Shilpa Narani.
- [Consumer Privacy in e-Commerce](#) by Sahana Sarkar.
- [Video Surveillance and Its Impact on the Right to Privacy](#) by Vaishnavi Chillakuru.
- [When Data Means Privacy, What Traces Are You Leaving Behind?](#) by Noopur Raval.
- [My Experiment with Scam Baiting](#) by Sahana Sarkar.
- [The New Right to Privacy Bill 2011 — A Blind Man's View of the Elephunt](#) by Prashant Iyengar.
- [The DNA Profiling Bill 2007 and Privacy](#) by Elonnai Hickok.

- An Interview with Activist Shubha Chacko: Privacy and Sex Workers by Elonnai Hickok.
- Is Data Protection Enough? by Elonnai Hickok.
- Unique ID System: Pros and Cons by Natasha Vaz.
- CDT Provides Answers to Questions on Internet Neutrality by Pranesh Prakash.
- Statutory Motion against Intermediary Guidelines Rules by Pranesh Prakash.

## **Information Technology Act**

### **Policy Submissions/Comments**

- Comments on the National Policy of Information Technology: The NPIT 2011 has the laudable goal of making India a 'knowledge economy with a global role' developing and deploying ICT solutions in all sectors to foster development within India and at a global level. CIS appreciates this initiative of the Department of Information Technology and offers brief comments to strengthen the draft.
- The Draft Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2011: The Draft Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2011 ("Bill") is a Bill to provide for delivery of government services mandatorily through electronic means by phasing out manual delivery of services. It introduces bodies exclusively accountable for ensuring that electronic delivery of services by the Government at the state and central levels. CIS shared its comments on the Bill.
- Draft National Policy on Electronics: Submitted its comments to the request for comments put out by the Department of Information Technology on its draft 'National Policy on Electronics'.
- India's Statement Proposing UN Committee for Internet-Related Policy: India gave its statement at the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Its proposal for the UN Committee for Internet-Related Policy was presented. The event was organized by the United Nations Organisation.

### **Events Participated**

- Secure IT 2012 — Securing Citizens through Technology (Claridges, New Delhi, March 1, 2012): Sunil Abraham participated as a panelist in the event which was organised by DST and NSDI, Govt. of India in partnership with Elets Technomedia Pvt. Ltd.
- The Power of Information: New Technologies for Philanthropy and Development (Indigo Trust, London, September 15, 2011): Sunil Abraham was a speaker at this event organised by Indigo Trust, in collaboration with the Institute for Philanthropy and the Omidyar Network.

**Iraq Delegation's India Visit for Study of E-Governance in Indian Cities**



An Iraqi Government delegation headed by HE Mr. Abdul Kareem Al-Samarai, Minister of Science & Technology, Government of Iraq was in India on a e-governance tour during the month of April 2011. The study tour was organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and meetings were held in Bangalore and Delhi. The delegation had talks with Deepak Menon of India Water Portal, Ashok Kamath of Pratham Books, Srikanth Nadhamuni of E-governments foundation, Dr. Subbramanya of Geodesic, Parth Sarwate of Azim Premji Foundation, Abhay Singhavi of Narayana Hridayalaya and MN Vidyashankar and DS Ravindran of Department of e-governance, Government of Karnataka. In Delhi, the delegation held meetings with the Department of Information Technology, National Informatics Centre, National Institute for Smart Government, Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The study tour was in furtherance to the e-Governance Action plan prepared by the Iraq Government. CIS assisted the delegation for the meetings held in Bangalore.



### **News & Media Coverage**

- [New Rules to Ensure Due Diligence: IT Dept](#) (May 11, 2011)
- [Point By Point Rebuttal Of Indian Government's Statement On Internet Control Rules](#) (Medianama, May 13, 2011)
- [Bangalore-based NGO files RTI query asking list of websites blocked by Indian govt](#) (Daily News & Analysis, May 18, 2011)
- [Look what the state just did to you](#) (MidDay, June 12, 2011)
- [Aadhaar's moment of truth](#) (Deccan Herald, July 5, 2011)
- [Netizen Report: Transparency Edition](#) (Global Voices, November 7, 2011)
- [OurSay: how India's technology is cutting into corruption](#) (Crickey, February 17, 2012)

### **Blog Entries**

- [TRAI urged to take action against P2P throttling and DNS hijacking](#) by Anand Priya Singh.
- [Analysis of DIT's Response to Second RTI on Website Blocking](#) by Pranesh Prakash.
- [Text of DIT's Response to Second RTI on Website Blocking](#) by Pranesh Prakash.
- [DIT's Response to RTI on Website Blocking](#) by Pranesh Prakash.
- [Understanding the Right to Information](#) by Elonnai Hickok.
- [RTI and Third Party Information: What Constitutes the Private and Public?](#) by Noopur Raval.

### **Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**

The [sixth annual meeting of the IGF](#) was held at the United Nations office in Nairobi, Kenya from September 27 to 30, 2011. The Centre for Internet & Society organised two workshops [Use of Digital Technologies for Civic Engagement and Political Change: Lessons Learned and Way Forward](#) and [Open Spectrum for Development in the Context of the Digital Migration](#). Sunil Abraham participated as a panelist in these workshops: [Privacy, Security, and Access to Rights: A Technical and Policy Analyses](#), [Use of Digital Technologies for Civic Engagement and Political Change: Lessons Learned and Way Forward](#), [The Impact of Regulation: FOSS and Enterprise, Proprietary Influences in Free and Open Source Software: Lessons to Open and Universal Internet Standards](#), [Access and Diversity of Broadband Internet Access](#) and [Putting users First: How can Privacy be Protected in Today's Complex Mobile Ecosystem?](#)

CIS was also registered as a [remote IGF hub](#) for following the discussion, watching the webcast of the event, follow real-time captioning and participate (live via text or video) with panelists at the IGF.

