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Dispatches from the Digital Planet

August 2020

#DigitalPlanet

2020 is proving to be an eventful year around the globe—and on our digital planet. COVID-19 changed the nature of work, home life, and commerce. It brought to the fore pre-existing inequalities and inequities, underscored the need for more digitally connected communities, and prompted policymakers to turn pronouncements and promises into action.

We touch upon all these issues in this Dispatch - from a look into the Social Distance Readiness of 42 countries, to an exploration of the uneven state of the United States. We consider the leapfrog potential of 6 African countries and examine the paradox of India's digital progress.

We are also delighted to announce IDEA 2030: Imagining a Digital Economy for All, a new research initiative with support from the Mastercard Impact Fund, which brings together two increasingly important issues of our time: the need for inclusive growth and recovery, and the pervasiveness of digital technology.

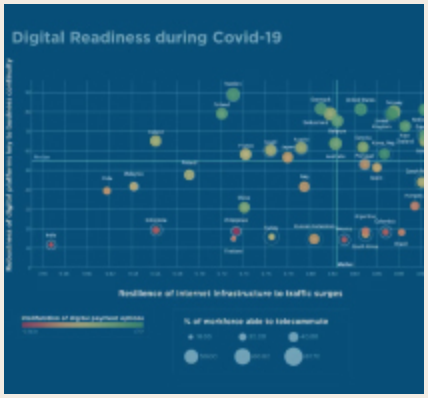
IDEA 2030
IMAGINING A DIGITAL ECONOMY FOR ALL

Finally, we hope you will check out the newest addition to our website: "Off the Charts," a new data visualization series showcasing our latest work.

COVID-19 is serving as an accelerating force for many trends; what do you think are the most overlooked realities of the emerging new normal? **Let us know on Twitter**

Bhaskar Chakravorti
Dean of Global Business, The Fletcher School
Executive Director, Institute for Business in the Global Context

COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE RESEARCH



How prepared are these 42 countries for the Post-Pandemic, Socially Distant Digital Economy?

A study of digital preparedness and social distance readiness during the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the first research projects to come out of the three-year initiative “IDEA 2030: Imagining a Digital Economy for All.”

Funded by the Mastercard Impact Fund, in collaboration with the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, this research evaluates data from 42 countries. Watch the 3-minute summary video.

‘Off The Charts’: A data series.

The digital world is in constant flux. Get regular glimpses of it here.

The African Leapfrog Index:

Explore an analysis of 6 African countries’ digital opportunities.

Webinar out-takes.

How the Pandemic lays bare America’s Coastal - Heartland gap.

Report: India’s digital turn in comparison with its G20 peers

How can India unlock its dividend trifecta, and leverage its digital economy? Our latest research, generously funded by The Rockefeller Foundation, aims to answer how India can translate digital momentum into job creation and recovery beyond the pandemic.

Video: Does Working from Home Actually Work?

Some employees who work from home are more productive, but it isn't for everyone, argues Bhaskar Chakravorti, Dean of Global Business at The Fletcher School at Tufts University.

In the News

Why Silicon Valley's biggest companies are investing billions in India | CNN Business

Researchers track spread of virus through social distancing | ABC Action News

ICE's international student ban is a politicized pandemic response that hurts America: Bhaskar Chakravorti | NBC News

Lessons from 6 countries on how to end coronavirus lockdowns: Bhaskar Chakravorti | Business Insider

Digital contact tracing is doomed in the United States: Bhaskar Chakravorti | Fast Company

Why It's So Hard for Users to Control Their Data: Bhaskar Chakravorti | Harvard Business Review

Google and Twitter Are Right. Workers Should Stay Home. | Bloomberg

34 days of pandemic: Inside Trump's desperate attempts to reopen America | Washington Post

Who is Practicing Social Distancing Best? | NBC10 Boston

About Digital Planet

Digital Planet is an interdisciplinary research initiative of The Fletcher School's Institute for Business in the Global Context (IBGC) dedicated to understanding the impact of digital innovation on the world and providing actionable insights for policymakers, businesses, investors, and innovators.

Meet the Team

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