



## Digital Governance and Public Value

There are growing concerns about the privatization of large swathes of digital infrastructure across the world, in terms of hardware, software, data, and data centres. The rise of digital goods and powerful data extraction methods has become the dominant organizing logic of production in the 21st century. The platformization and extraction of personal data at a planetary scale, the scaling of platforms into oligopoly positions, characterized by massive cloud services and the rise of unceasing data collection centres, with data use in profiling, prediction, and optimization have underpinned this astonishing transformation. Venture capital funding, global acquisitions, and significant infrastructure investment have decisively added to this consolidation.

One can observe that most of the contemporary growth in India's digital landscape is driven by private online platforms that have mushroomed over the last two decades. From a largely public goods perspective, however, such user-generated private digital data is virtually locked up on private digital platforms. According to the DPDP Act, such digital data cannot be repurposed by digital platforms without government approval.

One central question is what could be created with the massive private digital data sets accumulated mostly by the digital platforms that are ensconced within a flourishing market of data centres. For example, could this dataset be reused or repurposed as a public good? This is where 'Digital Governance' and 'Public Value' can either converge or collide. Could, for instance, the anonymization and aggregated digital data, that is generated from billions of individual users, and stored in data centres with significant public subsidies like land, water and energy, be harnessed as digital public goods (DPGs) to generate public value, without compromising on the privacy. For instance, data from mobility apps such as Uber, Ola, and Google Maps can contribute to creating an information landscape that addresses traffic congestion and other urban traffic woes. Grab, a ride-hailing app in Southeast Asian countries, has created a provision allowing its governments to use mobility data for traffic and transit planning.

There is a clear precedent in the pre-digital landscape of creating public value from private resources. If a country, for instance, was not capable of producing generic medicines internally, it could resort to process patents or compulsory licensing (CL). While the non-rivalrous nature of digital goods precludes the need for a CL, we need to develop new protocols to generate public value from private digital resources.

Relying decisively on private digital platforms to provide public goods will not work entirely, as it is not their *raison d'être*. Certain risks, such as lock-in to proprietary ecosystems, business model misalignments, and accountability deficits in data governance, may take place. The addressing of such risks would require mitigation strategies, which could include the use of broad regulatory frameworks (e.g., DPDP Act), modular open infrastructures (e.g., UPI), and the establishment of data trusts in mobility, health, fintech, and climate sectors.

**Shishir K. Jha**

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## Contents

### Feature

Digital Governance and Public Value

### Research Highlights

When Hospitals Become Digital Infrastructures

The 'Physical Primacy' of Digital ID: An Overlooked Cause of Aadhaar Authentication Failures

Online Dispute Resolution and Access to Justice in Digital Legal Ecosystems

Renting the Classroom: Edtech Platforms, Data, and the New Economics of Online Education

Reshaping India's Food & Restaurant Sector: Political Economy of Platformisation and Digital Data Flows

Discourse, Polarisation, and the Epistemic Infrastructures of Democracy in Digital India

### Events

Policy Talks and Events held in 2026 Q2 and Scheduled Events for Q3

### Highlights

Appointments, Awards & Honours, Policy Briefs and Publications

### Call for Contributions

The Polilogue Quarterly is the newsletter of IIT Bombay's Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies. The next issue is slated for October 2026. Contributions may be sent to [head.cps@iitb.ac.in](mailto:head.cps@iitb.ac.in) by 23 September 2026.

## When Hospitals Become Digital Infrastructures: Governance, Work, and Patient Choice in Indian Healthcare

Soundarya Lakshmi K.



What happens when a hospital becomes digital? The usual answer is that records become electronic, services are faster, claims are easier to process, and patients are better informed. My research begins from a different premise: hospital digitization is not simply the

addition of software to existing routines. It is an institutional transformation that reorganizes work, authority, accountability, and patient choice.

The study examines how digital infrastructures and vendor-mediated systems are being institutionalized within Indian hospitals. It asks how hospital information systems, electronic medical records, insurance platforms, claims interfaces, dashboards, consent systems, and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) linked architectures reshape everyday healthcare governance.