### **News & Media Coverage**

- [Netizen's Guide to the Internet Governance Forum](#) (Global Voices Advocacy, September 26, 2011)

## **Freedom of Expression**

### **Key Research**

Intermediary Liability in India: Chilling Effects on Free Expression on the Internet 2011 by Rishabh Dara: This study has been conducted with the objective of determining whether the criteria, procedure and safeguards for administration of the takedowns as prescribed by the Rules lead to a chilling effect on online free expression. In the course of the study, takedown notices were sent to a sample comprising of 7 prominent intermediaries and their response to the notices was documented. Different policy factors were permuted in the takedown notices in order to understand at what points in the process of takedown, free expression is being chilled. The results of the paper clearly demonstrate that the Rules indeed have a chilling effect on free expression. Of the 7 intermediaries to which takedown notices were sent, six intermediaries over-complied with the notices, despite the apparent flaws in them. This executive summary is a research output of the Google Policy Fellowship 2011. CIS was the host organization.

### **Columns / Op-eds**

- World Narrow Web (Pranesh Prakash, Indian Express, February 4, 2012).
- The Quixotic Fight to Clean up the Web (Sunil Abraham, Tehelka, Vol 9, Issue 04, January 28, 2012).
- Spy in the Web (Nishant Shah, Indian Express, December 18, 2011).
- US Clampdown Worse than the Great Firewall (Sunil Abraham, Tehelka, Volume 8, Issue 50, December 17, 2011).
- Invisible Censorship: How the Government Censors Without Being Seen (Pranesh Prakash, the article was translated to Marathi and featured in Lokmat)
- That's the unkindest cut, Mr Sibal (Sunil Abraham, Deccan Chronicle, December 11, 2011).
- Do You Want to be Watched? (Sunil Abraham, Pragati, June 8, 2011).
- Big Brother is Watching You (Sunil Abraham, Deccan Herald, June 1, 2011).
- The Present — and Future — Dangers of India's Draconian New Internet Regulations (Anja Kovacs, Caravan, June 1, 2011).
- Killing the Internet Softly with Its Rules (Pranesh Prakash, Indian Express, May 9, 2011).
- We are anonymous, we are legion (Sunil Abraham, Hindu, April 18, 2011).
- You Have the Right to Remain Silent (Anja Kovacs, Sunday Guardian, April 17, 2011).

### **Events Participated**

- Global Censorship Conference (Abrams Institute for Freedom of Expression at Yale Law School, March 30 – April 1, 2012). The programme was sponsored by the Information Society Project at Yale Law School and Thomson Reuters. Rishabh Dara, Google Policy Fellow who worked at CIS office in Bangalore on freedom of expression and internet-related policy issues is participating in the event as a speaker in the panel on Case Studies of Censorship.

- What is Stewardship in Cyberspace? (Innis Townhall, University of Toronto, Canada, March 18 – 19, 2012): Sunil Abraham was a panelist in the session “Plenary Panel and Discussions” at the second annual Cyber Dialogue.
- Freedom of Expression in Community Media and on the Internet Understanding Connections, Finding Common Ground (New Delhi, February 3, 2012). Pranesh Prakash participated in this event organised by the Internet Democracy Project (Delhi) and Maraa (Bangalore) with the support of the Community Radio Forum.
- Communication Policy Advocacy, Technology, and Online Freedom of Expression: A Toolkit for Media Development (Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, June 20 – July 1, 2011): The event was organised by the Center for Media and Communication Studies (CMCS) at the Central European University (CEU), and Internews Network, and the Center for Global Communication Studies (CGCS). Sunil Abraham gave lecture on free expression and policy advocacy.

### **News & Media Coverage**

- How Web 2.0 responded to Hazare (Hindu, April 11, 2011)
- India Puts Tight Leash on Internet Free Speech (New York Times, April 27, 2011)
- New internet rules open to arbitrary interpretation (Times of India, April 27, 2011)
- India curbs on Bloggers and Internet (TruthDrive, April 29, 2011)
- Free expression (Watertown Daily Times, May 2, 2011)
- Digerati See Censorship in New Web Rules (Wall Street Journal, May 2, 2011)
- India Chills Online Speech (digital communities, May 3, 2011)
- A Network of Chains (May 30, 2011)
- India Weighing Looser Web Rules (Wall Street Journal, May 30, 2011)
- Tough neighbourhood tests India's e-tolerance (Times of India, June 12, 2011)
- Govt wants to monitor Facebook, Twitter (Times of India, August 8, 2011)
- In the Right Circle (Indian Express, July 24, 2011)
- International human rights community vs SOPA (BoingBoing, November 17, 2011)
- SOPA: The bill that could kill the Internet (FirstPost.Technology, November 16, 2011)
- 'Any Normal Human Being Would Be Offended' (New York Times, December 6, 2011)
- India's dreams of web censorship (Financial Time's beyondbrics, December 6, 2011)
- Debate: Online content row-1 (TimesNow, December 6, 2011)
- Govt wants to scrub the Internet clean (LiveMint, December 7, 2011)
- FTN: Should social networking sites be censored? (CNN-IBN, December 8, 2011)
- Facebook, Google tell India they won't screen for derogatory content (Washington Post, December 6, 2011)

