“I still believe that if your aim is to change the world, journalism is a more immediate short-term weapon.”

TOM STOPPARD
As the news industry continues to find itself straddling responsibility and commitment to absolute truth or a lack thereof, new technologies, and advertising challenges in current worldwide economies, to find out where news can go, we present – The Media Rumble.

The Media Rumble (TMR) is a forum for a stimulating exchange of ideas on the news media. It brings together some of the best media professionals, tech innovators, influencers, policy-makers and thought leaders along with journalism-aspirants and news-consumers from across the world.

Given the potential of news as a shaper of public opinion, TMR is an important platform built around the pillars of news: content, technology, economy and policy. Through discussions, debates, film screenings, presentations and masterclasses, the forum explores the three-sixty degrees of news, discussing both traditional and new media in order to find creative solutions to the issues faced by the media today.

The inaugural edition in 2017 in New Delhi was a first-of-its-kind confluence of news professionals and news enthusiasts in India which brought together award-winning journalists from Pulitzer Prize winners to Ramnath Goenka awardees, on-ground reporters to editors, media proprietors to investors, amongst others.

Over the years, TMR has platformed an electric exchange of ideas and invigorating discussions for everyone - from the journalist to the news junkie, the political commentator to the technology expert, from the investor to the entrepreneur, the corporate communication professional to the policy researcher and the college and high school student.

The fourth edition of The Media Rumble (TMR), this year, will be presented in an all-new digital avatar titled TMR@Online and will be streamed on the Forum website (www.themediarumble.com) from September 17th to 20th, 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic will be centre stage at TMR@Online – sessions on media business models in a post-COVID world, news trustworthiness, acknowledging the role of “media front line warriors” are some of the themes that will be covered. In addition to these, press freedom, caste and gender composition of Indian media houses, and the future of news in India in an age of digital transformation, will be the focus areas.
A recurring concern as we concluded the past two Media Rumble’s for me has been - will we have anything new next year? Will there be any new aspects to discuss or dissect? Will there be a new trend or shake-up? I am exhilarated and dismayed each year with what the world of news throws up. What one thought was impossible is made possible by some innovator or another. Novel news properties and products are created by a pool of hungry and passionate news professionals. New heights are achieved in standing up for journalistic ideals even as new depths are tested in searching for a viable model for one of the oldest and most important crafts in the world. There is never a dull day in the world of news. And so, we are thrilled each year as we look at all that has happened in the world of journalistic adventure the world over and the line-up of amazing speakers we get. It is not too optimistic to suggest that we are moving forward. Journalism is an optimistic pursuit even as it appears to get more cynical. The ecosystem that creates and depends on news media has many brilliant minds entertaining and pursing ideas to declutter an information overload in a digital age. Concepts, conversations and innovations in distribution, creation, policy, business and technology to ensure that news remains accessible, honest and relevant are the hallmarks of The Media Rumble. We hope we make it worth your while this year too. I am keen to learn so much and I hope you all are as well. Let’s rumble!

Abhinandan Sekhri
Co-founder, Newslaundry
Amidst the cacophony of viral WhatsApp messages, high-decibel TV debates, competing news feeds which play out as fiction, we have arrived at a crossroad of sensationalism and democracy.

NEWS today tends to be stranger than fiction, and more often than not, based on disinformation rather than a presentation and analysis of facts. As the public negotiates their daily reality, we find that NEWS has become a power unto itself. A power to divide nations, propagate hatred and violence, sell lies and myths, create fear, target minorities, incarcerate people, egg on lynch mobs and upend democratic practices. The constant assault on our senses from media platforms has led to confusion, depression and despair. Yet NEWS has the power to bring down dictators, stop the felling of trees, the killing of animals, bring in transparency and change, give succour and relief to those who need it most, track down criminals and murderers, change unjust laws and usher in change.

It is time to analyse, introspect, recalibrate and appreciate the strength of the medium as being absolutely vital to the socio-economic and political health of every democratic society. At our annual offering of The Media Rumble, this year brought to you digitally as TMR@Online, Newslaundry and Teamwork Arts bring together award-winning journalists, analysts, commentators and industry experts from India and across the world, to debate and discuss the challenges, innovations, economic realities and future possibilities of the medium, given the hitherto-unseen realities of the pandemic that has impacted every sector and every individual.

**Sanjoy Roy**  
Managing Director, Teamwork Arts
10:55 – 11:00  →  Inaugural Address
Sanjoy K. Roy | Managing Director, Teamwork Arts

11:00 – 12:00  →  Foreign Correspondents’ Club:
How India and the World View Each Other
Session presented by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Alex Travelli, Amy Kazmin, Nimisha Jaiswal, Parul Chandra,
Peter Rimmel, Suhasini Haider, Zakka Jacob

Aditi Priya, Banjot Kaur, Barkha Dutt, Dhanya Rajendran, Vivek Kaul

17:30 – 18:30  →  Gender Representation in Newsrooms
Session presented by Hyatt & U.S. Embassy, New Delhi
Faye D’souza, Meera Selva, Nishtha Satyam,
Patricia Mukhim, Sandhya Ravishankar

19:00 – 20:00  →  Radio Rwanda: Hate News that Led to Genocide
Claude Mugabe and Mahmood Mamdani
in conversation with Manisha Pande

20:30 – 21:30  →  Press Freedom
Session presented by U.S. Embassy, New Delhi
Joel Simon in conversation with Abhinandan Sekhri

*Program subject to change

All sessions will be streamed on the Forum website
www.themediarumble.com
**SCHEDULE**

11:00 – 12:00  Batla House Encounter, Police Reform, and the Media-Police Relationship  
Karnal Singh, Meenal Baghel, Sanjoy K. Roy

12:30 – 13:30  Hate Media: When Propaganda Masquerades as the News and its Impact on a Nation’s Social Fabric  
John Ralston Saul, Maya Mirchandani, General Roméo Dallaire

17:30 – 18:30  Caste and Community Representation in Newsrooms  
Abdussalam Puthige, Afrida Hussain, Atul Chaurasia, Mrudula Devi S., Dr. Suraj Yengde

18:45 – 20:00  Ethics and Morality in the Digital World  
*Session presented by U.S. Embassy, New Delhi*  
Presentation and In Conversation: Wendell Wallach and Abhinandan Sekhri

20:30 – 21:30  State of the Media: Stand-up Comedy  
Abijit Ganguly and Aditi Mittal  
(Tickets on BookMyShow)

*Program subject to change*

All sessions will be streamed on the Forum website  
www.themediarumble.com
11:30 – 12:30  Representation of Law and Order in Cinema  
Presentation and Discussion: Anushka Shah, Hussain Zaidi, Rema Rajeshwari

12:30 – 13:30  Covering COVID: How much Risk is too much?  
Ayush Tiwari, Charan Teja Peddaboori, Meghnad, Vijayta Lalwani, Zeba Warsi

17:30 – 18:30  Rethinking the European Project  
Session presented by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung  
James Crabtree, Juuli Hiio, Dr. Mohan Kumar, Peter Rimmele, Dr. Samir Saran, Tara Varma

19:00 – 20:00  Balancing Powers or Norm Shapers?  
Defining India and EU’s Proposition for Asia  
Session presented by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung  
Darshana Baruah, Dhruva Jaishankar, Dr. Garima Mohan, Jeff M. Smith, Peter Rimmele

20:30 – 21:30  Slice of Life Cinema: Reflecting India’s Realities  
Gajraj Rao, Richa Chadha, Atul Chaurasia

*Program subject to change

All sessions will be streamed on the Forum website  
www.themedia rumble.com
20 SEPT

**SCHEDULE**

11:00 – 12:00  🔄 Presentation of Digital News Report, 2020
Followed by an In Conversation
Prof. Rasmus Nielsen and Ritu Kapur