The focus is not on whether hospitals adopt digital technologies, but on what institutional order is produced when healthcare, administration, finance, and reporting increasingly move through digital systems. Figure 1 maps this shift from policy architecture to hospital-level governance effects.

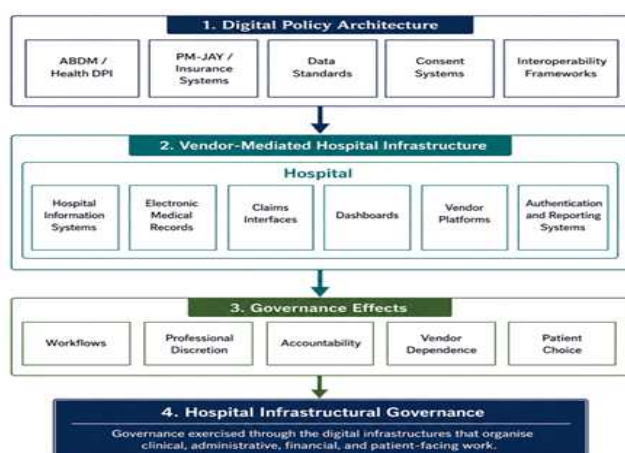


Figure 1. From digital health adoption to hospital infrastructural governance.

The above conceptual diagram illustrates how digital policy architectures, vendor-mediated hospital systems, and governance effects together constitute hospital infrastructural governance.

A central concern is the role of vendors and B2B digital platforms. Hospital digitization is often mediated by technology providers who design, maintain, customize, and

To capture this shift, the research develops the concept of hospital infrastructural governance: the way hospitals are governed through digital infrastructures that organize clinical, administrative, financial, and patient-facing work. Authority is embedded not only in rules, hierarchies, or managerial decisions, but also in software design, database fields, claims protocols, dashboards, interoperability standards, and workflow templates. Table 1 summarizes this conceptual move.

Table 1. From digital adoption to hospital infrastructural governance

| Conventional view of hospital digitisation            | Infrastructural governance view                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Digital systems improve efficiency and record-keeping | Digital systems reorganise hospital work, authority, and accountability                                         |
| HIS/EMR are treated as technical tools                | HIS/EMR become institutional infrastructures shaping everyday routines                                          |
| Vendors are seen as service providers                 | Vendors act as governance intermediaries through system design, integration, and maintenance                    |
| Patients gain choice through better information       | Patient choice is structured by registration systems, insurance eligibility, consent flows, and claim approvals |
| Accountability lies with hospitals or the state       | Accountability is distributed across hospitals, vendors, insurers, platforms, and policy architectures          |

integrate the systems through which hospitals record care, process claims, monitor performance, and meet compliance requirements. This raises questions about control over hospital data architectures, proprietary platforms, and the implementation of public health objectives through private software infrastructures.

Methodologically, the research is designed as a qualitative comparative study across three hospitals in Chennai: one government hospital, one large private corporate hospital, and one mid-sized independently managed private hospital. Through interviews with administrators, clinicians, administrative staff, vendors, and patients, the study examines how digital systems are used, adapted, resisted, and normalized. Figure 2 (Fieldwork photograph from a government hospital) grounds this inquiry in everyday paper-digital coexistence.

The broader policy argument is that India's digital health future depends not only on building interoperable systems, but on governing the infrastructures that are beginning to govern hospitals.



Figure 2. Paper-digital coexistence in public hospital administration.

## The 'Physical Primacy' of Digital ID: An Overlooked Cause of Aadhaar Authentication Failures

Amod Moharil



India's Aadhaar project serves as critical identity-verification infrastructure mediating access to welfare schemes and government services, all of which depend on authentication: matching a person's details against UIDAI's central

database. When authentication fails, citizens can be denied benefits they are legally entitled to. My doctoral research examines Aadhaar-based authentication in Maharashtra's school education system, focusing on mechanisms that lead to authentication failures and how individuals understand and address them. Our research has identified a previously unidentified cause of authentication failure.

