
EDUCATION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)	New York, NY
Master in International Affairs , Dual Degree: SIPA and Journalism School	May 2017
<i>Capstone project:</i> Wrote report for U.S. Strategic Command with Howard Buffet as advisor	
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, Graduate School of Journalism	New York, NY
Master of Science , Toni Stabile Fellow for Investigative Journalism	May 2016
<i>Master's project</i> an investigation into Azerbaijani funding of pro-regime organizations with Sheila Coronel as advisor	
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, St. Stephen's College	New Delhi, India
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) , Philosophy	June 2012 - May 2015

EXPERIENCE

Seer.PM	Bangalore, India
Lead, Market Deployments	August 2026-Ongoing
- Innovating new use cases for advanced prediction markets such as ensemble AI development, fund allocation, and more - Overseeing investor fundraise and client business development	
Ethereum Foundation	Bangalore, India
Lead, AI x Public Goods & Governance	Feb 2025 - July 2026
- Led the Deep Funding project distributing \$350,000 to 4000 open source repos supporting Ethereum, presented at UN OS week - Collected over 2000 high quality comparisons between repos from maintainers as ground truth data to select the winning LLM submission that can assign weights to the Ethereum Dependency graph - Also used the data to resolve a prediction market where model builders earned P&L based on the market value vs ground truth - Awarded \$80,000 in prizes to data scientists during 5 such competitions for them to predict funding and sybil behaviour	
VoiceDeck Foundation	Delaware, United States
Founder-Director	April 2021 - ongoing
- Raised \$150,000 in grant money from Gitcoin and DoraHacks quadratic funding along with Optimism Retroactive Funding to develop outcome based financing for journalism and civic impact - Developed an MVP on app.voicedeck.org for registering verified outcomes from media outlets for selling to customers - Received Next Billion fellowship award by Ethereum Foundation to take impact certificates to market - Led the Arbitrum DAO Treasury Working Group and conceptualised the STEP program that diversified \$50 million into RWAs and brought BlackRock, Franklin and others to the chain; sat on the 2024-25 Octant and Gitcoin council to design grants program	
VoiceDeck, Private Limited	Mumbai, India
Founder-Director	October 2017 - April 2021
- Incubated at Microsoft Research India, received grant funding from Ford Foundation, Columbia University, Tata Trusts, IPSMF - Conceptualized, developed and deployed 5 technologies impacting more than 10,000 people. These include WhatsApp chatbots for citizen journalism (COMPASS '21), soliciting Gondi translations (LREC '20); Android application for disseminating news via Bluetooth in rural regions without Internet (CHI '21), IVR forums for spreading HIV awareness and voter rights to rural Indian communities through distribution of airtime incentives (COMPASS '20) - Received 2021 V-Award from United Nations and Ministry of Youth Affairs (Government of India) for engaging digital volunteers to help migrants receive food during the coronavirus lockdown (COMPASS '22)	
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, Columbia Business School	Anuppur, India
Tamer Social Enterprise Fellow	June 2017 – September 2017
- Received \$5000 to work at CGnet Swara, a citizen journalism platform for areas without Internet - Led the innovation team formulating long-term sustainability strategy; spun off into a social enterprise Voicedeck	
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, School of International and Public Affairs	New York, NY
Research Assistant for Dr. Paul Lagunes, Assistant Professor	September 2016 - January 2017
Identified research papers on corruption relevant to ongoing projects and summarized key points in 5-8 pages.	

