CENTRE FOR
COMMUNICATION
GOVERNANCE

||-न्यायस्तत्र प्रमाण स्यात्.||

NLU
DELHI

Centre for Communication Governance

At National Law University, Delhi

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

(JANUARY-JUNE)

MEMBERSHIP/AFFILIATIONS

Institutional Affiliations

▷ Member, Global Network of Interdisciplinary Internet & Society Research Centers

▷ Academic Member, International Telecommunications Union

▷ Member (Academic Constituency), Global Network Initiative

▷ Member, Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group constituted by the Government of India

▷ Member, The Noncommercial Users Constituency of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

▷ Member, Working Group for the Policy Development Process (PDP) on 'Next-Generation gTLD Registration Directory Services to Replace WHOIS' at ICANN.

▷ Member, Human Rights Working Party at ICANN

▷ Member, Internet Society, Delhi Chapter

Executive Director's Affiliations

▷ Faculty Associate of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University

▷ Expert, Global Freedom of Expression & Information Jurisprudence Project at Columbia University

▷ Director, Board of Management of the Digital Asia Hub, Hong Kong

▷ Member, Internet & Jurisdiction Project's Academic Observatory

▷ Member, Press Freedom Committee, UNESCO, New Delhi

Research Collaborations

▷ The Centre is working with the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University on a Research Project on Harmful Speech Online.

▷ The Centre is one of three Regional Hubs for the Internet censorship database Lumen (formerly Chilling Effect), a project of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University.

▷ Contributor to the Global Freedom of Expression & Information Jurisprudence Project at Columbia University.

▷ Contributor to the World Intermediary Liability Project of the Centre For Internet & Society at Stanford Law School.

TEACHING/CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

▷ 'Online Hate Speech', a one credit course taught at NALSAR University of Law in January 2016.

▷ Mellon-Sawyer Seminar Series Lecture entitled 'Paper-Thin Safeguards and Mass Surveillance in India' at the University of California-Davis Humanities Institute on 12th April, 2016.

▷ Session titled 'International Free Expression and Hate Speech: A Conversation with Indian Scholar Chinmayi Arun' at University of California- Davis on 13th April. 2016.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

▷ Working paper entitled 'Human Rights in the WSIS Process: The Notion of Interdependence and Indivisibility as a Way Forward'. To be published in the NALSAR Student Law Review Vol.10 (forthcoming).

▷ Working paper entitled 'Evaluating MLATs in the Era of Online Criminal Conduct'. To be published in the Indian Journal of Law and Technology Vol. 12 (forthcoming).

▷ Research note entitled 'Aadhar Act As a Money Bill- Judicial Review of Speaker's Determination Concerning Money Bills'.

▷ Report on the Incidents of Internet Shutdowns in India (since 2012).

▷ De-brief report for Indian stakeholders following the 55th meeting of ICANN, which was held in Marrakesh.

▷ Briefing document for Indian stakeholders ahead of the 56th meeting of ICANN, which was held in Helsinki.

▷ Research paper entitled 'Regulatory Challenges Posed by E-Commerce Companies: Towards a Framework of Consumer Protection' for the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY), Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, Government of India.

POLICY INPUTS

Indian Government

▷ Memorandum on Free Basics and Net Neutrality submitted to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology.

▷ Comment in response to TRAI's consultation paper on Differential Pricing for Data Services.

▷ Coordinated and drafted counter comment on behalf of civil society and academic organizations in response to TRAI's consultation paper on 'Differential Pricing for Data Services'.

Litigation Support

▷ Assisted the petitioners in the case of *Gaurav Sureshbhai Vyas v. State of Gujarat* on the legality of internet shutdowns in India at the Supreme Court.

EVENTS ORGANISED

▷ Roundtable on 'Net Neutrality and the Way Forward' supported by Access Now on 12th January, 2016 in New Delhi.

▷ Roundtable discussion and briefing on ICANN related issues ahead of the ICANN 55 Meeting for Indian stakeholders on 19th February, 2016 in New Delhi.

▷ Lecture by Professor Nishant Shah on 'Porn, Pleasure and Perversion in the Time of the Digital' on 25th February, 2016 at NLU, Delhi.

▷ Screening of 'Hotel Rwanda' and discussion on the operation of hate speech in socio-political contexts, and its use in incitement to violence in collaboration with the NLU Delhi Cinema Club on 14th March, 2016 at NLU, Delhi.

▷ Panel discussion on 'Online Hate Speech: Identification and Strategies' with the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University and the Global Network Initiative at RightsCon 2016 on 31st March, 2016 in San Francisco.

▷ Panel entitled 'Enhanced Cooperation and Internet Governance: The Way Forward' with Global Partners Digital and the University of Zurich at the WSIS Forum on 2nd May 2016 in Geneva.

▷ Panel discussion with the Human Rights Watch entitled 'Protecting Free Speech: Heckler's Veto and Abuse of Laws' on 24th May 2016 in New Delhi. The event also launched the report by Human Rights Watch entitled 'Stifling Dissent: The Criminalization of Peaceful Expression in India'.

▷ Panel discussion on 'The Perils of Biometric Databases' on 25th May, 2016 at NLU, Delhi.

▷ Roundtable discussion and briefing on ICANN-related issues ahead of the ICANN 56 Meeting for Indian stakeholders on 10th January, 2016 in New Delhi.

PUBLISHED COMMENTS

▷ No Recognition for the New Generation of Digital Rights, (Op ed in The Wire, 5th January, 2016).

▷ Demarcating a Safe Threshold (Op ed in the Indian Express, 24th February, 2016).

