



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

The UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2018 takes place in Paris, with 'Internet of Trust' as the main theme

The 13th Annual Meeting of the IGF was hosted by the French Government from 12-14 November, 2018. It brought together various stakeholders to discuss public policy issues related to Internet governance and also contribute to capacity building for Internet governance. The French President Emmanuel Macron launched the 'Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace'.

Annual Freedom House study finds surge in 'Digital Authoritarianism'

The report surveyed 65 countries to find that global Internet freedom declined for the 8th consecutive year. The report raises issues of disinformation and privacy infringement while highlighting how China, being the worst abuser of Internet freedoms in 2018, is exporting its model of control and surveillance across the globe.

Incorrect IP address routing affects Internet traffic and Google services

The diversion rerouted data traffic through Russia and China but a Google official stated that the cause was external to Google. Nigeria's Main One Cable Co took responsibility for the glitch stating it accidentally caused the problem during a network update.

Whatsapp confirms it will delete chat histories of user data and chats not backed up on Google Drive

Whatsapp had earlier reached an agreement with Google to store user data on Google Drive's cloud storage. Whatsapp also stated that any backups that had not been updated in over a year would be automatically removed from Google Drive storage.

ASEAN countries agree to facilitate cross-border e-commerce transactions within the region

The agreement is ASEAN's first on e-commerce, and is aimed to deepen ASEAN cooperation.

ASEAN's combined Internet economy is expected to touch \$200 billion by 2025, of which \$88 billion accrues to e-commerce.

Russian Government approves regulations that would identify users by their cellphone numbers

The regulation is part of an attempt to clamp down on anonymous messaging services such as Telegram. Mobile network operators are required to verify or block numbers based on user authenticity. Earlier, Russia sought to block and cripple Telegram for refusing to hand over its data encryption keys.

Facebook lets officials from French Government to verify Facebook's combat on hate speech

A team of civil servants will be embedded within the company for a period of six months to determine whether Facebook's checks on hate speech can be improved.

INDIA

First All-India survey on ICT exports find India's digital services hit \$83 billion

Results of the survey show that for the year 2016-17, the potential of services that could be exported through ICT channels was \$103 billion. Of the services exported through ICT channels, 63% accounted for computer services, 14% accounted for management and administration services, and 11% accounted for R&D.

Freedom House report on Internet Freedoms ranks India at 6th in Asia-Pacific Region

The report, divides countries into three categories, Free, Partly Free, and Not Free, and places India in the Partly Free category. In the Asia-Pacific region, Australia, Japan, Philippines, South Korea and Singapore feature in the top 5, with China, Vietnam and Pakistan among the worst performers in the region. India joins 26 other countries where internet freedom declined since last year.

Study finds India witnessed 4.3 lakh cyber attacks originating from five countries

F-secure, using honeypot data-which are decoy servers that emulate real IT environments of enterprises-found that attacks originated in Russia accounted for most cyber attacks on India, followed by the US, China, the Netherlands and Germany.

Nationalism a driving force for spread of fake news in India, finds a study

The report commissioned by the BBC aims to investigate how disinformation and fake news are affecting people around the world. Participants of the study gave BBC extensive access to their phones over a seven-day period for the study.

ISRO to launch satellite for Jammu and Kashmir and North East Regions

The GSAT-29 satellite, an advanced high throughput satellite consisting of two Ku and Ka payloads with the aim of bridging the digital divide among the target areas. The satellite will also carry Q and V bands, optical communications and a high-resolution camera to test for their use in future missions.

HSBC India and ING Netherlands execute a blockchain transaction with Reliance Industries

The transaction was executed on R3's Corda blockchain platform, a shared application that allows counterparties to come onto one platform. The companies claimed that it was an industry first as the Blockchain platform integrated with Bolero's 'electronic Bill of Lading' platform to issue and manage a e-Bill of Lading

FICO Survey finds 8 in 10 Indian firms have cyber-security insurance

Surveying 11 countries and 5 sectors, the study finds that Indian firms features in second place in adopting cyber-security insurance although, only 48% of firms have reported comprehensive coverage. Indian telecommunications firms were most likely to have cyber-security insurance with 80% comprehensive coverage.

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