12:30 – 13:30  🔄 Why Data Matters to Journalism
*Session presented by India Data Portal*
Dr. Anisha Sharma, Prof. Ashwini Chhatre, Govindraj Ethiraj,
Mihir Sharma, Rukmini S

17:15 – 17:30  🔄 Exponential Spread: How can today’s fact check industry
keep up with the virality of misinformation
Presentation by Lyric Jain

17:30 – 18:30  🔄 Misinformation in the Times of a Pandemic
Clara Jimenez Cruz, Karen Rebele, Lyric Jain, Manisha Pande,
Oommen Kurian, Trushar Barot

19:00 – 20:00  🔄 Future-proofing the Journalists:
Upskilling in the Digital and Post-pandemic Age
Anuradha Das Mathur, Irene Jay Liu, Neha Dixit, Ritu Kapur,
Sashi Kumar, Rohan Venkataramakrishnan

20:30 – 21:30  🔄 Intermediary Liability: Crafting a Policy Framework
Govindraj Ethiraj, Kazim Rizvi, Mishi Choudhary, Smitha Krishna Prasad,
Udbhav Tiwari, Vivan Sharan

21:30 – 21:35  🔄 Closing Address
Abhinandan Sekhri | Co-founder, Newslaundry

*Program subject to change

All sessions will be streamed on the Forum website
www.themediaarumble.com
Introductory Remarks: Peter Rimmele - Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Panel Discussion: Alex Travelli, Amy Kazmin, Nimisha Jaiswal, Parul Chandra and Suhasini Haider in conversation with Zakka Jacob

About the Session: This session will discuss how Indian foreign affairs correspondents cover India’s engagement with the world; and how the international correspondent, stationed in India, reports on the country. Have Indian correspondents kept pace with India’s growing stature on the international stage? Or have they been ahead of the curve, even predicting the next steps India takes? Does the current class of international correspondents understand India better than its predecessors? Is there any baggage that the international reporter carries when reporting about India? The session will also discuss the importance of foreign affairs reportage and the challenges it faces given the sensitive nature of the beat.

SPEAKERS

Alex Travelli
Alex Travelli is an India correspondent for The Economist and an editor on its Asian assignment desk. He was posted to Delhi—where he started work as a freelancer in 1999— for the past six years. Between these two stints he was based in New York, in television news and then for The Economist, and in Hong Kong.

Amy Kazmin
Amy Kazmin, is the South Asia Bureau Chief for the Financial Times. An award-winning journalist, she has written about Asia for the Financial Times for over 20 years. She spent eight years as the newspaper’s Bangkok-based regional correspondent, before being posted to India in 2008. In 2016, she took over as the Financial Times’ South Asia bureau chief. A Californian, she was educated at U C Berkeley and the London School of Economics.
Nimisha Jaiswal
Nimisha Jaiswal is the India correspondent with Deutsche Welle, Germany’s international news broadcaster. Before starting her stint in broadcast at NDTV, Nimisha independently wrote for international news outlets like Le Monde, WSJ, Public Radio International, and IRIN. Her work has been recognised by the International Reporting Project and the Red Ink Award.

Parul Chandra
Parul Chandra has been a journalist for over three decades and has covered a wide swathe of areas before finally dropping anchor as a foreign affairs reporter. She’s worked with some of India’s finest newsrooms, among them The Times of India, The Financial Express and The Statesman in its heydays. She is currently Deputy Editor with StratNews Global, a news portal that focuses on foreign affairs, defence and security issues. Her work has taken her to the US, UK, France, Iran, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and other countries.

Peter Max Rimmele
Peter Max Rimmele is currently the Resident Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office, India. After working as a jurist, judge and lecturer, he took public office as Ministerialrat, Head of Division at the State Ministry of the Interior in Saxony, Germany. On behalf of the German Foreign Ministry he served in East Timor as Registrar General, Head of Civil Registry and Notary Services (UNTAET), and became later the principal Advisor for Governance Reform for GIZ (German International Cooperation) to the Ministry of Administrative Reform and the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, where he served for 7 years. He then moved to Rwanda, also as Principal Advisor Good Governance/Justice Program.

Suhasini Haider
Suhasini Haider is the Diplomatic Editor of The Hindu. Prior to that, she has been Foreign Editor and Anchor at CNN-IBN and Correspondent and Producer at CNN International’s New Delhi Bureau. Over the course of a career in journalism spanning 25 years, Suhasini has covered conflicts in South Asia and beyond, and covered diplomacy and foreign policy.

Zakka Jacob
Zakka Jacob is Executive Editor of CNN News 18 and the host of the channel’s flagship show ‘Brasstacks’. In his short span in CNN News 18, which is CNN international’s India affiliate, Zakka has managed to carve a niche in the crowded and noisy primetime which is dominated by loud panelists and shouting matches that pass off as debates. He was awarded the Best News Anchor in Asia award in 2016 and 2018 by the Asian Television Academy, an honour no Indian anchor has been awarded twice. Recently he was chosen in Impact magazine’s 40 under 40 list. Prior to joining CNN News 18, Zakka worked in China Central Television from 2011 to 2014, becoming the first South Asian face on Chinese television.
Panel Discussion: Aditi Priya, Barkha Dutt, Priyanka Pulla and Vivek Kaul in conversation with Dhanya Rajendran

About the Session: As much of the world was coming to terms with the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, it became clear fairly soon that this pandemic would be the biggest story, not just for the year, but for an entire generation. This session will explore three distinct aspects of the pandemic story - health, economics, and socio-political. Has COVID-19 changed the way countries, particularly India, look at healthcare from a policy and ‘newsworthiness’ perspective? How have India’s public and private healthcare sectors responded to the pandemic? How should India reorient its economic policy-making in the wake of the virus? Is it time for a more inward-looking approach, or is it an opportunity to open up to the world? Will we see a greater role for the state in reviving the economy, or does the answer lie in the market? And socio-politically, has the reverse migration forever dented ‘the big city dream’? And how disproportionately have marginalised communities faced the brunt of this pandemic?

SPEAKERS

Aditi Priya
Aditi Priya is a Research Associate at LEAD at Krea University, Chennai. She has completed her Masters in Economics from Delhi School of Economics.

Banjot Kaur
Banjot Kaur has been a journalist for a little more than 10 years, reporting on health for the last eight. Before joining Down To Earth in New Delhi in October 2017, she worked with the Times of India in Patna, for more than five years. She started her career in 2012 with ANI. As part of her reportage, she has travelled to about two dozen districts of India, largely the villages of MP, UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha and Maharashtra.
Barkha Dutt
Barkha Dutt is an Indian television journalist. She’s the Founder and Editor of Mojo. She was part of NDTV for 21 years.

Dhanya Rajendran
Dhanya Rajendran is the Co-founder and Editor-in-chief of The News Minute. A journalist who began her career with India Vision and The New Indian Express, she joined the English news channel Times Now before the channel’s launch. She was the channel’s South India bureau chief. In 2014, she founded www.thenewsminute.com with Chitra Subramaniam and Vignesh Vellore.

Vivek Kaul
Vivek Kaul is a widely published writer on economics and finance. He is also the author of five books. His latest book, Bad Money – Inside the NPA Mess and How It Threatens the Indian Banking System, published in June 2020, is an Amazon bestseller.
Panel Discussion: Meera Selva, Nishtha Satyam, Patricia Mukhim and Sandhya Ravishankar in conversation with Faye D’souza

About the Session: A newsroom’s outlook has many determinants - economic ideologies, political inclinations, and sociological moorings. This panel will explore how a newsroom’s gender representation impacts its reportage and its administrative functioning. It will discuss whether the kind of beats or stories assigned to journalists are based on their gender; the gender pay-gap in newsrooms, the degree of this gap; and how gender determines the upward mobility of a journalist within the organisation.