▷ Legacy of Government Influence Looms as Internet Gears Up For Ownership Switch, (Op ed in The Wire, 6th March, 2016).

▷ Privacy is a Fundamental Right, (Op ed in The Hindu, 18th March, 2016).

▷ The Internet Holds Its Breath as Oversight Transition Plan Reaches Final Hurdle, (Op ed in The Wire, 20th March, 2016).

▷ A Question of Power, (Op Ed in the Indian Express, 25th May, 2016).

▷ Criminal Defamation survives: a Blot on Free Speech, (Op ed in Livemint, 22nd May, 2016).

EVENTS ATTENDED

As Panelists

- Discussion on 'Surveillance and Encryption', held by the Law and Technology Society on 23rd January, 2016 at NLSIU, Bangalore.
- Facilitator at the MacArthur Foundation workshop on Maternal Health Care, held in New Delhi on 11th February, 2016.
- Session entitled 'Opening the Black Box: Understanding How Companies Enforce their Rules' organized by Ranking Digital Rights on 31st March, 2016 at RightsCon 2016, San Francisco.
- Session entitled 'Understanding Effective Capacity Building in Cybersecurity', organized by the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre at the University of Oxford on 31st March, 2016 at RightsCon 2016, San Francisco.
- Session entitled 'Hardly a Laughing Matter: Could Sexist Humor Amount to Dangerous Speech?' organized by Bytes for All and Media Matters for Democracy on 30th March, 2016 at RightsCon 2016, San Francisco.
- Session entitled 'Network disconnections: Effects on Civil and Trade Rights' organized by Bytes For All on 31st March, 2016 at RightsCon 2016, San Francisco.
- Session on Mapping the Landscape for Online Removal Requests: A Research Workshop w/the Berkman Center's Lumen Project organized by the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University on 31st March, 2016 at RightsCon 2016, San Francisco.
- How to Fight an Internet Shutdown: announcing the #KeepitOn campaign organized by Access Now on 1st April, 2016 at RightsCon 2016, San Francisco.
- Session on Internet Fragmentation organized by the University of Zurich at the WSIS Forum on 2nd May, 2016 in Geneva.
- Session on Advancing Internet Governance Principles and Practice organized by the Association for Progressive Communications at the WSIS Forum on 6th May, 2016 in Geneva.
- High Level Track Facilitator for the session on Bridging the Digital Divide at the WSIS Forum on 2nd May, 2016 in Geneva.
- Workshop on Engaging with ICANN, organized by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology on 17th May, 2016 in New Delhi.

As Participants

- 'Act of Media', a workshop conducted by the Center for Study of Developing Societies on 8th January, 2016 New Delhi.
- Open House Discussion on Differential Pricing for Data Services held by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, on 21st January, 2016 New Delhi.
- 'Catalyzing Trade Negotiations', a meeting organized by the Electronic Frontier Foundation on 27th and 28th January, 2016 at the Open Society European Policy Institute in Brussels.

- Judged the semi-final round of the 57th Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition - India Rounds on 31st January, 2016 at Christ University, Bangalore.
- Workshop on Internet Rights and Universal Periodical Review Advocacy from 3rd to 6th February, 2016 in New Delhi, organised by Digital Empowerment Foundation with Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Amnesty India and the European Union.
- Roundtable on Online Harassment and Twitter's Safety Center, on 23rd February, 2016 organised by Breakthrough in New Delhi.
- 'Cybersecurity, Internet Governance and India's Foreign Policy: Antecedents and the Way Forward for Non-Government Stakeholders', organised by Internet Democracy Project on 27th February, 2016 in New Delhi.
- Invited to participate in the closed door Global Digital Rights Strategic Litigation Workshop organised by Access Now and Media Legal Defence Initiative on 1st June, 2016 at RightsCon 2016, San Francisco.
- Coordination Meeting for ICANN 56 organized by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology on 24th June, 2016 in New Delhi.

SELECT BLOGPOSTS

- BRICS and Internet Governance: India's Chance to Lead the Way

- Parliamentary Standing Committee on a New Online Hate Speech Provision

- A Constitutional Right Against Free Basics? The Link between Article 19 and Zero Rating

- Wuzhen 2015: Evaluating China's Competing Vision of the Internet

- Tallin Manual 1.0 - A Primer

- The World Economic Forum and Internet Governance

- TRAI releases Regulations enforcing Net Neutrality, prohibits Differential Pricing

- Three Questions on Digital Trade

- New EU-US Data Protection Agreement Imminent

- Find Ways to Curb Child Pornography: SC

- On the Road to Marrakech: ICANN Accountability in Transition Blog Series

- The EU-US Privacy Shield: The Safer Harbour?

- Budapest Convention on Cybercrime – An Overview

- Delhi HC Grants Bail to Kanhaiya: A Pyrrhic Victory

- The New Dimension to the UIDAI Debate: The Aadhaar Bill, 2016

- A Marrakech update: CCWG-Accountability at ICANN55

- An overview of the 1st Report of the Special Rapporteur on Privacy

- CCWG-Accountability: A Marrakech Wrap-up

- Free Speech & Violent Extremism: Special Rapporteur on Terrorism Weighs in.

- Right to Criticise: Urdu writers and the Curious Case of the 'Loyalty form'

- Supreme Court finds Criminal Defamation Constitutional

- *Subramanian Swamy v. UoI*: Unanswered Arguments

- EU Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online: An Analysis

- Heading into Helsinki: Core issues at ICANN56

To know more about the Centre
and its ongoing projects

Please write to:
ccg@nludelhi.ac.in

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, DELHI
Sector 14, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078, India

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