- [Kapil Sibal to sterilise Net but undercover sting shows 6 of 7 websites already trigger-happy to censor under 'chilling' IT Act](#) (Legally India, December 7, 2011)
- ['Chilling' Impact of India's April Internet Rules](#) (New York Times, December 7, 2011)
- [Is the govt bid to regulate content on the Internet a good thing?](#) (IBN, December 8, 2011, Pranesh Prakash was chatting online).
- [Social media sites refuse Indian censorship request](#) (Radio Australia, December 8, 2011)
- [India bid to censor Internet draws flak](#) (AFP, December 8, 2011). Also covered in [France 24](#), [Khaleej Times](#), [Physorg.com](#), [TimesLive](#), [Bangkok Post](#), [Yahoo News](#), [MSN News](#), [Emirates 24/7](#), [Business Live](#), and [Jakarta Globe](#) on December 9, 2011.
- [Google V/s Kapil Sibal](#) (Hindu, December 7, 2011)
- [India entering the Minority Report age?](#) (ioL scitech, December 10, 2011)
- [Internet, social media access should not be blocked: Ban](#) (Tribune, December 10, 2011)
- [Online gag: Existing rules give little freedom](#) (Times of India, December 9, 2011)
- [Online @ India](#) (Hindustan Times, December 10, 2011)
- [Caught in the Web](#) (Hindu Business Line, December 12, 2011)
- [Technological beasts like Facebook, Orkut, YouTube & Google impossible to control](#) (Economic Times, December 11, 2011)
- [Censorship — A Death Knell for Freedom of Expression Online](#) (NDTV, December 8, 2011)
- [Indecent Proposals](#) (Outlook, December 19, 2011)
- [India's Techies Angered Over Internet Censorship Plan](#) (NPR, December 20, 2011)
- [India internet: clean-up or censorship?](#) (beyondbrics, January 13, 2012)
- [Is India Ignoring its own Internet Protections?](#) (Wall Street Journal, January 16, 2012)
- [India: obscene pics of gods require massive human censorship of Google, Facebook](#) (ars technica, January 14, 2012)
- [Indian Internet Lawsuit Puts Spotlight on Freedom of Expression](#) (Voice of America, January 19, 2012)
- [POV: Should user-generated content be monitored?](#) (afaqs, January, 19, 2012)
- [Tangled Web](#) (The Web, January 21, 2012)
- [Twitter's Censorship Move Aimed at Regaining China?](#)
- [India debates limits to freedom of expression](#) (Washington Post, February 13, 2012)
- [India won't censor social media: Telecom Minister](#) (Tribune, February 14, 2012)
- [Prometheus bound and gagged](#) (New Indian Express, January 20, 2012)
- [Internet Curbs](#) (Tehelka, February 18, 2012)
- [Save Your Voice — A movement against Web censorship](#) (Daily News & Analysis, March 13, 2012)

## **Blog Entries**

- Press Coverage of Online Censorship Row : This is a rolling blog with press references to the row created by the proposal by the Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology to pre-screen user-generated Internet content.
- Bloggers' Rights Subordinated to Rights of Expression: Cyber Law Expert by Elonnai Hickok.
- Surveillance Technologies by Elonnai Hickok.

## **Events Organised**

- India Explores the Balance Points between Freedom of Expression, Privacy, National Security and Law Enforcement (New Delhi, March 5, 2012). Sunil Abraham participated in this closed-door meeting jointly organised with the Global Network Initiative. Issues relating to freedom of expression and privacy were discussed in the meeting.
- Free Speech Online in India under Attack? (Centre for Internet & Society, Bangalore, December 21, 2011): Achal Prabhala, Anja Kovacs and Lawrence Liang were the speakers. Sunil Abraham was the moderator for the event.
- Facebook Resistance Workshop (Centre for Internet & Society, April 2, 2011): Marc Stumpel gave a presentation.



**Facebook Resistance Workshop Poster**

## Telecom

Although the growth in telecommunications in India has been impressive, the potentials for growth and returns exist and a range of issues need to be addressed for this potential to be realized. One aspect is more extensive rural coverage and the second one 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. CIS hopes to give evidence based research that will help inform policy and practice of the local, national, regional, bilateral and international telecom/broadband policies from a public interest perspective.

## Key Research



[Unlicensed Spectrum Policy brief for Government of India](#) (by Satyen Gupta, Sunil Abraham and Yelena Gyulkhandanyan):

CIS and the Ford Foundation bring you the Unlicensed Spectrum Policy brief for Government of India. The research recommends unlicensed spectrum to the Government of India based on recent developments in wireless technology, community needs and international best practices. The report consists of an introduction, chapters titled Unlicensed (or Licence-exempt) Spectrum Policies at ITU and EU, Survey of International Best Practices, Innovations in Unlicensed Spectrum Bands, Unlicensed spectrum in India, Impact of Unlicensed Spectrum on Rural Broadband and Mass Media, Conclusion and Inferences and Policy Recommendations for India NTP'11.

