

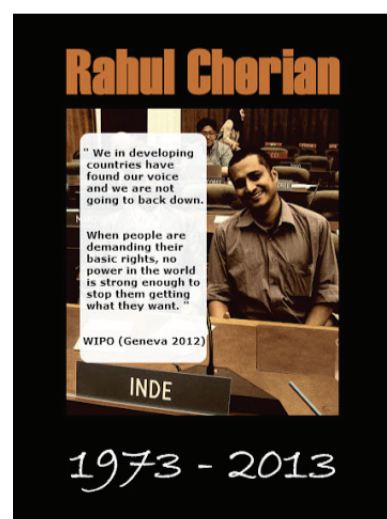
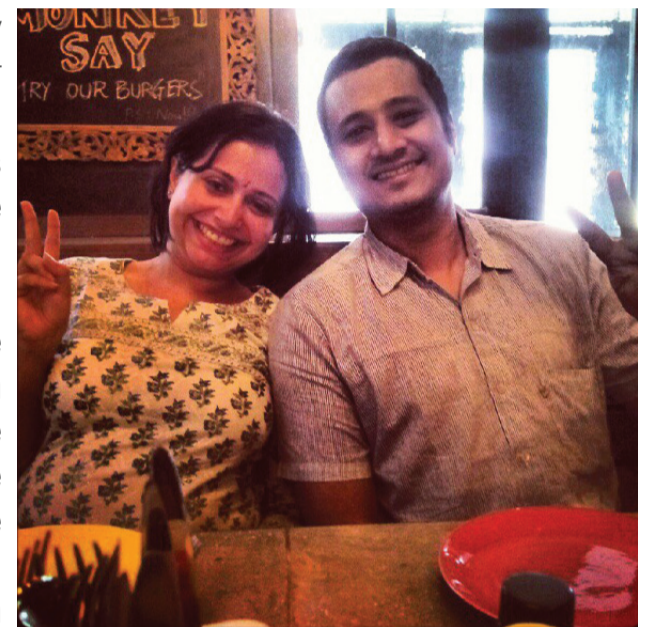
The inclusive Planet centre for Disability Law and Policy

The IP Policy Trust was formally set up in 2011 by lawyers Rahul Cherian and Anjana Thomas to formally carry on the work being handled by the “policy wing” of www.inclusiveplanet.com, of which Rahul was a founder. IP Policy’s mandate was furthering the cause of accessibility and India’s obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, by examining both current and upcoming legislation and policy, at all levels, and making meaningful interventions to cater to the rights of persons with disabilities. In June 2013, Amba Salelkar, another lawyer, formally joined the team.



For a young organization working on a small scale, its achievements have been tremendous.

- Amendment of the Copyright Act: while efforts to amend the law relating to Copyright to allow for persons with print disabilities to access works published in India had been in process for several years, Rahul’s efforts in drafting proposed legislation and negotiating among stakeholders and parliamentarians played a major role in achieving consensus and ultimately ensured smooth passage of the amendment Bill.
- Rahul represented the World Blind Union before the World Intellectual Property Organization on negotiations towards a Treaty on access to published works for persons with Print Disabilities.
- IP Policy framed detailed inputs, emphasizing on the need for accessible forms of delivery of services under the Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2012. These recommendations were accepted by the Parliamentary Standing Committee report.
- Following the call for suggestions on improving the Criminal Justice System, particularly in relation to crimes against women, by the Justice Verma Committee in December 2012, IP Policy drafted a detailed intervention stating the means in which the Criminal Justice System needed to be made more accessible. These suggestions were accepted by the Committee Report, and subsequently were accepted by Cabinet as well and are now part of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act.
- Rahul was a member of the Committee constituted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on creating a comprehensive policy for airlines and persons with disabilities, which is presently pending notification by the Ministry.
- Rahul spearheaded efforts for the State of Kerala to frame a Disability Policy towards total inclusion by 2025, which is presently pending notification by the Government of Kerala.
- IP Policy responded to the Draft National Children’s Policy, notified by the Ministry for Women and Child Development, in November 2012, requesting the Ministry to especially focus on children with disabilities. The final Policy has been notified in May 2013 in which substantial changes have been made in line with the recommendations put forth.
- In April 2013, IP Policy responded to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India’s Consultation Paper on establishment of a Universal Single Emergency Number, which was met with appreciation by the TRAI and the consultative process regarding the same is presently on.



All of the above submissions were made in consultation with a large group of Disabled People’s Organizations from across the Country, working with different disabilities. These organizations provided their inputs and feedback which strengthened the submissions made by IP Policy.

Sadly, Rahul passed away in February 2013 after a sudden illness. In his absence, the organization strives to continue his work and continues to enjoy the support of various organizations across the world, including the Centre for Internet and Society, of which Rahul was named a Fellow on account of his work on accessibility. CIS has given IP Policy valuable inputs on its Policy interventions and we at the Inclusive Planet Centre for Disability Law and Policy are proud to be affiliated with the Centre for Internet and Society.