**The Authentication Failure Mechanism:** During fieldwork, we found authentication failing even when students submitted valid Aadhaar cards and entered the correct details. The cause: residents had updated their details (name, date of birth) in UIDAI's database, often to fix enrolment errors or a post-marriage name change, but continued using older cards showing pre-update information. Because UIDAI requires an exact match, even minor discrepancies trigger failure, and residents are ignorant that an update renders older cards obsolete.

In one case, a family corrected a spelling from 'Shiwaji' to 'Shivaji' in the database, but the updated card never arrived by post. Hence, the family continued using the older card, resulting in an authentication failure because the details in UIDAI's central database had already been updated and no longer matched the submitted card (Figure 3)

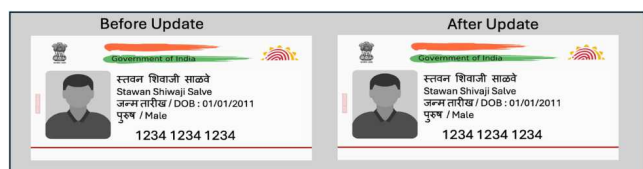


Figure 3. Aadhaar cards showing the correction from 'Shiwaji' to 'Shivaji'

**The 'Physical Primacy' of Digital ID:** We coined the term 'physical primacy' to underscore how end users primarily conceptualize their digital ID in physical terms. They remain unaware that, for authentication, an individual's data in UIDAI's centralized database carries greater weight than the physical card. When the two no longer match, authentication fails.

**Policy Recommendations:** We recommend three measures. First, proactive communication (campaigns, on-

card advisories, and SMS alerts) warning that an update voids older cards. Second, clearer error messages: the current 'authentication failed due to demographic mismatch' offers no guidance, whereas a prompt to retry with current details would. Third, reconsidering the rigid exact-match rule, which UIDAI adopted in 2017.

## Online Dispute Resolution and Access to Justice in Digital Legal Ecosystems

Kriti Srivastava



My work on Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) focuses on how ODR platforms shape access to justice in the digital legal ecosystem. ODR platforms are increasingly being adopted as technology-enabled mechanisms in light of restricted access

to formal courts, particularly in contexts characterized by high case backlogs. In India, ODR services are increasingly being used across banking and financial services, digital payments, e-commerce, insurance, securities and capital markets, consumer protection, and small-value commercial disputes. The key stakeholders in this ecosystem include regulators, such as the RBI and the SEBI, financial institutions, exchanges, e-commerce platforms, ODR service providers, mediators and arbitrators, legal professionals, and disputing parties. Their growing adoption reflects a broader shift toward the digitalization of justice processes.

The existing discourse on ODR focuses on efficiency metrics, with speed, scalability, settlement rates, and cost reduction as evaluation criteria. My research argues that though these parameters are important, they should not be treated as a standalone view for justice-oriented outcomes. These indicators though provide important insights into system performance; comparatively, they reveal little about how the technological design shapes user participation and just outcomes.

I examine ODR platforms not merely as tools for dispute resolution, but as a socio-technical system whose design influences the articulation, processing, and resolution. Features such as standardized claim architectures, automated workflows, and default procedural pathways structure the opportunities available to users and shape their engagement with dispute resolution processes.

To analyze these dynamics, the research integrates the technology affordance perspective with Amartya Sen's Capability Approach. The affordance perspective facilitates an examination of how technological features enable and constrain user action, while the Capability Approach provides a normative framework for assessing whether individuals possess the substantive opportunities to participate meaningfully in dispute-resolution pro-

cesses. This shifts the evaluative focus from formal access to digital platforms towards users' actual capabilities to understand, navigate, and exercise their rights within digitally mediated environments.

The research investigates how technological design redistributes opportunities for participation within dispute resolution processes and explores the implications of this relationship for access to justice (Table 2).

