

## Unpacking the sociotechnical imaginaries of Digital Public Infrastructures (DPI)

A 2-day workshop jointly organized by IIIT-Bangalore and University of Amsterdam  
24-25 July 2025, IIIT-Bangalore

### Call for Participation

Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs) are the new buzzword in the international development and policy circles with India being at the centre of growing discourses on DPIs. India's prominence as a key initiator and developer of DPIs was recognized due to its DPI 'success stories' of foundational digital identity (Adhaar) and digital payments (UPI). While the nomenclature of DPI came much after their claimed 'success' as such, they were nonetheless crucial in solidifying India's leadership aspirations in advancement of DPIs, more so through India's chairmanship of G20 summit in 2023.

Given its emerging nature, DPIs are often conflated with other terms such as, Digital Public Goods (DPGs), data sovereignty, digital decolonisation. Notwithstanding their prominence in development and policy discourse, much remains to be unpacked about DPIs and the associated terminologies in terms of their material configurations, sociotechnical imaginaries and implications for state-society relationship.

In order to develop a consolidated critical scholarship and research agenda on DPIs, the Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP) at IIIT-Bangalore, in collaboration with University of Amsterdam, is organizing a two-day workshop in Bangalore on **24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025**. We call upon researchers investigating digital public infrastructures or related topics from critical interdisciplinary social sciences and humanities perspectives to participate in this workshop to exchange research ideas/findings and to deliberate upon a collective future research agenda on and around DPIs. The workshop identifies three preliminary themes around which discussions on DPIs will be organized, namely,

- ***Technology and decoloniality – how they mutually shape each other***
- ***Geopolitics of technology - the global politics that structure development of technology for public purposes***
- ***Technology in practice - implementation of technology in public services***

Applications for participation in the aforesaid workshop are now being sought in any of the above themes or any other related theme of relevance to DPIs. Please apply with a short abstract highlighting your research on this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/pWZHampyR4>

The deadline for applications is Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Travel grants (to cover return economy airfare and one night stay in a hotel/service apartment in Electronic City, Bangalore) will be made available to up to 10 participants from within India. In case of significant interest from participants outside India, we will be open to facilitate hybrid participation. However, we are particularly interested in discourses of DPIs within the Global South contexts and hence will treat abstracts with similar focus on priority basis.

The workshop is conceived as part of a one-year seed grant project titled, ***Software states and citizen welfare: rising Digital Public Infrastructures through an Asia-Africa alliance*** supported by University of Amsterdam's Research Priority Area on [Responsible Digital Transformation](#).

In case of any questions regarding conference theme or logistics, please reach out to Bidisha Chaudhuri at [b.chaudhuri@uva.nl](mailto:b.chaudhuri@uva.nl) or Sookthi at [sookthi.kav@iiitb.ac.in](mailto:sookthi.kav@iiitb.ac.in) with your queries.