## Columns by Shyam Ponappa

Shyam Ponappa is a distinguished fellow at CIS. He is a columnist with the Business Standard. Some of the articles published in Business Standard were mirrored on our website:

- [Learning from Fukushima](#), April 25, 2011
- [Reviving Growth](#), September 21, 2011
- [Facing up to Moral Hazard](#), October 6, 2011
- [Telecom Path-Breaker?](#), November 3, 2011
- [Healing self-inflicted wounds](#), December 1, 2011
- [Reversing India's Downward Trajectory](#), January 5, 2012
- [The 2G Supreme Court Judgment 1](#), March 1, 2012
- [The 2G Supreme Court Judgment 2](#), March 4, 2012

## The Lab



**Workshop at CIS Lab**

To create a community of practice around appropriate Internet and mobile based technologies in the social sector, CIS has created a laboratory filled with digital artefacts from large multinational corporations, individual hobbies, academic researchers, NGOs and activists. CIS is organising theme-based exhibitions workshops, presentations, films trainings to create a steady pipeline of students, academics, NGO managers, policy makers and decision makers, bureaucrats, politicians and corporate leaders who will visit this lab both virtually and physically to partake in the activities.

## Comment

Inputs for NTP 2011: The Department of Telecom brought out the draft of the New Telecom Policy. CIS offers its suggestions to improve the draft with specific changes on Spectrum Management, De-licensing additional spectrum, Licensing, Convergence and Value Added Services and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities.

## Interview

An Interview with PK Garg: Former Wireless Advisor to the Government of India, Ministry of Communications & IT, and current ITU regulatory board member, PK Garg, discussed some of the telecom policy interventions in an interview with Yelena Gyulkhandanyan.

## Event Organised

Telecom Training Course (CIS, Bangalore, August 4 – 5, 2011): The two-day training session covered topics such as telecommunications basics, terms and technologies, licensing and regulatory aspects, standardisation forums, etc. Satyen Gupta made a presentation on Essentials of Telecom on Non-telecom professionals. Sunil Abraham and Nirmita Narasimhan also participated in the workshop.

## Events Participated



### Convergence India 2012 Conference

- Convergence India 2012 (New Delhi, March 21 – 23, 2012): Yelena Gyulkhandanyan participated in the ICT event and shares her experiences through a blog entry.
- Training for Journalists Workshop (Justa, Bangalore, February 9 – 11, 2012): The three-day workshop was organised by Ford Foundation. Sunil Abraham, Pranesh Prakash, Ajoy Kumar and Yelena Gyulkhandanyan participated in the workshop.
- Koha Training (Centre for Study of Culture and Societies, Bangalore, August 12 – 14, 2011): A three day workshop on Koha for the libraries was organised by the Centre for Study of Culture and Societies. Ajoy Kumar participated in the workshop. The participants were given training on navigating Koha's interfaces, using Koha's acquisitions module, using cataloguing module, patrons' module, circulations module, serials module, OPAC module, reports and tools module.



## Digital Natives

Digital Natives with a Cause? is a knowledge programme initiated by the Centre for Internet and Society, India and Hivos, Netherlands. It is a research inquiry that seeks to look at the changing landscape of social change and political participation and the role that young people play through digital and internet technologies, in emerging information societies. The programme has resulted in a four-book collective titled Digital AlterNatives with a Cause?, and reports such as Digital Natives with a Cause? A Report and Digital Natives with a Cause? Thinkathon: Position Papers.

## Key Research

### Four-book Collective



#### Digital AlterNatives with a Cause?

Edited by Fieke Jansen and Nishant Shah

Hivos and the Centre for Internet and Society consolidated their three-year knowledge inquiry into the field of youth, technology and change in a four-book collective “Digital AlterNatives with a cause?”. This collaboratively produced collective, asks critical and pertinent questions about theory and practice around 'digital revolutions' in a post MENA (Middle East - North Africa) world. It works with multiple vocabularies and frameworks and produces dialogues and conversations between digital natives, academic and research scholars, practitioners, development agencies and corporate structures to examine the nature and practice of digital natives in emerging contexts from the Global South.

### Peer-reviewed Articles

- Between the Stirrup and the Ground: Relocating Digital Activism (Nishant Shah and Fieke Jansen, Center for Democracy and Civil Society, Volume 8, Issue 2, Summer 2011): Nishant Shah and Fieke Jansen draws on a research project that focuses on understanding new technology, mediated identities, and their relationship with processes of change in their immediate and extended environments in emerging information societies in the global south. It suggests that endemic to understanding digital activism is the need to look at the recalibrated relationships between the state and the citizens through the prism of technology and agency.
- On Fooling Around: Digital Natives and Politics in Asia (Nishant Shah, presented at the Digital Cultures in Asia, 2009, at the Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan): Youths are not only actively participating in the politics of its times but also changing the way in which we understand the political processes of mobilisation, participation and transformation.

## Columns

- One for the avatar (Nishant Shah, Sunday Eye, Indian Express, April 3, 2011): With increasing instances of online avatars being victimised, users who are part of these identities need to be protected against vicious attacks.
- Who the Hack? (Nishant Shah, Indian Express, April 24, 2011): A hacker is not an evil spirit, instead he can outwit digital systems to bring about social change.
- The Digital Other (Nishant Shah, DML Central, December 14, 2011): Based on my research on young people in the Global South, I want to explore new ways of thinking about the Digital Native. One of the binaries posited as the Digital 'Other' - i.e., a non-Digital Native - is that of a Digital Immigrant or Settler.
- Pinning the Badge (Nishant Shah, Indian Express, March 18, 2012): In a world of competition, badging provides a holistic way of grading and learning, where individual talents are realised and the knowledge of the group is used.