Table 2: ODR Framework (Author's version)

| Platform Design                               | Technology Affordances           | User Capabilities                        | Access to Justice            |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Standardization, Automation, Default Pathways | Enable and constrain user action | Understanding, Navigation, Participation | Meaningful Access to Justice |

## Renting the Classroom: Edtech Platforms, Data, and the New Economics of Online Education

Sarath K



Recent UGC reforms have enabled India's higher education institutions (HEIs) to offer their degree programmes online, and the country's online education ecosystem has expanded rapidly, with several HEIs offering more programmes

every year. Alongside this growth, various forms of partnership are emerging as HEIs outsource their online provision to third-party platform companies, often referred to as Online Programme Management (OPM) providers.

Table 3: HEIs offering online programmes since the reforms to UGC ODL guidelines in 2021

| Academic Year | HEIs offering online Programmes | Programmes offered |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2021-22       | 58                              | 345                |
| 2022-23       | 70                              | 395                |
| 2023-24       | 87                              | 585                |
| 2024-25       | 104                             | 694                |
| 2025-26       | 126                             | 822                |

Source: UGC-Distance Education Bureau (UGC-DEB) [portal(deb.ugc.ac.in)]

The appeal of these partnerships lies in HEIs' financial capacity. Building online programmes in-house is expensive, and most programmes do not break even for several years. By entering revenue-sharing agreements, HEIs share this financial risk with their OPM partners, who fund and manage programme delivery upfront, in exchange for a share of tuition fees. This arrangement is not akin to traditional outsourcing to technology vendors, as companies often retain significant control over the platform infrastructure they provide. Platform companies can exploit this position to intensify data collection not

merely to improve learning, but to turn data into a data-intelligence service that can warrant subscription fees. As HEIs' dependence on platforms continues, institutional data becomes embedded in proprietary technology, subscription fees become recurring rent, and as switching costs rise, HEIs could be locked into increasingly unfavourable terms over time.

The developments in these partnerships have significant potential to reshape the governance of higher education. All of which are emerging in a policy vacuum where existing regulatory frameworks largely focus on ensuring pedagogic quality, leaving open critical questions related to: (i) Educational governance where instructional responsibility ends, and program management begins? (ii) data governance who retains rights over data co-created by faculty and students?; and (iii) vendor lock-in whether HEIs risk long-term dependence on proprietary systems, and how it affects the access to quality online education?

My research aims to answer these questions by examining these emerging partnerships across Indian HEIs. To ground these questions empirically, I am building a comprehensive database of India's EdTech sector, mapping HEIs and their partnering EdTech companies, studying the operational realities of these partnerships to assess whether, and how, rent-seeking strategies are taking shape within Indian higher education and what this means for digital governance in the future.

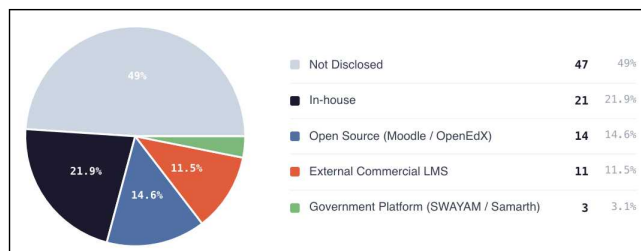


Figure 4: How HEIs are managing their Learning Management Systems (LMS) for Online Programmes?

**Notes:** Classification based on information disclosed on each HEI's online programme portal or self-disclosure reports (21/09/2025). 49% of HEIs do not disclose their LMS arrangements. n = 96 HEIs.