SPEAKERS

Faye D’souza
Faye D’Souza is India’s one of the most prominent broadcast and digital media journalists. She previously worked as the Executive Editor of Mirror Now. Recently, she has started her own media venture.

Meera Selva
Meera Selva is director of the journalist fellowship programme at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism in Oxford. Meera is an accomplished senior journalist with experience in Europe, Asia and Africa. She joined the Reuters Institute from Handelsblatt Global where she had been working out of Singapore, having helped launch the digital daily business paper in Berlin in 2014. Her previous experience includes several years as a London-based correspondent for the Associated Press, and three years as Africa correspondent for the Independent based in Nairobi.
Nishtha Satyam
Nishtha Satyam was appointed the Deputy Country Representative for India at UN Women, the entity of the United Nations that is dedicated to working towards Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in January 2018. She formerly managed Strategic Partnerships, Policy Impact and Public Relations for the UN Women Multi Country Office for India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Nishtha has also served as the Private Sector Partnerships Specialist with the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and UNDP. She has worked with KPMG and American Express as an economist.

Patricia Mukhim
Patricia Mukhim is currently the Editor of The Shillong Times. She also writes columns for other newspapers and online portals. Mukhim has been a Member of the National Security Advisory Board between 2012-2014. She is a recipient of the Padmashree for social service and has been at the forefront of combating militancy in the North-East region through a people’s movement.

Sandhya Ravishankar
Sandhya Ravishankar is an award-winning journalist and Editor of The Lede. She has a number of groundbreaking stories to her credit including her extensive work on the illegal beach sand-mining expose in Tamil Nadu, which won her the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism in 2019. She covers politics, social inequality, human rights, development and policy reportage and has also authored a biography of late DMK chief M Karunanidhi. Sandhya has been a television news reporter and producer for 10 years, working with national news platforms such as CNN News18, Times Now, CNBC-TV18 and others.
RADIO RWANDA: HATE NEWS THAT LED TO GENOCIDE

Claude Mugabe and Mahmood Mamdani in conversation with Manisha Pande

About the Session: According to some estimates, 10% of all deaths in the genocide were caused by hateful broadcasts, with Radio Rwanda playing a vital role. This session will discuss the impact of hate news on a country’s social fabric; the role of journalists and government officials in manufacturing this hate; why hate news sells more than nuance; and the reasons behind the rise of multiple ‘Radio Rwandas’ across the world today.

SPEAKERS

Claude Mugabe
Claude Mugabe joined Aegis Trust in 2010. Previously, as a young genocide survivor, he joined various genocide survivors’ organisations that strove to advocate and raise awareness on genocide and its prevention. Today, with his acquired experience of over seven years serving as a Genocide Museum Guide, Claude dedicates all his time to prevent mass atrocities and genocide wherever they may occur by teaching peace. He is an advisor to a local organisation called Peace Education Initiative and educates people on peace by using the Holocaust as a case study. He submitted a research project titled ‘The Role of Hate Media in spreading Genocide Propaganda in Rwanda’ with the Kangura newspaper.

Mahmood Mamdani
Mahmood Mamdani is the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government at the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1974 and specialises in the study of African history and politics. His works explore the intersection between politics and culture, a comparative study of colonialism since 1452, the history of civil war and genocide in Africa, the Cold War and the War on Terror, and the history and theory of human rights. He’s the author of When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism and Genocide in Rwanda (2001).

Manisha Pande
Manisha Pande is the Executive Editor at Newslaundry where she reports, edits and gets her kicks from watching television news. Previously with Business Standard and DNA, she’s interested in the media and would like to tell stories that acquaint you with different aspects of the news industry.
Joel Simon in conversation with Abhinandan Sekhri

About the Session: Violent attacks on journalists, intimidation by law enforcement organisations, and outright censorship – press freedom across the world is in peril. This session will explore the major sources of threat facing journalists today. It will discuss the role of media houses, government agencies, and law enforcement bodies, in upholding the rights of journalists and providing adequate protection to ensure fair reportage. The session will also explore the role of civil society organisations and tech platforms in amplifying the voices of those who are attacked and/or intimidated.

SPEAKERS

Joel Simon
Joel Simon has been Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists since 2006. He writes and speaks widely on press freedom issues and is the author of three books, most recently, We Want to Negotiate: The Secret World of Kidnapping, Hostages, and Ransom (Columbia Global Reports, 2018). Prior to joining CPJ in 1997 as Americas program coordinator, Simon worked for a decade as a journalist in Latin America.

Abhinandan Sekhri
Abhinandan Sekhri is the Co-founder of Newslaundry.com. He has also co-founded a production house, Small Screen. Before founding Newslaundry, he worked as a producer, director and writer in various television and film projects, including the award-winning food and travel show ‘Highway on my Plate’, and news-satire shows such as ‘Gustaakhi Maaf’ and ‘The Great Indian Tamasha’.
Karnal Singh and Meenal Baghel in conversation with Sanjoy K. Roy

**About the Session:** Karnal Singh is a 1984-batch IPS officer. In the Delhi Police Special Cell, he spearheaded the investigation of the 2008 Delhi blast cases, which led to the Batla House encounter. His book *BATLA HOUSE: An Encounter That Shook the Nation* is set to be released in September 2020. This session will discuss his book and will explore the administrative reforms needed to de-link the police from political interference; the relationship of the police with the media, and particularly how media trials influence investigations; and how Indian police forces are dealing with the speed of information that flows social media.

**SPEAKERS**

**Karnal Singh**
Karnal Singh, a 1984-batch IPS officer and an IIT alumnus, has over 34 years of experience in the investigation of corruption, terrorism, money-laundering and criminal cases. While in the Delhi Police Special Cell, he spearheaded the investigation of the 2008 Delhi blast cases, which led to the Batla House encounter. He is a recipient of the President’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Meritorious Service. His book *BATLA HOUSE: An Encounter that Shook the Nation* is set to be released in September 2020.

**Meenal Baghel**
Meenal Baghel is the editor of *Mumbai Mirror*, and author of *Death in Mumbai*, a non-fiction account of a high-profile murder case of a TV executive in Mumbai in 2008.
Sanjoy K. Roy

Sanjoy K. Roy, an entrepreneur of the arts, is the Managing Director of Teamwork Arts, which produces over 33 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals in 40 cities across countries and continents, including the world’s largest free literary gathering — the annual Jaipur Literature Festival. Roy received the National Award for Excellence and Best Director for *Shahjahanabad: The Twilight Years*. He is a Founder Trustee of Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT) working to provide support services for street and working children in the inner city of Delhi. In 2011, the White House presented SBT the US President’s Committee of Arts and Humanities Award for an International Organisation. Roy works closely with industry bodies and the government on policy issues within the Cultural Sector in India. He is Co-chair of the Art and Culture Committee of the FICCI and an advisor to the Arts Council of England Diversity Board for Theatre. Roy has lectured and collaborated with global universities including the University of Chicago, Harvard, MIT Media lab, London School of Economics etc.
HATE MEDIA: WHEN PROPAGANDA MASQUERADES AS THE NEWS AND ITS IMPACT ON A NATION’S SOCIAL FABRIC

12:30 – 1:30 PM

John Ralston Saul and General Roméo Dallaire in conversation with Maya Mirchandani

About the Session: Joseph Goebbels’ invention, which was perfected by Radio Rwanda, has many contemporary avatars. Be it mature democracies such as the US and UK, or younger ones such as India, the fourth estate in each of these countries has become an instrument to divide, rather than inform. Taking a cue from the role Hate Media has played in the past, this session will discuss the underlying reasons for this phenomenon, the mechanics behind how it works, the dangers it presents, and the most effective strategies to counter it.