## Newsletters

Links in the Chain is a bi-monthly publication which highlights the projects, ideas and news of the "Digital Natives with a Cause?" community members. It includes opinion posts by participants from the three workshops — Talking Back (Taipei, 15 – 18 August 2010), My Bubble, My Space, My Voice (Johannesburg, 6 – 9 November 2011) and From Face to the Interface (Santiago, 7 – 10 February 2011).



The following issues were published in 2011-12:

- Links in the Chain - Volume VI (Write-shop)
- Links in the Chain - Volume VII (Digital Dinosaurs)
- Links in the Chain - Volume VIII, issue IV (Analog Relics in the Digital Age)
- Links in the Chain - Volume VIII, issue III (Decoding Web Groups)
- Links in the Chain - Volume VIII, issue II (Internet Governance)

- [Links in the Chain - Volume VIII, issue I](#) (Social Media)
- [Links in the Chain - Volume IX, issue 1](#) (Digital Art)
- [Links in the Chain - Volume IX, issue 2](#) (Piracy, Privacy and the Wiki Way of Web)

### **Video Contest**

- [Digital Natives Video Contest](#): This contest was co-organised by Hivos and CIS. The jury prize for two best videos went to John Musila (Kenya) and Marie Jude Bendiola (Singapore). The top five winners won a grand prize of EUR 500 each. Marie Jude Bendiola, Cijo Abraham Mani, TJ K.M., Thomas Burks, John Musila, Andrés Felipe Arias Palma, Martin Potter, E. James Rajasekaran, Anand Jha and James Mlambo were the contestants. Shashwati Talukdar, Leon Tan, Jeroen van Loon, Becky Band Jain and Namita A Malhotra were the jury members. Videos and podcast of the event are online.

### **Book Reviews**

- [An Experiment in Social Engineering: The Cultural Context of an Avatar](#): Pramod K. Nayar reviews Nilofar Shamim Ansher's essay 'Engineering a Cyber Twin' (Digital Alternatives with a Cause? Book One: To Be).
- [How to Put Up a Facebook Resistance](#): Review of Marc Stumpel's essay, "Mapping the Politics of Web 2.0: Facebook Resistance", in Digital Alternatives with a Cause Book 2: To Think, pp.24-31 by Oliver Leistert.
- [Alternative Approaches to Social Change](#): Review of Maesy Angelina's essay, "Digital Natives' Alternative Approach to Social Change", in Digital Alternatives with a Cause Book 2: To Think, pp.64-76 by Nuraini Juliastuti.
- [Unpacking Digital Natives from their Shiny Packaging](#): The 'Digital natives' concept is neither necessarily nor inherently positive, as YiPing Tsou highlights in her article Digital Natives in the Name of a Cause: From "Flash Mob" to "Human Flesh Search". The essay was published in the Digital AlterNatives with a Cause? Book 2, To Think. Argyri Panezi reviews the essay.
- [On Natives, Norms and Knowledge](#): Philip Ketzler reviews Ben Wagner's essay "Natives, Norms and Knowledge: How Information Technologies Recalibrate Social & Political Power Relations Communications" published in Book 4: To Connect.
- [Digital Native: Twin Manifestations or Co-Located Hybrids](#): Samuel Tettner reviews 'Digital Natives and the Return of the Local Cause' from Book 1: To Be. The essay is authored by Anat Ben-David.
- [Digital \(Alter\)Natives with a Cause? — Book Review by Maarten van den Berg](#): The review by Maarten van den Berg was published in "The Broker" on September 19, 2011.

### **News & Media Coverage**

- [The Write Stuff](#) (Deccan Chronicle, November 14, 2011)
- [Making a difference, online and offline](#) (LiveMint, September 27, 2011)

- Mumbai Takes Note of Sexting, the Seamier Side of Texting (Times of India, June 19, 2011)
- Bright lights, geek city (Hindu, April 28, 2011)

### **Blog Entries**

- What scares a Digital Native? Blogathon by Samuel Tettner
- Framing the Digital AlterNatives by Nilofar Ansher

### **Events Organised**

- Tweet a Review of Digital AlterNatives with a Cause Books, January 13 – 31, 2012: Essays from 'Digital AlterNatives with a Cause?' books were reviewed. CIS co-organised this with Hivos. The second phase of the review was held from February 17 to 26, 2012.
- Digital AlterNatives book launch (Museum for Communication, Hague, September 16, 2011): The event was co-organised with Hivos for the launch of the Digital AlterNatives with a Cause? four-book collective.
- The Changing Face of Citizen Action (Museum for Communication, Hague, September 15 – 16, 2011): The event was co-organised with Hivos, Nishant Shah participated in the event.

### **Events Participated**

- 5 Challenges for the Future of Learning: Digital Natives and How We Shall Teach Them (Wyndham Parc 55 Hotel, San Francisco, California, March 1, 2012): At the Digital Media and Learning Conference on beyond education technologies, Nishant Shah gave a ignite talk. There was an author's table where he presented and shared the Digital AlterNatives books and info-kits.
- Names not Numbers (Mumbai, November 26, 2011): Nishant Shah was a panelist and spoke in the session titled The New Digital Individual: Is New Technology Liberating or Enslaving? The event was organised by Editorial Intelligence and Partners.

