

# NIKHIL PAHWA

ENTREPRENEUR • INVESTOR • JOURNALIST • ACTIVIST

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I help people understand the fast-evolving digital ecosystem in India, and push for making the Internet more open, fair, competitive and global. At MediaNama, we have built a **body of work** around **technology and policy**, including artificial intelligence, payments, ecommerce, telecom, media, speech and privacy; through capacity building events and workshops, we have empowered over 10,000 people across India. I've written over 4000 articles on technology and policy, and write a monthly column for the Economic Times (India). I'm also an angel investor, and an advisor to Saka Ventures (New York).

My work is at the intersection of the Internet and civil liberties, including privacy, identity, surveillance & free speech. I'm a co-founder of the Internet Freedom Foundation, and ran the SaveTheInternet.in campaign for Net Neutrality in India, with over 1.1 million people participating. I'm also a founding member of PEN Delhi. I've had the privilege of deposing thrice before India's Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT, on issues of Paid News, Net Neutrality and Hate Speech on Social Media.

I look for roles that allow me to help **build organizations** that **make a difference** to the public, have a **strong ethical backbone**, and involve people from diverse backgrounds working with a **sense of purpose**.

## SPECIALISATIONS

Technology Policy • Communications Strategy • Journalism • Community Building • Digital Business

## AWARDS

Asia21 Fellowship (2019) • TED Fellowship (2016) • Ecosystem Builder (for MediaNama, by Fortune Magazine, 2016) • Indians of Tomorrow (India Today, 2012)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Entrepreneur: Founder, MediaNama (2008 – current)**

- Managing P&L, business development, growth and creating new revenue streams
- Delivering audience and engagement growth.
- Responsible for hiring, coaching, performance and retention.

**Entrepreneur: Chairman and Co-Founder, Internet Freedom Foundation (2016 – 2018)**

- Identification of key issues
- Communication strategy: mobilising support for campaigns and initiating public discussions.
- Developing key relationships & coalition building

**Activist (2011 – current)**

- SaveTheInternet.in (Net Neutrality: 2015, 2023)
- India's IT Act (Sections 66a, 79a, 66a & (2011-2015)
- Speech Bill: against Criminal Defamation (2016)
- Push for reform of Aadhaar (India's ID) (2017)

**Other roles:** Advisor (Saka Ventures), Advisory Board (CyberBRICS), Co-Chair for India (Asia21 Young Leaders at Asia Society)

**Journalist – Editor, MediaNama (2008 – current) & prior to that, Editor, ContentSutra (2006-2008)**

- Hiring and building Editorial systems
- Development of new coverage areas
- Written over 4000 articles on tech and policy

**Investor (2021 – current)**

- Irasus Technologies - EV Data Analytics
- Power Gummies - nutritional gummy bears
- Vanity Wagon - cosmetics marketplace

**Public Speaker & Columnist**

- Talks/panels at Harvard, Stanford, Oxford, Columbia University, CUNY, NIPFP, ISB, NLS (Bangalore), IIT Kanpur, IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore; RightsCon, EU CyberDirect, WEF, WAN-IFRA, MozFest, TED, TEDxMICA & more
- TV channel appearances in BBC, CNN, CNBC, Al Jazeera, Channel News Asia, NDTV, CNN-IBN, India Today, Mirror Now, Times Now, CNBC-TV18, CNBC-Awaaz, NewsX & more
- Oped in Foreign Policy, TED Ideas, Rest of World, Wired, Quartz, Times of India, Economic Times, Mint, Hindustan Times, Huffington Post, Scroll.in, The Hindu, The Wire, Outlook Magazine, Pragati, The Quint, FirstPost & more.
- Cited in New York Times, Wired, Forbes, Quartz, ABC, The Guardian, The Economist, Washington Post, LA Times, Al Jazeera, Techcrunch, BuzzFeed, The Verge, Motherboard, Straits Times, & every major Indian publication.

## EDUCATION

BSc Business (Marketing). 2003-2005