SPEAKERS

John Ralston Saul
John Ralston Saul is an award-winning essayist and novelist. A long-time champion of freedom of expression, he was the elected President of PEN International from 2009 to 2015. He is a leading voice in the international movement supporting immigrants and refugees.

Maya Mirchandani
Maya Mirchandani is a Senior Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation and Assistant Professor of Broadcast Journalism and Media Studies at Ashoka University. For nearly 25 years, she was a journalist with NDTV, reporting on Indian foreign policy, conflict and national politics. She has reported extensively from Kashmir, survived suicide bomb blasts in Sri Lanka, a civil war in Sierra Leone, and reported from New York on 9/11 and its immediate aftermath. Maya has won the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism twice.

General Roméo Dallaire
General Roméo Dallaire is the Founder of the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security, a global partnership with the mission to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in violence. A celebrated advocate for human rights, especially in regards to child soldiers, veterans, and the prevention of mass atrocities, General Dallaire is also a respected government and UN advisor and former Canadian Senator.
Panel Discussion: Abdussalam Puthige, Atul Chaurasia, Mrudula Devi S. and Dr. Suraj Yengde in conversation with Afrida Hussain

About the Session: The fourth pillar of democracy, the news media, has become an instrument to divide rather than inform. One of the reasons for this changing landscape is the lack of diversity in the newsroom – with journalists from similar backgrounds and worldviews setting the agenda, the newsroom itself has become an exclusive club. This session will explore how media organisations can ensure a more inclusive newsroom that has the potential to challenge dominant narratives and offer alternative viewpoints.

SPEAKERS

Abdussalam Puthige
Abdussalam Puthige is the Editor-in-chief of the Vartha Bharathi Kannada Daily (since 2003 -- Mangalore, Shimoga & Bangalore editions), and varthabharathi.in (Kannada and English). He’s also the Director of Madhyama Kendra (Media Centre), Bengaluru and Managing Director of Madhyama Communications Ltd, Mangalore. He’s a speaker, trainer, author and translator and has received a Transparency International Award in 2009, for upholding the basic values of journalism and promoting truth through Vartha Bharathi Kannada Daily.

Afrida Hussain
Afrida Hussain, Founder & Editor-in-chief, INSIDENE, is a first-generation woman entrepreneur who has been a journalist for over 18 years. Among her several achievements is reporting stories with far-reaching impact on policy making; designing and delivering content that speak to viewers/readers in India’s North- East and neighbouring countries like Bangladesh. She has worked with media houses like AajTak & Headlines Today, NewsX and Radio Mirchi. She began her journey several years ago, working for the NE provinces’ first SAT TV Channel - NETV.
Atul Chaurasia
Atul Chaurasia has been a journalist for almost two decades and is currently Executive Editor of Newslaundry. He was in the founding teams of the Tehelka Hindi magazine and the CatchNews Hindi website, where he served as Editor. He has won the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism in 2010 and 2013.

Dr. Suraj Yengde
Dr. Suraj Yengde is India’s leading public intellectual and a scholar of caste studies. He is the author of the bestseller Caste Matters which recently featured in The Hindu’s “Best Non-fiction Books of the Decade”. Suraj is currently a senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and an inaugural postdoctoral fellow at the Initiative for Institutional Anti-racism and Accountability (IARA) at Harvard University. He is also India’s first Dalit Ph.D-holder (from an African university - University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg). Suraj is a recipient of the Dr. Ambedkar Social Justice Award, Canada 2019 and the Rohith Vemula Memorial Scholar Award 2018.

Mrudula Devi S.
Mrudula Devi S. is an Editorial Board Member of Patabhedam magazine. She is also a poet and is engaged with Dalit Bahujan issues.
ETHICS AND MORALITY IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

6:45 – 8:00 PM

Presentation by Wendell Wallach - Ethicist, Yale University
Followed by an In Conversation between Wendell Wallach and Abhinandan Sekhri

About the Session: Algorithms increasingly determine much of the human decision making process - whether it is the news we consume or the food we order in. This session will explore the ethical and moral codes that should govern the fourth industrial revolution, where artificial intelligence and machine learning will become all pervasive as they merge with bio-tech and the internet of things.

SPEAKERS

Abhinandan Sekhri
Abhinandan Sekhri is the Co-founder of Newslaundry.com. He has also co-founded a production house, Small Screen. Before founding Newslaundry, he worked as a producer, director and writer in various television and film projects, including the award-winning food and travel show ‘Highway on my Plate’, and news-satire shows such as ‘Gustaakhi Maaf’ and ‘The Great Indian Tamasha’.

Wendell Wallach
Wendell Wallach is a scholar at Yale University’s Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, where he chaired Technology and Ethics studies for eleven years. He is also a senior advisor to The Hastings Center and a senior fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. His latest book, A Dangerous Master: How to keep technology from slipping beyond our control, is a primer on emerging technologies. In addition, he co-authored (with Colin Allen) Moral Machines: Teaching Robots Right From Wrong. The eight volume Library of Essays on the Ethics of Emerging Technologies (edited by Wallach) was published by Routledge in Winter 2017. He received the World Technology Award for Ethics in 2014 and for Journalism and Media in 2015, as well as a Fulbright Research Chair at the University of Ottawa in 2015-2016. The World Economic Forum appointed Wallach co-chair of its Global Future Council on Technology, Values, and Policy for the 2016-2018 term, and he is presently a member of their AI Council.
About the Session: The brief is simple: take the media to the cleaners!

COMICS

Abijit Ganguly
Abijit Ganguly first gave a shot at comedy in 2010 at an open mic in Delhi organised by the comedy collective Cheese Monkey Mafia. Initially, for 4 years, he was a part-time comedian, finishing his Masters from Delhi School of Economics (2010-2012), and working at Deloitte Consulting (2012-2014). In 2014, Abijit started pursuing comedy full-time, having featured frequently on NDTV prime, Zoom and publications such as Times of India, Hindustan Times, Statesman, The Hindu; he was also a frequent face at the Canvas Comedy Club branches of Mumbai, Delhi and Gurgaon & That Comedy Club, Bengaluru. Abijit has written a web-series titled ‘Joint Venture’ for the Times group on their MensXP platform and performed extensively across India and for the Indian diaspora in Dubai, Nepal, Tanzania and Australia. His style of comedy is anecdotal, observational humour with occasional self deprecation and political satire.

Aditi Mittal
Aditi Mittal is a comedian, writer and actor. Her first stand-up special “Things They Wouldn’t Let Me Say” is on Netflix, her second special “Girl Meets Mic” is also on Netflix and she’s currently touring her third stand-up special “Global Village Idiot” around the world. Aditi debuted her fourth special, “Mother of Invention” at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019. She has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, UK Melbourne Comedy Festival, Australia and Montreux Comedy Festival, Switzerland. She’s held stand-up comedy workshops in India and at Soho Theatre in London.
Presentation by Anushka Shah – Founder, Civic Studios
Followed by a discussion between Hussain Zaidi, Rema Rajeshwari and Anushka Shah

About the Session: The good cop, the corrupt official, and the vigilante – these are just some of the portrayals of law enforcement officials in Indian cinema. This session will explore the impact of such portrayal on how these officials and the institutions they represent are perceived by the public. The panel will discuss whether our films and TV series helped bridge the gap between our public institutions and the people they are to protect? Or conversely, has our cinema created an air of distrust between law enforcement officials and the public? The session will also discuss the increasing portrayal of vigilante justice on screen - do such story-lines on screen lead to violence on the streets? And how disproportionately have marginalised communities faced the brunt of this pandemic?