### **Teaching**

- D: Coding Digital Natives (Library Conference Center Presentation Room, University of California, March 9, 2012): Nishant Shah gave a lecture on Digital Natives and spoke about questions of participation and resistance. The talk has been featured in the YouTube channel.
- Digital Natives and the Myth of the Revolution: Questioning the Radical Potential of Citizen Action (Annenberg School of Communication at the University of South California, March 8, 2012): Nishant Shah made a presentation on 'Questioning the radical potential for citizen action'.
- Digital Natives and the Myth of the Revolution: Questioning the Radical Potential of Citizen Action (UC Santa Cruz, March 5, 2012): Nishant Shah gave a lecture on "Digital Natives and the Myth of the Revolution: Questioning the Radical Potential of Citizen Action".

- Summer school in Hawai'i, (UCHRI, August 4, 2011): Nishant Shah lectured on Digital AlterNatives with a Cause? The video was featured on Vimeo.

## **Pathways to Higher Education**

The Pathways Project to Higher Education is a collaboration between the Higher Education Innovation and Research Applications (HEIRA) at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS) and the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS).



**Nishant Shah teaching students at Pathways Workshop**

The project is supported by the Ford Foundation and works with disadvantaged students in nine undergraduate colleges in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, to explore relationships between Technologies, Higher Education and the new forms of social justice in India. Nishant Shah has given a bird's eye view of the key themes that emerged in the workshops organised in the states of Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra in a blog entry titled [Technology, Social Justice and Higher Education](#).

### **Events Organised**

- Pathways Workshops in Kerala (Union Christian College, Aluva, August 8 – 10, 2011), Newman College, Thodupuzha, August 13 – 15, 2011, and Farook College, Kozhikode, August 17 – 19, 2011): The workshops were organised as part of the Pathways to Higher Education project. Trainings were provided to around 66 students. Chetan Chauhan participated in these workshops. CIS co-organised the workshops with the Centre for Study of Culture & Society, Bangalore. Ford Foundation provided funding for these workshops.



- Pathways Workshops in Karnataka (St'Aloysius, Mangalore, August 28 – 30, 2011, Vidhya Verdike First Grade College, Mysore, September 3 – 5, 2011 and Dr. A.V Baliga College of Arts and Science, Kumta, September 29 – October 1, 2011): Nishant Shah was the chief co-ordinator for these workshops. Chetan Chauhan also participated in the workshops. CIS co-organised the workshops with the Centre for Study of Culture & Society, Bangalore. Ford Foundation provided funding for these workshops.
- Pathways Workshops in Maharashtra (St. Xaviers College, Mumbai, November 23, 2011, SIES College, Mumbai, November 24, 2011 and Ahmednagar College, November 2011): Nishant Shah was the chief co-ordinator for these workshops. Chetan Chauhan also participated. CIS co-organised the workshops with the Centre for Study of Culture & Society, Bangalore. Ford Foundation provided funding for these workshops.
- Faculty-training Workshop (Centre for Study of Culture & Society, Bangalore, December 8 – 9, 2011): The third faculty workshop and regional facilitators workshop was organised by CSCS, supported by Ford Foundation and collaboratively executed by the Higher Education Innovation and Research Application and CIS. What happens when we look at the classroom as a space of social justice? What are the ways in which students can be engaged in learning beyond rote memorisation? What innovative methods can be evolved to make students stakeholders in their learning process? These were some of the questions that were thrown up and discussed.

### **Event Participated**

- Mobility Shifts 2011 — An International Future of Learning Summit (New School, New York City, New York, October 10 – 16, 2011): The summit was organised by the New School and sponsored by MacArthur Foundation and Mozilla. Nishant Shah participated in the summit and spoke on Digital Outcasts: Social Justice, Technology and Learning in India.

## **Column**

- Learn it Yourself (Nishant Shah, Indian Express, October 30, 2011).

## **Digital Learning and Pedagogy**

- a) Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad, April 22 – 25, 2011: Nishant Shah gave a lecture on 'Governance of Technologies' to FPM students.
- b) University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, May 2, 2011: Nishant Shah taught postgraduate students from the University of Amsterdam and Utrecht about some of the research on Digital Natives with a Cause?
- c) Dutch Art Institute, Arnhem, May 19 – 20, 2011: Nishant Shah taught a module on 'Cyborg Identities' and also gave a public lecture on 'Everyday Cyborgs'.
- d) Christ University, Bangalore: Nishant Shah gave a lecture on the 'Emerging Fields of Internet and Society' to faculty members. The lecture was organised by Christ University and the UGC.
- e) CEPT, Ahmedabad: Nishant Shah was invited by CEPT to be on the jury of 4 students from the Arts and Journalism department for their final Master's thesis. An MA student of Nishant Shah, Lissa Chazzot also presented her work and defended her thesis to successfully complete her dissertation.
- f) SECT, Hawaii, August 1 – 11, 2011: The Seminar for Experimental Critical Theory is a summer school organised by the University of California Irvine and University of Mano'a, Hawaii. The 10 day summer school focused on techno-sciences in Asia. Nishant Shah was invited as a faculty member to present the work done with Digital Natives with a Cause? project and to work as a mentor with the students.
- g) Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, August 24 – 27, 2011: Nishant Shah taught a four day course on 'Digital Slacktivism: Technologies and Politics of Change', to post graduate students in the Media and Communication Programme.