- Received a \$8,000 grant from the Stabile Center at Columbia University to investigate Pentagon contracts and Export-Import Bank loan guarantee given to company with ties to president of Azerbaijan
- Story published in August 2018 and prompted calls for a congressional investigation; described as "huge" by former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan; video and translation of investigation disseminated by Meydan TV and Radio Free Europe

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Swaminathan, S., Medhi Thies, I., **Mehta, D.**, Cutrell, E., Sharma, A., & Thies, W. (2019). **Learn2Earn: Using mobile airtime incentives to bolster public awareness campaigns**. Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW), 1-20.
- Kommiya Mothilal, R., **Mehta, D.**, Sharma, A., Thies, W., & Sharma, A. (2019, November). **Learnings from an Ongoing Deployment of an IVR-based Platform for Voter Awareness**. In Conference Companion Publication of the 2019 on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) (pp. 257-261).
- Mehta, D.**, Santy, S., Mothilal, R. K., Srivastava, B. M. L., Sharma, A., Shukla, A., ... & Bali, K. (2020, May). **Learnings from Technological Interventions in a Low Resource Language: A Case-Study on Gondi**. In Proceedings of the 12th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC) (pp. 2832-2838).
- Mehta, D.**, Sharma, A., Kommiya Mothilal, R. K., Shukla, A., Prasad, V., Thies, W. & Sharma, A. (2020, April). **Facilitating Media Distribution with Monetary Incentives**. In Extended Abstracts of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1-7).
- Mehta, D.**, Mothilal, R. K., Sharma, A., Thies, W., & Sharma, A. (2020, June). **Using Mobile Airtime Credits to Incentivize Learning, Sharing and Survey Response: Experiences from the Field**. In Proceedings of the 3rd ACM SIGCAS Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (COMPASS) (pp. 254-264).
- Prasad, V., Shallam, R., Sharma, A., Varghese, D., & **Mehta, D.** (2021, May). **A Hybrid Multi-Modal System for Conducting Virtual Workshops Using Interactive Voice Response and the WhatsApp Business API**. In Extended Abstracts of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1-6).
- Verma, P., Saxena, A., Sharma, A., Thies, B., & **Mehta, D.** (2021, June). **A WhatsApp Bot for Citizen Journalism in Rural India**. In ACM SIGCAS Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (COMPASS) (pp. 423-427).
- Mehta, D.**, Prasad, V., Chitta, T., Naik, N. S., Prakash, A., & Vashistha, A. (2022, June). **Mobilizing Digital Volunteers to Support Underserved Communities in India During COVID-19 Lockdowns**. In ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (COMPASS) (pp. 180-194).
- Gupta, M., **Mehta, D.**, Punj, A., & Thies, I. M. (2022, June). **Sophistication with limitation: Understanding smartphone usage by emergent users in India**. In *Proceedings of the 5th ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies* (pp. 386-400).
- Devansh Mehta**, Nidhi Harihar, Siddique Patel, Nishit Lalitkumar Sanil, Richard Shallam, Mark J Roddy, Filipa Ribeiro, Thomas Pan, The Beyondr, Colleen Rose, and Chiali Tsai. 2024. **Demo: Marketplace for Impact Certificates**. In Companion of the 2024 Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW Companion '24), November 9–13, 2024, San Jose, Costa Rica. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 4 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3678884.3687146>

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

- Devansh Mehta, "A guide to using the WhatsApp Business API for audience engagement", IJNet.org, July 2nd 2021
- Devansh Mehta, "Retroactive Impact Funding for Journalists", Ethereum.foundation, 2024
- Devansh Mehta, "Tengboche abbott's last wish", nepalitimes.com, October 31st 2020
- Devansh Mehta, "Impact-driven journalism during the pandemic", IJNet.org, April 29th 2020
- Devansh Mehta, "Citizen Journalism platform uses Bluetooth to bring news to media dark villages in India", IJNet.org, Jan 9th 2020
- Devansh Mehta, "Airline Once Linked to Azerbaijan's Ruling Family Got US Loan Guarantees, Military Contracts, Planes", occrp.org August 18th 2018
- Devansh Mehta, "6,000 headlines, 10 media outlets, 6 months of campaign stories: A survey of the media's presidential primary

coverage", Columbia Journalism Review (cjr.org), 17th March 2016

Devansh Mehta, "Sexcapades on campus", indiatoday.in, Jan 8th 2015