



NEWS DIGEST

MEITY Chair on Internet Policy

ICRIER's Internet Policy News Digest is your fortnightly update on Indian and global developments in cyber-security, digital economy, and Internet governance. The archives for this news digest are available at www.internetpolicy.in. Please email your valuable feedback and comments to internet.news@icrier.res.in.

GLOBAL

[EU Anti-trust ruling fines Google with \\$5.1 billion](#)

European officials said that Google broke anti-trust laws by making deals with handset manufacturers that involved exclusively pushing for its Android operating system.

[Weak organizational response to growing cyber-security threats, says study](#)

A study by Gartner, which gathered data from 3,160 Chief Information Officer (CIO) respondents across major industries in 98 countries, finds organizations lack the bench strength to face imminent cyber-security threats.

[U.S. lawmakers urge Facebook and Google to resist Vietnam's cyber-security law](#)

According to U.S. legislators, Vietnam's cyber-security law will give the state more draconian powers to control its population, and goes against Facebook and Google's stated missions of openness and connectivity.

[Openbook: open source, zero tracking, zero spying, zero ads alternative to Facebook](#) *(paywall)*

The crowd-funded initiative aims to build an alternative to Facebook by addressing privacy concerns and envisages an alternative revenue model with its own online marketplace and free from ads

[State-actors could likely be behind 'unprecedented' cyber-attack on Singapore](#)

Hackers who had broken into government database had stolen health records of 1.5 million Singaporeans, as announced by State officials. Cyber-security experts highlighted the possible role of State-actors given the complexity of the attack

[White Paper and Interim Report on Regulating Tech and Social Media Companies in response to disinformation and 'fake news' challenges](#)

Disinformation and fake news continue to be a concern in digital economies around the world. In the United States, Senator Mark Warner released a white paper providing proposals for regulation of technology and social media companies. Meanwhile, the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee of the UK Parliament released the interim report on Disinformation and 'fake news'.

[Google is building AI-driven virtual agents to work in call centers](#)

Contact Center AI, Google's call center software is under works in collaboration with at least a dozen partners including Cisco and Vonage. The 'virtual agents' will be the first to answer the customer's call. When the AI can't do what the customer asks, the call will be forwarded to a human.

INDIA

[Justice Srikrishna Committee releases Report and Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018](#)

The Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B.N. Srikrishna, released its much awaited Report 'A Free and Fair Digital Economy: Protecting Privacy, Empowering Indians' and the draft Personal Data Protection Bill.

[Government mandates preference to locally produced cyber-security products in all public procurement](#)

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued a notification on public procurement of cyber security products that provides preference to firms incorporated in India, provided revenues from intellectual property accrue to the firm in India.

[Central Statistics Office to leverage data from digital transactions to estimate macro-economic figures](#)

Increased proliferation of data in terms of suppliers and producers provide new sources of information for statisticians and provide alternatives to traditional surveys in the calculation of macro-economic figures such as GDP and inflation.

[TRAI suggests extending licensing conditions governing telcos to all entities dealing with consumer data](#)

Prior to the release of the Justice Srikrishna Report on Data Protection, the TRAI released its Recommendations on Privacy, Security, and Ownership of Data in the Telecom Sector. While Internet Service Providers welcomed the recommendations, content providers opposed further regulation stating they are already covered under the IT act and fear it would stifle innovation.

[Chhattisgarh government distributes 50 lakh smartphones under 'Sanchar Kranti Yojana'](#)

Around 40 lakh women belonging to villages with population of more than 1,000 people, and 5 lakh women from below poverty line families in urban areas and 5 lakh college students will be provided with Micromax smart phones.

[BSNL launches Internet telephony service](#)

Called 'Wings', customers can download the app on any smart device to make and receive calls from anywhere in India and abroad to any landline or mobile number. The Wings app is also enabled with video calling among its users.

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