## Reshaping India's Food & Restaurant Sector: Political Economy of Platformisation and Digital Data Flows

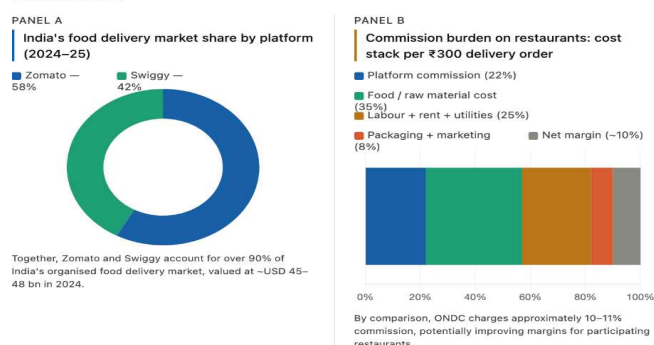
Rashmi Sinha



India's food services sector occupies a remarkable position in the national economy. It is the third-largest industry in the country, valued at Rs 5.69 lakh crore and contributing 1.9% to GDP, while employing 8.5 million people, the second-largest employer in the economy. Over

the past decade, digital food delivery platforms have been central to their growth, connecting restaurants to consumers at a scale and speed previously unimaginable. Restaurants' revenue share from food delivery platforms rose from 22% in 2019 to 29% in 2023, and the sector as a whole recorded Rs 1.2 lakh crore in gross output in FY24, much of it platform-enabled (Business Standard, 2025; Srnicek, 2017; Rochet & Tirole, 2004).

Platform market concentration and the cost burden on restaurants: two dimensions of the same market structure



Sources: IRJET (2025); Sacra (2024); Business Standard (2025); NRAI complaint submissions to CCI (2021); SpiceAdvisors (2025); Kouzina FoodTech (2024). Cost stack figures are indicative estimates based on industry-reported ranges.

Figure 5: Platform market concentration and the cost burden on restaurants

However, this transformation has also generated new and significant tensions. Zomato and Swiggy together account for over 90% of India's organised food delivery market, with Zomato holding 58% and Swiggy 42%. For the 500,000+ restaurants represented by the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), this concentration raises practical questions: about commission structures that range from 18-30%, about access to consumer data, about how platform algorithms determine visibility, and about what happens when platforms launch their own food brands on the same marketplace they operate. These are not just disputes; they are questions about how market power is distributed in a digitally intermediated economy and who sets the rules (Ranjan, 2023;).

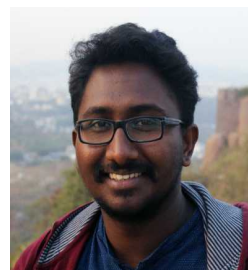
The state has become an active participant in these contests. In April 2022, the Competition Commission of India found prima facie evidence to warrant an investigation into Zomato and Swiggy's practices, flagging concerns about platform neutrality, price-parity clauses, and conflicts of interest arising from platforms operating their own commercial ventures alongside their marketplace roles. Separately, the government launched the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). This publicly architected protocol allows restaurants to reach consumers across multiple buyer apps without routing exclusively through a single aggregator, representing a distinctive regulatory-infrastructure response to platform concentration (Ray & John, 2025).

This research examines how the relationships among platforms, restaurants, and state institutions are evolving in India, mapping both the growth opportunities platforms generate and the structural tensions they produce. The aim is to understand how a sector is being renegotiated, and what it reveals about the governance of digital markets more broadly. As India moves towards becoming

the world's third-largest food services market by 2028 (NRAI, 2024), the outcomes of these negotiations will shape the livelihoods of millions.

## Discourse, Polarisation, and the Epistemic Infrastructures of Democracy in Digital India

E. K. Jaisal



The rapid translation of the advancements and affordances of digital technologies into publicly available offerings has substantially increased their accessibility and use for commercial purposes and as daily utilities by the general public. But when these developments are viewed

critically alongside the nature of content produced and circulated online, they present a variety of challenges to public discourse and democratic deliberation. Several concerns, such as the accelerated spread of misinformation and the rise of affectively polarised digital public spheres, have received substantial academic attention over the past decade. But the persistence of the problem demands a more detailed examination of the systemic conditions of information production and dissemination, public opinion formation, and the manifestations of divisive trends in digitally mediated societies, particularly in relatively under-studied contexts such as the Global South. My work explores this space to address a few of these concerns using the explanatory-sequential mixed-methods design, combining computational techniques for scale and qualitative approaches for interpretative engagement, adapted to the Indian context.

