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Principal Researcher – First Name: Swapneel

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Collaborators – Name(s), Email Address(es), Affiliation(s), Country of Residence

I will collaborate with a team of researchers at a nonprofit research collective affiliated with the MIT PKG Center, called SimPPL. Our work has been recognized with a [Google Research Innovator Award](#), and we are applying as instructed by program leads, to allow us to continue this work.

Project Team Website: <https://simppl.org>

- Caitlyn Vergara, Policy Manager (formerly Google X), SimPPL, United States
- Raghav Jain, Research Affiliate and incoming UCSD PhD student, United Kingdom
- Dhara Mungra, Data Scientist and Lead, SimPPL, India
- Jay Gala, LLM Researcher, SimPPL, India
- Himanshu Beniwal, Ph.D. Student researching LLMs, SimPPL, India

Project Title: Suchak (Informer)

Brief Description of Project:

SimPPL's project introduces a novel, AI-powered, Large Language Model (LLM) tipline designed to counter information interference during elections in global south regions like India and Bangladesh. The tipline delivers trusted and verified multilingual information based on fact-checks provided to a grounded chatbot. AI-based clustering of incoming tips allow fact-checkers in India to operationalize their work at marginal cost. We deliver culturally and linguistically tailored, verified election information to diverse communities. This innovative approach is based on novel prior work we have successfully engaged in, combining advanced, multilingual LLM technology with robust measures against misuse, aiming to set a new democratized standard in combating misinformation and supporting safe online environments through replicable community-based participatory research.

Prior work in this space includes our digital literacy chatbot <https://sakhi.simppl.org> and our report into online hate and harassment featured in national newspapers: <https://infolab.techglobalinstitute.com/how-facebook-has-become-a-political-battleground-in-bangladesh>

Requested Funding Amount (USD): \$8,000

Cloud Costs Calculator:

<https://cloud.google.com/products/calculator?hl=en&dl=CiQ2MDUxZjZiZi02ZGQ0LTQ0MzMtYmE0OC0zYzIxYzQxMGM5MzkQCBokRDkyQ0QxQUYtNDNCRi00OTcyLUIzNkUtNTVEODk4OEY4Njk3>

Additional Information (if any): An early version of this work is incubated as a social innovation at the MIT PKG Center for Social Innovation: <https://solve.mit.edu/challenges/pkg-ideas-2024/solutions/87014>