At a time when an increasingly secretive, authoritarian government requires increased scrutiny, and India has more investigative and explanatory reporting than ever before, its media are under unprecedented economic and political pressure. More than 2,000 journalists have lost their jobs, the mainstream media have effectively abdicated their watchdog role and are, in general, unprepared to effectively serve the public interest. These failings now imperil the functioning of the world’s largest democracy. Halarnkar will discuss the prospects of building a new collaboration with researchers in India and the US to uncover the misapplication or misuse of Indian law in a variety of fields.

Samar Halarnkar

Samar Halarnkar is a reporter, columnist and enthusiastic cook from Bangalore, India. A journalist for 30 years, he was until recently editor of IndiaSpend.org and Factchecker.in, award-winning nonprofits focused on data-driven, public-interest journalism. Previously, he was managing editor of Hindustan Times, a leading Indian daily newspaper, and he has held other managerial positions at the Indian Express and India Today.

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