SPEAKERS

Anushka Shah
Anushka Shah founded the Civic Entertainment project at the MIT Media Lab and consequently, Civic Studios in Mumbai. She has a background in applied statistics and digital text analysis, and has previously worked with non-profits and political parties in India. She divides her time between Mumbai, Boston and Chicago.

Hussain Zaidi
Hussain Zaidi is one of India’s leading crime-writers, and has written several bestselling books including Dongri to Dubai: Six Decades of the Mumbai Mafia, Mafia Queens of Mumbai, Black Friday and My Name Is Abu Salem. A veteran of investigative, crime and terror reporting in the media, he has worked for the Asian Age, Mumbai Mirror, Mid-Day and Indian Express. He is also the Associate Producer for the HBO movie Terror in Mumbai, based on the 26/11 terror strikes.
Rema Rajeshwari
Rema Rajeshwari is an Indian Police Service officer with a distinguished career of integrity, courage and passion spanning over a decade. She has held various responsible and dynamic positions since her first assignment in the police service as an Assault Commander with the ‘Greyhounds’, an elite special force, which undertakes high-risk operations through jungle warfare against Left-wing extremists. She has been instrumental in running successful operations against extremists, women and child-trafficking nexus, organised gangs, and other criminal activities. Yale University selected her as the ‘Yale World Fellow’ in 2017. The International Association of Women Police (IAWP) featured her work under ‘Leading Change’ in 2018.
Panel Discussion: Ayush Tiwari, Charan Teja Peddaboori, Vijayta Lalwani and Zeba Warsi in conversation with Meghnad

About the Session: The many facets of the COVID story – health, economic, and socio-political – would not have entered mainstream consciousness if the reporters and journalists did not take certain risks to bring those stories to us. This panel will discuss how difficult it still is to cover the pandemic; the risks that one has to take, and the risks that can and should be avoided; and if there are any best practices that media houses and govt. agencies can adopt to make the reportage less precarious. The panel will also discuss what reporting on other important stories is like during a pandemic – is there pandemic fatigue? Are there stories that are being missed or not followed up on because of restrictions? And how different it is to report in the post-pandemic world.

SPEAKERS

Ayush Tiwari
Ayush Tiwari is a reporter at Newslaundry. He covers media, politics and human rights in India, and has reported from Kashmir, North India and the four corners of Delhi.

Charan Teja Peddaboori
Charan Teja Peddaboori is a reporter with The News Minute, and covers Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for the publication. An Asian College of Journalism alumnus, Charan specialises in ground reports and has worked on bringing to attention issues of forest rights, land acquisition, environment, agriculture and more. He is interested in tracking social change in the two states through education and other interventions.
Meghnad
Meghnad is a public policy professional and a die-hard Parliament nerd who’s currently the Associate Editor at Newslaundry. When he is not watching Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha TV obsessively, he spends his time poring over legislation, trying to simplify them on Twitter and writing columns about them using GIFs. He hosted a series to simplify the working of the Indian government called ‘Constituition’ with Newslaundry. He is a former LAMP fellow and has worked with multiple MPs in the past.

Vijayta Lalwani
Vijayta Lalwani is a journalist at Scroll.in in Delhi.

Zeba Warsi
Zeba Warsi is a journalist with CNN-News18 who covers politics and special reports and is designated as Special Correspondent, National Bureau. She was awarded a ‘Special Mention’ in the Human Rights category in last year’s Red Ink Awards. She also anchors an election special weekend youth-based debate called ‘Youngistan’ on CNN-News18.
James Crabtree
James Crabtree is a Singapore-based author and journalist, and Associate Professor of Practice at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. His best-selling book *The Billionaire Raj* was short-listed for the FT McKinsey book of the year. His career has spanned both policy and media, including working at the Financial Times, and as an advisor in the UK Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

Juuli Hiio
Juuli Hiio is the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Estonia in New Delhi since 2018. Prior to that, she was working on international sanctions policy at the European Common Foreign and Security Policy Division of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia since 2016. In 2017, when Estonia was at the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, she was coordinating the Foreign Affairs Counsellors’ Working Group, RELEX, and was Deputy Chair for two councils of the European Union Working Group, covering international sanctions and European Union restrictive measures. In 2014, she was seconded to Brussels to work on sanctions at the Foreign Policy Instruments Service of the European Commission.
Ambassador Dr. Mohan Kumar
Ambassador Dr. Mohan Kumar is the Chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) since June 2018. RIS is a leading Delhi-based think tank which engages in policy research relating to trade, technology, investment, development, connectivity and south-south cooperation. Ambassador Kumar has had an outstanding career in the Indian Foreign Service lasting 36 years culminating as India’s Ambassador to France. The strategic partnership between India and France grew remarkably under his watch in areas as diverse as defence, space, nuclear and solar energy, investment and culture. He was also India’s Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain where he witnessed the momentous events of the Arab Spring.

Peter Max Rimmele
Peter Max Rimmele is currently the Resident Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office, India. After working as a jurist, judge and lecturer, he took public office as Ministerialrat, Head of Division at the State Ministry of the Interior in Saxony, Germany. On behalf of the German Foreign Ministry he served in East Timor as Registrar General, Head of Civil Registry and Notary Services (UNTAET), and later became the Principal Advisor for Governance Reform for GIZ (German International Cooperation) to the Ministry of Administrative Reform and the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, where he served for 7 years. He then moved to Rwanda, also as Principal Advisor Good Governance/Justice Program.

Dr. Samir Saran
Dr. Samir Saran is the President of Observer Research Foundation, one of Asia’s most influential think tanks. He writes frequently on India’s foreign policy, and issues of global governance, climate change, energy policy, global development architecture, Artificial Intelligence, cyber security and internet governance. Samir is the author of four books, numerous academic papers, and is featured regularly in Indian and international print and broadcast media. Samir curates the Raisina Dialogue, India’s flagship platform on geopolitics and geo-economics, and chairs CyFy, India’s annual conference on technology, security and society.

Tara Varma
Tara Varma is a Policy Fellow and Head of the Paris office of the European Council on Foreign Relations, where she follows French foreign policy and European and Asian security developments. She looks particularly at current French defence and security proposals in the European framework. She is also interested in Asian security, and the role Europeans could play in it, notably in the Indo-Pacific region. Varma joined ECFR in January 2015 as a coordinator and was later deputy head of the Paris office. She previously worked and lived in Shanghai, Delhi and Paris. She graduated from Sciences Po Lille and SOAS in London in International Relations, with a focus on Asian Politics and Indian and Chinese foreign policies.
Introductory Remarks: Peter Rimmele - Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Panel Discussion: Darshana Baruah, Dr. Garima Mohan, Jeff M. Smith and Theresa Fallon in conversation with Dhruva Jaishankar

About the Session:
With the Indo-Pacific increasingly becoming a theatre for contest and competition, this panel will explore the role of India and EU in shaping the future of Asia. Will these two actors pick sides in a G2 world, defined by the United States and China? Or will they push for an alternative, anchored in the principles of multilateralism? This panel will also discuss points of convergence between New Delhi and Brussels. Can old hesitations over trade be shed in favour of partnerships in areas such as sustainable development? Can the global commons – outer space, international waters, and the digital realm – provide a fertile ground for strengthening this relationship?

SPEAKERS

Darshana M. Baruah
Darshana M. Baruah is a Non-Resident Scholar with the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Baruah is also currently a visiting fellow at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo, where she is working on a book about the significance of strategic islands in the Indian Ocean region. Her primary research focuses on maritime security in Asia and the role of the Indian Navy in a new security architecture. Her work also examines the strategic implications of China’s infrastructure and connectivity projects as well as trilateral partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.