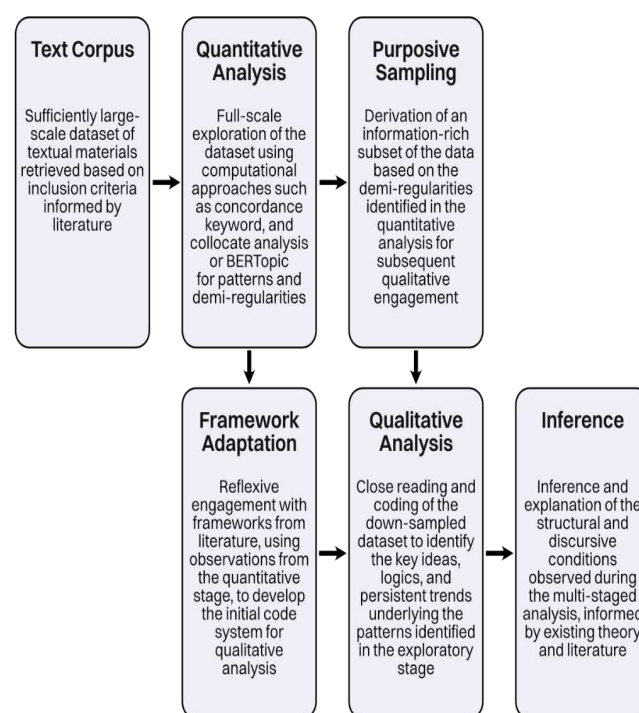


Figure 6: The explanatory-sequential mixed-methods research design, integrating computational tools and critical discourse studies

A prior published work carried out in this direction, using a corpus-assisted discourse-historical approach, explored how discursive patterns of divisive content can be discerned across a large corpus of digitally native texts through multi-stage analysis. Building on the feasibility and applicability of the methodological premise, the ongoing study aims to map the ecosystem of disputed or false claims in India's digital landscape (2019–2024). Using BERTopic, a natural language processing tool, the study identifies prominent topics that together constitute the subject matter of a dataset of fact-check articles, from which a sample is derived for subsequent qualitative interpretation through the lens of critical discourse studies. By examining the patterns within these topics to identify key trends that persist or recur across the corpus, the study aims to unpack their underpinning logic and potential effect to explain how they operate through genre hybridity, content decontextualisation, and the exploitation of platform architecture to achieve traction and contribute to (re-)constituting social relations. The preliminary findings indicate that the polarising effect of the disputed claims is not contingent on the factual inaccuracy of the underlying content. Even materials that are incidentally accurate perform the same discursive work once stripped of context and resignified within a hybrid frame, suggesting that the essence of harm lies in the act of recontextualisation rather than in the falsehood *per se*.

The findings point to a phenomenon that potentially induces cognitive fatigue among consumers, thereby collectively degrading the systemic capacities of a society's epistemic infrastructure. The false or disputed claims that flood the information landscape, contesting established orders of truth-telling, erode institutional trust and jeopardise the anchor points of a shared reality necessary for democratic deliberation. The observations suggest a much-needed shift from reactive correction of individual falsehoods to a proactive approach to safeguarding epistemic systems, and emphasise the necessity of strengthening institutional credibility and enhancing the public's ability to verify provenance and content integrity in widely accessible ways. The shift in orientation is a timely necessity, as the industry is now seeking to respond with technical solutions, such as Content Credentials, to ensure provenance amid the rise and proliferation of synthetically produced content. Policy frameworks need to attune themselves to the systemic and discursive dimensions of the corrosive nature of the false claims prevailing in the digital public sphere to be equipped to address them and facilitate the wider, accessible dissemination of potential solutions and standards that emerge. The research, therefore, advocates greater attention to under-emphasised aspects of information disorder to close the gaps and foster a more resilient public sphere in which democratic deliberation and the epistemic infrastructures of democracy can thrive.

