

Executive Director
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EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Parminder Jeet Singh is Executive Director, IT for Change, and leads the organisation's work in the areas of Internet governance, e-governance and development in the digital age, at IT for Change. He has a degree in journalism and masters in economics. He has worked earlier for an insurance company and in police service; thus has a background in commercial and government sectors, before moving to civil society.

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

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

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

Parminder has been a special advisor to the chair of the UN Internet Governance Forum (add Year). He has also served as a special advisor to the UN Global Alliance on ICTs and Development. He was one of five civil society members, in all three UN Working Groups (WGs) on WSIS follow-up issues – one on improvements to the IGF(years), and other two on “enhanced cooperation” (on global Internet policy mechanisms). He is the only one who has been a member of all three WGs . Parminder was the first elected co-coordinator of Internet Governance Caucus, the primary global IG coalition in post WSIS years (2006 - 2008). He was a founding member of other two key global coalitions, BestBits and Internet Rights and Principles Coalition. He also helped found the IGF dynamic coalitions on net neutrality and community networks. He has shaped and led many global campaigns on Internet issues.

Parminder played an instrumental role in the formation of Just Net Coalition, a coalition of 36 global and national organisations working for a just and fair Internet, and leads the secretariat of this coalition. He also leads the secretariat of the Internet Social Forum, a thematic forum of Internet Social Forum, slated as a key progressive civil society space for mobilising for a people's Internet. He has advised key organisations like UNDP, GTZ-Germany, ActionAid, SIDA, on their e-governance thinking. He has been an advisor to projects of WWW Foundation, Association for Progressive Communications and Diplo Foundation.

At the India level, Parminder has spearheaded the establishment of IT for Change's community informatics project in a rural community in india, its e-governance research, and its engagements in key cyber policy areas of net neutrality and technical governance of the Internet. He was invited by the Karnataka

Knowledge Commission in 2011 to support them in evolving an institutional model for setting up community knowledge centres across rural Karnataka. Parminder is a member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of India IGF. Has been a member of IT ministry's committee on IT for Masses (2015). Parminder was a member of the high-powered government committee to make recommendations on how to operationalise proactive disclosure provisions of India's right to information law.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- Singh, Parminder Jeet. Forthcoming. Open Institutions and their Relevant Publics. Chapter in a book on Open Development (title awaited) being put together by the Strengthening Information Society Research Capacity Alliance -III.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. Forthcoming. A digital Indian Revolution from below. Chapter in a book on policy recommendations for the new Indian government (title awaited) by Brookings Institute, India.
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- Singh, Parminder Jeet; Gurumurthy, Anita; and Chami, Nandini. 2011. [Exploring an institutional model for Samudaya Jnana Kendras: a research study](#). Karnataka Knowledge Commission, Government of Karnataka, India.
- Gurumurthy, Anita and Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2011. Comments on the Final Report of the Research Project - '[Mediating Voices and Communicating Realities](#)' - Using information crowdsourcing tools, open data initiatives and digital media to support and protect the vulnerable and marginalised' by Evangelia Berdou, Institute of Development Studies, UK.

- Gurumurthy, Anita; Singh, Parminder Jeet; Kalley, Aparna; Arakali, Chinmayi and Thimmaiah, Krupa. 2011. [Digitising a Feminist Stratagem](#) - What Mahiti Manthana has taught us about women's empowerment. Women in Action.
- Singh, Parminder Jeet . 2010. [From a Public Internet to the Internet Mall](#). Economic & Political Weekly, 45 (42).
- Singh, Parminder Jeet. 2010. [ICTs in social protection systems](#) – Making the strategic choices first,' policy brief, IT for Change.
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