Dhruva Jaishankar
Dhruva Jaishankar has been Director of the U.S. Initiative at the New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation (ORF) since 2019. He is also a Non-Resident Fellow with the Lowy Institute in Australia and is a regular contributor to the media, presently writing a monthly column for the Hindustan Times. He was previously a fellow with Brookings India, the Brookings Institution, and the German Marshall Fund. He was also a visiting fellow with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. Jaishankar holds a bachelor’s degree in history and classics from Macalester College, and a master’s degree in security studies from Georgetown University.
Dr. Garima Mohan
Dr. Garima Mohan is a fellow in the Asia program at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, where she leads the work on India and heads the India Trilateral Forum. Based in GMF’s offices in Berlin, her research focuses on Europe-India ties, EU foreign policy in Asia, and security in the Indo-Pacific. Prior to joining GMF, she was the acting team leader and coordinator for the EU’s Asia-Pacific Research and Advice Network (APRAN), which supports EU policymakers on issues concerning the Asia-Pacific.

Jeff M. Smith
Jeff M. Smith is a research fellow in Heritage’s Asian Studies Center, focusing on South Asia. He is the author/editor of Asia’s Quest for Balance: China’s Rise and Balancing in the Indo-Pacific (2018), and of Cold Peace: China-India Rivalry in the 21st Century (2014). He has contributed to multiple books on Indo-Pacific security issues, testified as an expert witness before many congressional committees, served in an advisory role for several presidential campaigns, and regularly briefs officials in the executive and legislative branches on matters of Asian security. His writing on Asian security issues has appeared in Foreign Affairs, The Wall Street Journal, Foreign Policy, The Harvard International Review among others.

Peter Max Rimmele
Peter Max Rimmele is currently the Resident Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office, India. After working as a jurist, judge and lecturer, he took public office as Ministerialrat, Head of Division at the State Ministry of the Interior in Saxony, Germany. On behalf of the German Foreign Ministry he served in East Timor as Registrar General, Head of Civil Registry and Notary Services (UNTAET), and later became the Principal Advisor for Governance Reform for GIZ (German International Cooperation) to the Ministry of Administrative Reform and the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, where he served for 7 years. He then moved to Rwanda, also as Principal Advisor Good Governance/Justice Program.

Theresa Fallon
Theresa Fallon is the Founder and Director of the Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies (CREAS) in Brussels. She is concurrently a member of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, a Non-resident Senior Fellow of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Adjunct Professor at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and a member of the CEPS Task Force on AI and Cybersecurity.
Panel Discussion: Gajraj Rao and Richa Chadha in conversation with Atul Chaurasia

About the Session: Indian cinema is going through a churn - the storylines portrayed on screen are increasingly reflecting India’s realities, as opposed to showcasing an utopian fantasy. This session will explore the reasons behind the success of such stories; the impact of OTT platforms on audience behaviour, and as a result, on film-writing and production; and how the movie business is now not as ‘star-crazed’ as it once was. The session will also discuss the impact of the pandemic on the film world - how is the industry dealing with the lack of film releases? What protocols are being put in place to resume production? Are there any stories being written keeping the pandemic centre stage?

SPEAKERS

Atul Chaurasia
Atul Chaurasia has been a journalist for almost two decades and is currently Executive Editor of Newslaundry. He was in the founding teams of the Tehelka Hindi magazine and the CatchNews Hindi website, where he served as Editor. He has won the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism in 2010 and 2013.

Gajraj Rao
Gajraj Rao is an actor and a director of commercials for over fifteen years with his production house, Code Red Films, which has won several awards across the globe, including the prestigious Cannes Lions. He is known for films and web-shows such as Badhaai Ho, Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan, Lootcase and TVF’s ‘Tech Conversations With Dad’. Having begun his acting journey on stage in 1988, he is one of the founding members of the renowned theatre group Act One in Delhi. His breakout performance as Jeetendra Kaushik in the Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer Badhaai Ho won him the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor in 2018.

Richa Chadha
Richa Chadha is a Bollywood actor known for her versatile roles. She began her career as a model, moving on to theatre and eventually appearing in big productions on the silver screen.
PRESENTATION OF DIGITAL NEWS REPORT, 2020

Followed by an In Conversation between Prof. Rasmus Nielsen and Ritu Kapur

About the Session: Prof. Rasmus Nielsen, Director of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, will make a presentation of the Digital News Report, 2020, followed by a one-on-one conversation with Ritu Kapur, Founder and CEO of The Quint. The discussion will focus on the impact of the pandemic on the media across geographies, how the business models and consumer behaviour are changing, and what the future holds for the news media.

SPEAKERS

Professor Rasmus Nielsen
Professor Rasmus Nielsen is the Director of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. He is also the Professor of Political Communication at the University of Oxford. He was previously the Director of Research at the Reuters Institute and Editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Press/Politics. His work focuses on changes in the news media, on political communication, and the role of digital technologies in both.

Ritu Kapur
Ritu Kapur is the Founder and CEO of The Quint, a digital news platform and was one of the founding members of Network18 in 1992. She is the Co-founder and CEO of Quintillion Media, which jointly owns BloombergQuint with Bloomberg L.P. Ritu is a board member at Reuters Institute of Journalism, World Editors Forum, and an advisory board member at the British Council for their Future News Worldwide partnership programme.
Panel Discussion: Dr. Anisha Sharma, Prof. Ashwini Chhatre, Mihir Sharma and Rukmini S in conversation with Govindraj Ethiraj

**About the Session:** Increasingly, data-backed journalism is adding the much-needed nuance to some of the most pressing news stories of the day. This panel will explore how data-journalists source their data; what skills are needed to do a data backed story; how the data once collected is to be treated; what stories are most effectively told through this approach; and if data-backed journalism is the answer to the spread of mis/disinformation.

**SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Anisha Sharma**
Dr. Anisha Sharma is Assistant Professor of Economics at Ashoka University. Her research interests are in the area of development economics, labour economics, firms, and public policy. Her recent research examines how strong social norms against female employment increase the costs of skills investments for women, contributing to economy-wide skill shortages as well as a gender earning gap. Anisha completed her doctorate in Economics from the University of Oxford in 2016. Before that, she received an MSc in Financial Economics (2008), and an MSc in Economics for Development (2009) from Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar, and a BA (Hons) in Economics (2007) from St. Stephen’s College, Delhi University.

**Ashwini Chhatre**
Ashwini Chhatre is the Executive Director of the Bharti Institute of Public Policy and is the Academic Chair, AMPPP at ISB. He is the Principal Investigator of India Data Portal Project. He was the Giorgio Ruffolo Post-doctoral Fellow in Sustainability Science at Harvard University during 2006-07 and served as a faculty member in the Department of Geography, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign between 2007-2014, before joining ISB. He also served as Director of Revitalizing Rainfed Area Network, India. He has spent 11 years working with local communities and social movements on democratic governance of natural resources in India.
**Govindraj Ethiraj**
Govindraj Ethiraj is a television and print journalist who has reported and written on Indian business for over 22 years. He is a media executive and entrepreneur whose public interest journalism ventures are safeguarding the transparency, accuracy, and integrity of news in specific and the internet in general in India and world-wide. Most recently, he founded BOOM (www.boomlive.in), an independent journalism initiative that fights misinformation and explains issues with the larger objective of making the internet safer. He also founded the award-winning IndiaSpend (indiaspend.org), a public interest journalism outfit which uses data to write and syndicate stories in areas like health, education, environment and FactChecker (factchecker.in) which monitors media, politicians and other figures for accuracy. Previously, he was Founder Editor-in-chief of Bloomberg TV India.