## Policy Talks

08 April 2026

### Breaking Down the National Urban Transport Policy: Why Vision Has Not Translated into Outcomes

**Ms Zohra Mutabanna**, Associate Director, StudioPOD

*The talk examined India's National Urban Transport Policy (2006) and highlighted gaps between its vision and implementation. It emphasized the need for stronger governance, financing, accountability, and measurable outcomes to achieve accessibility, equity, and climate goals.*



17 April 2026

### Policy-making in India and Building Meaningful Careers in it

**Mr Yash Agarwal**, Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager, ICANN and Founder, Public Policy India

*The session explored the real architecture of public policy-making in India and explained how decisions were shaped across institutions and stakeholders. It highlighted how policies evolved through consultation, negotiation, drafting, and implementation, while also offering students insights into policy careers and opportunities across various sectors.*



22 April 2026

### The Image-Trap of Neoliberal Urban Governance: Caste, Policy, and Waste Work in Hyderabad

**Dr Kanthi Swaroop**, Research Fellow, ADCPS, IIT Bombay

*The talk examined how urban governance in Hyderabad became a site of political performance, where policies functioned both as governance tools and spectacles shaping public perception.*



30 June 2026

### Roles of financial literacy and entrepreneurial orientation in economic empowerment of rural women entrepreneurs

**Dr Ashish Desai**, Associate Professor, SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), Mumbai

*Entrepreneurship alone did not guarantee women's economic empowerment; financial literacy and entrepreneurial orientation played a crucial role in improving financial well-being.*



### Other Activities

22 April 2026

#### Round Table on Maharashtra State Urban Policy

On 22 April 2026, a Round Table on the theme "Maharashtra State Urban Policy" was held at the Pune International Centre, Pune. The brainstorming discussion aimed to initiate a process through which the contours of a state urbanisation policy could be developed, saw participation by policymakers, practitioners, scholars, and domain experts.

The core team that conceptualised the event comprised Dr Nitin Kareer, Dr Himanshu Burte, and Dr Malini Krishnankutty from ADCPS and Prof. Pradip Kalbar from ESED, IIT Bombay, Prof. Amita Bhide from TISS, and economist Prof. Abhay Pethe.



29 April 2026

#### Farewell Dinner for the Outgoing MPP Batch 2024

ADCPS hosted a farewell dinner for outgoing MPP batch as they embark on their next journeys in public policy and beyond.

Wishing the batch continued success and impact ahead!



30 April 2026

#### ADCPS released its Annual Report 2025-26 on 30 April.

Explore our key achievements, research highlights, and initiatives from the past year:

<https://www.cps.iitb.ac.in/annual-reports>



### Events Scheduled for 2026 Q3

#### Launch of the e-Post Graduate Diploma (ePGD) in Digital Governance · Starting August 2026

The ADCPS in collaboration with Educational Outreach, IIT Bombay, and with programme delivery support from Simpilearn, announces the launch of the ePGD in Digital Governance. This 24-month online programme is designed for professionals seeking expertise in digital governance, AI policy, cybersecurity governance, technology regulation, and digital transformation.

For more details: <https://www.cps.iitb.ac.in/epgd-digital-governance>

4-7 September 2026

ADCPS is co-hosting the 11th India School on Internet Governance (inSIG) with the Youth India Internet Governance Forum (YIGF India) at IIT Bombay. inSig was established in 2016 as a structured initiative to strengthen stakeholder engagement and capacity building in Internet Governance in India.

### Appointments



**Dr Sekhar Bonu** has joined ADCPS, as an Honorary Visiting Professor on June 2, 2026

Dr Bonu, a PhD from Johns Hopkins University, brings with him an extraordinary wealth of experience in public policy, governance, development, and evaluation. He previously served as the Director General of the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog (2019-2022)

and had a distinguished tenure at the ADB, Manila (2004-2019), contributing significantly to health systems, urban infrastructure, and regional cooperation in South Asia. A distinguished 1987-batch IAS officer, Dr Bonu held several senior leadership positions in Rajasthan and also served as the Collector of Banswara (1994-95).

