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

UN data set to show slowdown in global growth in Internet access
The unpublished data, obtained by the Guardian, and to be published next month shows a slow down in growth rates of Internet access after 2015. Data shows growth in Internet access dropped from 19% in 2007 to less than 6% last year.

European Data Protection Authorities endorse guidelines on AI
The 40th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners released a 'Declaration on Ethics and Protection in Artificial Intelligence'. Key principles include fairness, transparency, and privacy by default and design.

Google formally offers solutions to avoid EU imposed fines for abuse of dominance
The EU imposed a $5 billion fine in July 2018, offering 90 days to Google to change its anti-competitive practices. Google will now allow smartphone makers to create non-Android compliant phones while extracting licensing fee for access to Google apps.

State of California agrees to not enforce its own state net neutrality law until important court decision
The U.S. Justice Department and trade groups representing AT&T, Verizon among others, have earlier challenged the net neutrality law. The State of California is now compelled to await enforcement until the results of a final court decision that will determine the fate of 2015 Obama-era open Internet rules.

Cathay Pacific Airways becomes the target of the world's biggest airline data breach
Hackers broke into personal data of 9.4 million customers, accessing combinations of passenger phone numbers, names or email. Following disclosure of the breach, the airline's shares sank to cause loss in its market value worth $201 million.

Japan grants Cryptocurrency Industry self-regulatory status

Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA) will now allow the industry association rights to safeguard customer assets, prevent money laundering, other operational guidelines, and the mandate to police compliance. The announcement was made at the back of two large-scale thefts that hit the industry.

Users of Google News for Android report bug, which used excessive background data and caused overage charges

The bug that burned through the background data, consumed 24 GB in some cases over Wi-Fi in a month and 12 GB of mobile data in a night. Users found deleting the app or disabling background data as only solutions for now. Google stated it is still investigating the matter.

INDIA

DoT releases notification to delicense 605Mhz of the 5 Ghz Band

The notification, Broadband India Forum (BIF) finds, will increase existing capacity of 50Mhz for outdoor usage by 12 times, which will eliminate barriers to enable public Wi-Fi hotspots.

India jumps 23 places from previous year to 77 in the World Bank's Doing Business 2019 Survey

The Doing Business 2019 report bases its ranking on data from field surveys and interviews from corporate lawyers and executives. In more than 4 years of the current Government, India's ranking improved 65 places from 142nd in 2014 to 77th in 2018.

India's Internet services to grow to $124 billion market by 2022, estimates IAMAI

The study states that growth estimates are conditional on supportive policies, better Internet connectivity, and adoption of digital technologies, among other factors. The study by also finds that the sector has the potential to create 12 million new jobs, but discounts AI and IoT as influencing factors as their impacts are not yet established.

Internet services restored in Srinagar, after being shut down for a day

Internet services on mobile devices were restored to 2G speeds in Srinagar, after being shut down for law and order reasons, in the wake of a gunfight in the city. Officials stated that the decision to restore 4G was conditional on a review of the situation.

Survey finds Rural Indians don't trust messages on Whatsapp easily

Conducted by Digital Empowerment Foundation, the survey, with sample responses of 1018 rural users across 14 states, found that only 8% placed complete trust in information received on Whatsapp while 70% of the respondents placed low levels of trust on the same.

IAMAI forms blockchain committee to promote domestic blockchain ecosystem

The committee comprising of prominent executives from tech and financial sectors such as Microsoft, MasterCard, IBM, and HDFC bank, aims to promote skill development and disseminate developments in blockchain in the country and engage with Government, industries, and startups.

Infosys and Poyry plc unveil new version of AI framework to address operational technology challenges

The Kriti 4.0 AI framework applies AI and Machine Learning capabilities to maintain and operate operational technology systems. The framework uses enterprise data from people, processes and legacy systems to reduce human role in solving customer problems, reducing costs and improving reliability.

Facebook's Digital Literacy Library launched in six local languages

The digital literacy library now features in Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam and is a part of Facebook's plan to train 3,00,000 people in India by end of 2018 to safely navigate the Internet.

We'd love for you to spread the word! Do share contact details of those who may be interested in receiving ICRIER's newsletter, publications and notices regarding seminars, workshops, conferences, etc.

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