**Mihir Swarup Sharma**
Mihir Swarup Sharma is Senior Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation and Head of its Economy and Growth Programme. He was trained as an economist and political scientist in Delhi and in Boston. His book, *Restart: The Last Chance for the Indian Economy*, was published in 2015; it won the Tata LitLive Best Business Book of the Year and was longlisted for the Financial Times–McKinsey Business Book of the Year. In 2019, Mihir co-edited *What the Economy Needs Now* with Abhijit Banerjee, Gita Gopinath and Raghuram Rajan. He is also the India columnist for *Bloomberg Opinion*, on the Editorial Board of the *Business Standard*, and an Aspen Fellow.

**Rukmini S**
Rukmini S is an independent data journalist based in Chennai. She is the former Data Editor of *The Hindu* and Huffington Post India.
MISINFORMATION IN THE TIMES OF A PANDEMIC

Panel Discussion: Clara Jimenez Cruz, Karen Rebelo, Lyric Jain, Oommen Kurian and Trushar Barot in conversation with Manisha Pande

About the Session: The pandemic has provided fertile ground for those who gain currency by spreading mis/disinformation. This session will explore the various shades of such corrupted information - from the statistics related to infection and death rates, to home-made cures. The session will also discuss how such mis/disinformation can be best tackled - is technological intervention the need of the hour, and if so, what are the tech hacks that can be deployed at the earliest? The panelists will also shed light on the role of social media companies in tackling the spread of such information.

SPEAKERS

Clara Jiménez Cruz
Clara Jiménez Cruz is the Head of Project of Maldita.es, a non-profit news organisation focused on the control of disinformation and public discourse through fact-checking and data journalism techniques. Maldita develops tech tools that enable citizens to make informed decisions and engages with its audience in innovative formats. Shortlisted twice for the European Press Prize, Maldita has been awarded with the Jose Manuel Porquet Journalism Prize. Between 2013 and 2018 she was part of ‘El Objetivo’, a primetime TV show in laSexta. She was appointed to the High Level Group against Disinformation by the European Commision in representation of Maldita.es and is currently a member of the International Fact-Checking Network Advisory Board.
**Karen Rebelo**
Karen Rebelo is Deputy Editor at BOOM Live. She is an investigative journalist and a fact-checker specialising in uncovering misinformation and disinformation in India. Karen is also a verification trainer. In 2018, she spearheaded BOOM’s fact-checking workshops for journalists across India as part of the Google News Initiative. Karen is a former Reuters business news journalist and has reported about mining companies in the UK, the Indian stock market and the private equity space.

**Lyric Jain**
Lyric Jain is a serial entrepreneur and engineer who founded Logically in 2017, after observing the breakdown in public discourse during the 2016 US Presidential Election, and the Brexit Referendum in the UK. He first began identifying opportunities for early interventions during his time at MIT, and is motivated by the impact Logically can deliver through human-machine collaborations to mitigate risks posed by information disorder.

**Manisha Pande**
Manisha Pande is the Executive Editor at Newslaundry where she reports, edits and gets her kicks from watching television news. Previously with *Business Standard* and *DNA*, she’s interested in the media and would like to tell stories that acquaint you with different aspects of the news industry.

**Oommen C Kurian**
Oommen C Kurian leads the health initiative at the Observer Research Foundation, a think tank based in New Delhi.

**Trushar Barot**
Trushar Barot manages Strategy Partner Development at Facebook India. Trushar leads Facebook’s fact-checking programme and broader training initiatives to combat the spread of misinformation in India. He also runs a number of programmes for the Facebook Journalism Project, aimed at helping journalists develop digital skills.
FUTURE-PROOFING THE JOURNALISTS: UPSKILLING IN THE DIGITAL AND POST-PANDEMIC AGE

Panel Discussion: Anuradha Das Mathur, Irene Jay Liu, Neha Dixit, Ritu Kapur and Sashi Kumar in conversation with Rohan Venkataramakrishnan

About the Session:
The objective of this session is to explore and identify skills that journalists today require, beyond those taught in the traditional curriculum (such as ground reportage, reaching sources, writing and editing), and to explore whether we can upskill existing journalists and train those of the future such that they are well-equipped to adapt and excel in the changing media and policy space.

SPEAKERS

Anuradha Das Mathur
Anuradha Das Mathur is Founder and Dean of the Vedica Scholars Programme for Women, a women’s-only unique management and leadership programme. She is Founder and Director of 9.9 Media, India’s leading niche media company. She is also Managing Director, CFO Collective, a boutique media company that serves India’s senior finance community. She co-founded Samarth, one of India’s most reputed elder care companies. Anuradha was selected for the prestigious Global Women’s Mentoring Partnership programme, a joint initiative by Fortune and the US Department of State.

Irene Jay Liu
Irene Jay Liu leads Google News Lab in the Asia-Pacific region. She was previously an investigative reporter and data editor at Reuters, where she was a 2017 Pulitzer finalist in the national reporting category. Earlier, she worked at the South China Morning Post and as a political reporter with the Times Union in Albany, New York. Before relocating to Singapore, she taught data-driven investigative journalism at the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.
Neha Dixit
Neha Dixit, an independent journalist based in New Delhi, covers politics, gender, and social justice in South Asia. She has reported for Al Jazeera, The Washington Post, Caravan, Wire, and others. She has won over a dozen international and national journalism awards including International Press Freedom Award 2019, Kurt Schork Award in International Journalism 2014, Lorenzo Natali Prize for Journalism from the European Commission, 2011, Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Journalist 2016, among others. She is a contributor to the UNESCO Casebook of Investigative Journalism 2011, Zubaan anthology on Sexual violence in South Asia.

Ritu Kapur
Ritu Kapur is the Founder and CEO of The Quint, a digital news platform and was one of the founding members of Network18 in 1992. She is the Co-founder and CEO of Quintillion Media, which jointly owns BloombergQuint with Bloomberg L.P. Ritu is a board member at Reuters Institute of Journalism, World Editors Forum, and an advisory board member at the British Council for their Future News Worldwide partnership programme.

Rohan Venkataramakrishnan
Rohan Venkataramakrishnan is Associate Editor at Scroll.in, a six-year-old award-winning independent Indian news organisation, where he oversees news operations and also writes Political Fix, a newsletter that focuses on Indian policy and politics.

Sashi Kumar
Sashi Kumar is a print and broadcast journalist, filmmaker and media entrepreneur. He founded and chairs the Media Development Foundation which administers the Asian College of Journalism. He was among the earliest Newscasters in English on national television, Doordarshan, the Middle-East Correspondent of The Hindu and news anchor on Radio Bahrain in the mid 1980s. In 1992 he founded and launched Asianet, India’s first satellite TV channel in a regional language (Malayalam), and the country’s first statewide cable TV network in Kerala.
Panel Discussion: Mishi Choudhary, Kazim Rizvi, Smitha Krishna Prasad, Udbhav Tiwari and Vivan Sharan in conversation with Govindraj Ethiraj

**About the Session:** Be it connecting with friends/family, promoting your brand, or engaging citizens for governance, intermediaries are increasingly defining how individuals, private organisations, and government agencies use the internet. This session will explore the what’s good and what needs to change in the Indian regulatory framework that governs intermediaries; how intermediaries can walk the tightrope of preserving free speech yet combat hateful content; and the mechanisms and best practices that need to be adopted to ensure the right to privacy is not compromised.

**Speakers**

**Govindraj Ethiraj**
Govindraj Ethiraj is a television and print journalist who has reported and written on Indian business for over 22 years. He is a media executive and entrepreneur whose public interest journalism ventures are safeguarding the transparency, accuracy, and integrity of news in specific and the internet in general in India and world-wide. Most recently, he founded BOOM (www.boomlive.in), an independent journalism initiative that fights misinformation and explains issues with the larger objective of making the internet safer. He also founded the award-winning IndiaSpend (indiaspend.org), a public interest journalism outfit which uses data to write and syndicate stories in areas like health, education, environment and FactChecker (factchecker.in) which monitors media, politicians and other figures for accuracy. Previously, he was Founder Editor-in-chief of Bloomberg TV India.