### Awards & Honours



**Dr Sundeep Oberoi**, Adjunct Professor, has been appointed as the Chairman of the 11-member expert committee constituted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, to examine the impact of Quantum Computing on cryptographic standards, processes, and rules under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

## Policy Brief Series

The ADCPS, IIT Bombay released two new Policy Brief in the area of Digital Governance!

**PBS-2026-007**

Jha, S. K. & Sircar, T. (June 2026). *Data Brokering Practices: Conduct and Credibility*.

<https://www.cps.iitb.ac.in/pbs-2026-007>

**PBS-2026-008**

Jha, S. K. & Nair, A. (June 2026). *The Hidden Circuits of Data Governance*.

<https://www.cps.iitb.ac.in/pbs-2026-008>

## PhD Defended



**Satish Kumar**

**Thesis:** Agriculture-Nutrition Pathways in Semi-arid India: A Study of Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra

**Defended on:** 16 April 2026

**Supervisor:** Prof. K Narayanan



**Brishti Banerjee**

**Thesis:** Governing Housing Informality: Policy Categories, Governance Practices and Lived Experiences in Guwahati, India

**Defended on:** 09 May 2026

**Supervisors:** Prof. Himanshu Burte & Dr Malini Krishnankutty (External)

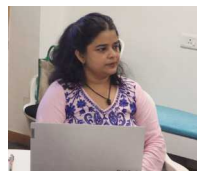


**Trupti Patil**

**Thesis:** Hypertension-Related Disability in India: Sex- and Gender-Based Evidence and Policy Responses

**Defended on:** 15 May 2026

**Supervisors:** Prof. Arnab Jana & Prof. Sarthak Gaurav



**Kaniska Singh**

**Thesis:** The Politics of Managing Disaster Vulnerabilities: A Study of Flood Policy Processes in the Kosi River Basin, India

**Defended on:** 19 May 2026

**Supervisor:** Prof. N. C. Narayanan



**Prerna Yadav**

**Thesis:** From Food Security to Water Crisis: Policy Sequencing and Groundwater Overexploitation in India

**Defended on:** 21 May 2026

**Supervisor:** Prof. N. C. Narayanan

## Publications

Raji Ajwani, Venkata Siva Naga Sai Goli, **Shishir Kumar Jha**, Devendra Narain Singh, Sonali Bhattacharya, & Arzoo Kumari. AID framework for improving waste management in post-National Sword Policy era: an Indian perspective. *International Journal of Sustainable Engineering* 19, no. 1 (2026): 2645299. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19397038.2026.2645299>

Suresh, R., Vadakkan, A. G. Z., PR, A., & **Narayanan, N. C.** (2026). A participatory geographic information system-based route optimisation for decentralised municipal solid waste management system: A case study from a flood-prone town in Kerala, India. *Waste Management & Research*, 0734242X261437538. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0734242X261437538>

**Bonu Sekhar**, & Indu Bhushan. "Is publicly funded health insurance associated with healthcare utilisation and financial protection in India? Evidence from a cross-sectional household survey (CAMS 2022-2023)." *BMJ open* 16.5 (2026): e106382. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/16/5/e106382>

**Sapkal, R.S., Chakma, K.** & Parmar, D.C. Bridging the Care Gaps: Exploring the Role of Digital Labour Platforms for Elderly Care in India. *Development* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41301-026-00497-3>

Golam Rabbani, Rajesh Natarajan & **Vinish Kathuria**. "Why India's Firms Are Not Scaling Despite Labour Reforms. Easier laws have not changed firm incentives; scaling remains a calculated risk rather than a default pathway. <https://www.policyedge.in/p/why-indias-firms-are-not-scaling-despite-labour-reforms>

**Note:** Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this newsletter. However, if any errors have inadvertently slipped in, we regret them in advance and would be grateful if you could bring them to our attention. For any feedback, queries, or further information, please contact us at [office.cps@iitb.ac.in](mailto:office.cps@iitb.ac.in) or 022 2576 5061.