## Researchers@Work

Researchers@Work (RAW) is a multidisciplinary research initiative. CIS believes that in order to understand the contemporary concerns in the field of Internet and society, it is necessary to produce local and contextual accounts of the interaction between the Internet and socio-cultural and geo-political structures. The RAW programme has been collaborating with different organizations and individuals in order to focus on its two year thematic of Histories of the Internets in India. Under this programme some projects were initiated in 2008 and some in 2009. Five of these have been completed and were officially launched at the Locating Internets: Histories of the Internets in India – Research Training and Curriculum workshop held in Ahmedabad from August 19 to 22, 2011. These are now online:

### Monographs



#### Porn: Law, Video, Technology

(Namita A Malhotra, Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore and Pad.ma)

Namita A Malhotra's monograph draws aside the *purdah* that pornography has become – the forbidden object as well as the thing that prevents you from looking at it – and fingers its constituent threads and textures. This monograph is not so much about a cultural product called porn as it is a meditation on visuality and seeing, the construction and experience of gazing, technology and bodies in the law, modern myths, and the interactions between human and filmic bodies.

Maya Ganesh has written an introduction to Namita's monograph.



#### Internet, Society & Space in Indian Cities

(Pratyush Shankar, Center for Environmental Planning and Technology University, Ahmedabad)

Pratyush Shankar's monograph is a research into the making of IT Cities and public planning policies that regulate and restructure the city spaces in India with the emergence of internet technologies. The findings show that the relationship between cities and cyberspaces need to be seen as located in a dynamic set of negotiations and not as a mere infrastructure question. It dismantles the presumptions that have informed public and city planning in the country by producing alternative futures of users' interaction and mapping of the emerging city spaces.





Re:Wiring Bodies

(Asha Achuthan, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)

Asha Achuthan initiates a historical research inquiry to understand the ways in which gendered bodies are shaped by the Internet imaginaries in contemporary India. The monograph establishes that there is a certain pre-history to the Internet that needs to be unpacked in order to understand the digital interventions on the body in a range of fields from social sciences theory to medical health practices to technology and science policy in the country.



The Last Cultural Mile

(Ashish Rajadhyaksha, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore)

Ashish's monograph follows the career of a priori contradiction, one that only mandates a state mechanism to perform an act of delivery, and then disqualifies the state from performing that very act effectively. This contradiction which Ashish names as the Last Mile problem is a conceptual hurdle, not a physical one. Ashish argues that when put one way, the Last Mile is unbridgeable, when put another, it is being bridged all the time.



Archives and Access

(Aparna Balachandran, Department of History, University of Delhi and Rochelle Pinto, Department of English, University of Delhi)

Aparna and Rochelle's research is a material history of the Internet archives. It examines the role of the archivist and the changing relationship between the state and private archives for looking at the politics of subversion, preservation and value of archiving. The findings have direct implications on various government and market impulses to digitise archives and show a clear link between opening up archives and other knowledge sources for breathing life into local and alternative histories.

## **Event Organised**

Locating Internets: Histories of the Internet(s) in India — Research Training and Curriculum Workshop: Call for Participation (CEPT University, Ahmedabad, August 19 – 22, 2011): Nishant Shah and Pratyush Shankar chaired the event. Anja Kovacs, Arun Menon, Asha Achuthan, Ashish Rajadhykasha, Aparna Balachandran, Namita Malhotra, Nithin Manayath, Nithya Vasudevan, Pratyush Shankar, Rochelle Pinto and Zainab Bawa formed the expert committee. The workshop examined questions on Where, When, How and What has changed with the emergence of Internet and Digital Technologies in the country. Five monographs, Porn: Law, Video, Technology, Internet, Society & Space in Indian Cities, Re:Wiring Bodies, The Last Cultural Mile and Archives and Access were officially launched at the workshop.

## **News & Media Coverage**

- CEPT to Set up Centre to Research Role of Internet in Social Development (Indian Express, June 18, 2011).

## **Blog Entries**

- Internet, Politics and Transparency by Zainab Bawa.
- A History of Transparency, Politics and Information Technologies in India by Zainab Bawa.

## Credibility Alliance Norms Compliance

The Centre for Internet & Society was registered as a society in Bangalore in 2008. As an independent, non-profit research organisation, it runs different policy research programmes such as Accessibility, Access to Knowledge, Openness, Internet Governance, Telecom, Digital Natives and Researchers at Work. The programmes have resulted in outputs such as the e-Accessibility Policy Handbook for Persons with Disabilities with ITU and G3ict, Web Accessibility Policy Making with G3ict, Consumers International IP Watchlist report with Consumers International, a reader on the Wikipedia titled Critical Point of View with the Institute of Network Cultures, Open Government Data Study with Transparency & Accountability Initiative, five peer reviewed journal articles, submissions to various ministries such as the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, etc., on Interoperability Framework in eGovernance, NIA Bill, National Policy on Electronics, Cyber Café Rules, Security Practices Rules and Intermediary Due Diligence Rules, an Unlicensed Spectrum-Policy Brief for Government of India NTP '11, with Hivos a four-book collective titled Digital AlterNatives with a Cause?, and a report titled Digital Natives with a Cause?.