**Kazim Rizvi**
Kazim Rizvi is a public-policy entrepreneur and Founder of a Delhi based think-tank, The Dialogue, which works on the intersection of technology, society and public policy. Kazim is a lawyer by profession and is a leading voice in India’s tech policy discourse.
Mishi Choudhary
Mishi Choudhary is a technology lawyer, licensed to practise in New York and India with over a decade of experience in the area of intellectual property rights, Open Source licensing, e-commerce, privacy, surveillance, platform liability and user free expression. She is the Legal Director of New York-based Software Freedom Law Center, Managing Partner at Moglen & Associates and Founder of India-based SFLC.in, the first-of-its-kind legal services organisation working to defend digital rights.

Smitha Krishna Prasad
Smitha Krishna Prasad is a Director at the Centre for Communication Governance at National Law University Delhi (CCG). Her primary research interests relate to privacy, data protection, and surveillance. She also works on issues of emerging technology and law, and the impact of expansion of tech regulation through economic policies. She holds an LLM from the New York University School of Law.

Udbhav Tiwari
Udbhav Tiwari is a Public Policy Advisor for Mozilla where he works towards keeping the internet open, secure and accessible by advocating for progressive regulations in the technology sector. He primarily focuses on data protection, content regulation and connectivity in emerging markets such as India and Brazil. He has also worked with the public policy team at Google and the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS). Udbhav was also a part of India Today’s ‘India Tomorrow’ list in 2020.

Vivan Sharan
Vivan Sharan is a Partner at the Koan Advisory Group, a policy research and advocacy firm based in New Delhi. He is a Visiting Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation and on the Board of the Esya Centre. He is also the author of *Wonked!: India in Search of an Economic Ideology*, published by Bloomsbury in 2019.

9:30 – 9:35 PM
Closing Address
Abhinandan Sekhri – Co-founder, Newslaundry
As a lead up to TMR@Online, an innovative series titled ‘TMR Dispatches’, spanning the length and breadth of India’s news - North, East, West, South was launched.

Watch sessions @themediarumble
Myth or Reality
Hindi and proximity to Delhi give North India an advantage in the news space.

Newslaundry’s Executive Editor, Manisha Pande, was joined by Arfa Khanum Sherwani, Senior Editor at The Wire; Dr Himanshu Dwivedi, Chief Editor of Hari Bhoomi; Shahid Siddiqui, Managing Director and Chief Editor of Nai Duniya; and Sukirat, a writer and columnist from Punjab, to discuss North India’s undisputed penetration into the news media, the media discourse being dominated by the Hindi-speaking belt, and much more!
We don’t need no mainstream
Our stories, our storytellers

In this session, Associate Editor of Newslaundry, Meghnad S, was joined by Karma Paljor, co-founder and director of Atvi Infotainment and Editor-in-Chief of EastMojo; Pradip Phanjoubam, Editor of FPSJ Review of Arts and Politics; Patricia Mukhim, Editor of The Shillong Times; and Afrida Hussain, Founder & Editor-in-Chief of INSIDENE to discuss how the emergence of online news platforms covering the east India region has given a fresh lease of life to ground reportage and storytelling. How are these organisations maintaining their independence both from corporations and governments? How are they managing their resources- financial, technological, and human?
Mumbai’s Lutyens
Is entertainment journalism all about access?

How dependent are journalists and film critics on access to power for their stories? Has the entertainment beat always been close to power structures – or have things improved/worsened? In this session, NewsLaundry’s Abhinandan Sekhri was joined by film critic Anupama Chopra; Mayank Shekhar, an author, film critic and entertainment head at Midday; Sowmya Rajendran, deputy news editor at The News Minute; and Ravina Rawal, founder and editor of Dead Ant.
Reclaiming centre space in the news
A robust market and innovation hub

Newslaundry’s Meghnad S was joined by M.G. Radhakrishnan, Editor-in-Chief of Asianet News; Sandhya Ravishankar, Editor of The Lede; Abdussalam Puthige, Editor-in-Chief at the Kannada daily Vartha Bharathi; and Padma Priya, Co-founder and Editor of Suno India, to discuss South Indian newsrooms, what drives regional journalism in the southern states, and much more.
Hate News, Brought to you by:
With Great Advertising Comes Great Responsibility

In this session, Newslaundry’s Manisha Pande was joined by Co-founder of Check my Ads, Nandini Jammi and Co-founder of Stop Funding Hate, Richard Wilson, to discuss the role and responsibility of advertisers in spreading propaganda, hate, and polarisation, and shed light on the strategies that can be adopted to make advertisers more conscious of their brand’s image, among other issues.
Google News Initiative

Our effort to help news organizations and journalists thrive in the digital age

The Google News Initiative brings together all the work Google is doing with the news industry - across products, partnerships, and programs - and signals a new commitment to do even more moving forward.

In particular, we seek to:

1. Develop new models to achieve financial stability
2. Elevate accurate, quality journalism
3. Ensure new technologies enable new opportunities for journalism

Google cares deeply about journalism. We believe deeply in spreading knowledge to make life better for everyone. It’s at the heart of Google’s mission. It’s the mission of publishers and journalists.

Put simply, our futures are tied.

Sundar Pichai, Google CEO

g.co/newsinitiative
Newslaundry is a subscription-driven, independent news media company. It has been at the forefront of free speech advocacy and the need for an independent news model as well as a free and accountable press. Since its inception, Newslaundry has been committed to presenting current affairs stories in innovative and engaging formats including media critique, reportage, documentaries, podcasts, animation and comics.

Co-founded by Madhu Trehan (a pioneer of Indian journalism and founding Editor of India Today and Newstrack - India’s first privately-produced video news magazine) and Abhinandan Sekhri (co-founder of Small Screen; writer and director of award-winning TV shows), Newslaundry most recently won the 2016 Ramnath Goenka Award for Investigative Journalism for its series on politicians misusing advertising funds of public sector companies for patronage.

For more information: www.newslaundry.com
WHEN ADVERTISERS PAY, ADVERTISERS ARE SERVED.
WHEN THE PUBLIC PAYS, THE PUBLIC IS SERVED.
PAY TO KEEP NEWS FREE
INDIA TO THE WORLD, THE WORLD TO INDIA

INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVALS | LITERATURE | DANCE | MUSIC | THEATRE

www.teamworkarts.com
ABOUT US

Teamwork Arts is a highly versatile production company with roots in the performing arts, social action and the corporate world. Our expertise lies in the area of entertainment and includes documentary and feature films, television, the conceptualisation and development of contemporary performing and visual arts and literary festivals around the world, and in nurturing new talents across all art forms.

For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India, presenting the finest of Indian performers, writers and visual artists in the cultural and art space in India and abroad.

Every year, we produce 25 performing and visual arts and literary festivals in 11 countries, including Australia, Canada, Egypt, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Israel, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the UK and USA. Teamwork Arts produces the world’s largest free literary gatherings, the annual Jaipur Literature Festival, the Ishara International Puppet Festival in New Delhi, the annual Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) Festival, international festivals Shared History in South Africa, India by the Nile in Egypt, Eye on India in the United States of America, India by the Bay in Hong Kong, Confluence-Festival of India in Australia, and many more.

Our musical extravaganza, Bollywood Love Story - A Musical, continues to tour the world and has sold out shows in Austria, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and Egypt.

Our international festivals in India have included the bi-annual Bonjour India, a festival of France with more than 200 events across 18 cities in India and featuring over 250 artists, designers, researchers and entrepreneurs, and OzFest, a festival of Australia in India. We have recently launched two highly well-received online series of literary conversations - JLF Brave New World and Jaipur Literature Festival WORDS ARE BRIDGES.