CIS is an accredited NGO at WIPO and has given policy briefs to delegates from various nations, has advised foreign governments such as the Government of Iraq on co-existence of GIF with other laws and policies, and Tajikistan on ICT in development. Over the last four years we have been featured approximately 400 times in national and international press such as Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, Times of India, Hindustan Times, Hindu, NDTV, CNN-IBN, etc., and published op-eds in the Indian Express, Economic Times and columns in Business Standard and Deccan Herald.

CIS staff has taught in institutions like Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai, Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad, Christ University, Bangalore, Pune University, University of Hyderabad, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, CEPT, Ahmedabad, and University of Amsterdam.

Registration No.: SOR/BLU/DR/57/2008-09 dated 04-07-08

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Auditors: Nath Associates

## Governance

### Details of Members as on March 31, 2012

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position on Society</b>	<b>Occupation / Designation</b>	<b>Area of Competency</b>	<b>Charges (per month in Rs)</b>
Lawrence Liang	Chairman	Lawyer	IPR Reform	40,000
Subbiah Arunachalam	Member	Scientist	Openness	
Vibodh Parthasarathi	Member	Associate Professor		
Jayna Kothari	Member	Advocate		
Sunil Abraham	President	Executive Director	IPR Reform	1,58,150
Nishant Shah	Treasurer	Director, Research	Cybercultures	1,07,050
M.K. Narasimha Rao	Member	Finance Consultant	Finance	40,000

### Staff / Consultants, Travel, & Salaries

<b><u>Staff Members</u></b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Sunil Abraham	Executive Director
Nishant Shah	Director-Research
Nirmita Narasimhan	Programme Manager
Pranesh Prakash	Programme Manager
Prasad Krishna	Publications Manager
Ajoy Kumar C.	Administrator
Usha Nandini	Accounts Officer
Velankanni Royson	Office Assistant
Chandhussain	Housekeeper

<b><u>Consultants</u></b>	
Prashant Iyengar	Nisha Thompson
Satyen Gupta	Sonal Makhija
Rahul Cherian	Madhan Muthu
Hans Varghese Matthews	Vinay Aravind
Paranjay Guhathakurta	Vipul Kharbanda
Krithika Dutta Narayana	Tejas Pande
Vardarajan	Adi Narayana
Ravi Kiran	Annaswamy
Dilip Sampath	Sharath Chandran
Hasina Hasan	Samuel Tettner
Srinivasu Chakravartula	Gautam John
Shweta Taneja	Jayashree
<b><u>Distinguished Fellows</u></b>	
Prof Subbiah Arunachalam Lawrence Liang Shyam Ponappa	
<b><u>Fellows</u></b>	
Dr. Anja Kovacs Selvam Velmurugan Malavika Jayaram Chanuka Wattegama	
<b><u>Interns</u></b>	
Elonnai Hickok	University of Toronto
Yelena Gyulkhandyan	University of Toronto
Natasha Vaz	University of Toronto
Rebecca Schild	University of Toronto
Noopur Rawal	Jawaharlal Nehru University
Shilpa Narani	Jamia Milla Islamia
Sahana Sarkar	Jamia Milla Islamia
Merlin Oommen	Jamia Milla Islamia
Vikram Hegde	National Law School of India University
Deepti Bharthur	University of Hyderabad
Snehashish Ghosh	National Law School of India University
Tom Dane	University of Sydney
Priyale Prasad	
Suchitra Menon	
Deva Prasad	National Law School of India University, Bangalore
Danish Sheikh	National Law School of India University, Bangalore
Adrija Das	National Law School of India University, Bangalore

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Tarun Krishnamurthy	National Law School of India University, Bangalore
Nilofar Ansher	St. Xavier's College, University of Mumbai
Cherry Mathews	
Malavika Chandu	National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata
Deepti Bharthur	University of Hyderabad
Sanjana Govil	National Law School of India University
Rishabh Dara	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

**Distribution of Staff according to salary as on March 31, 2012**

Salary plus benefits paid to staff in Rupees	Male	Female	Total
<5,000	1		1
5,000 to 10,000	1		1
10,000 to 25,000		1	1
25,000 to 50,000	3		3
50,000 to 1,00,000		1	1
1,00,000 to 2,00,000	2		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

Monthly remuneration of three highest paid employees and lowest paid employee in Rupees

140000	98650	57600	4500
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**Staff Gender Distribution as on March 31, 2012**

Male	Female	Total
7	2	9

**Appeal**

Please help us defend consumer/citizen rights on the Internet!

- Write a cheque in favour of 'The Centre for Internet and Society' and mail it to us at No. 194, 2<sup>nd</sup> 'C' Cross, Domlur, 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage, Bangalore – 560071
- Volunteer with us; get in touch by writing to Sunil Abraham at [sunil@cis-india.org](mailto:sunil@cis-india.org)

**Request for Collaboration**

CIS invites researchers, practitioners, and theoreticians, both organisationally and as individuals, to collaboratively engage with Internet and society and improve our understanding of this new field. To discuss research collaborations, visit <http://cis-india.org> and write to Nishant Shah, Director – Research, at [nishant@cis-india.org](mailto:nishant@cis-india.org). To discuss advocacy-related collaborations, write to Sunil Abraham, Executive Director, at [sunil@cis-india.org](mailto:sunil@cis-india.org).

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## **Thanks & Acknowledgements**

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