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# 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

### International Telecommunications Union (ITU) 'plenipot' concludes
Members and delegates from over 180 countries convened in Dubai for the ITU Plenipotentiary, held every four years, to deliberate and pass resolutions on issues of gender equality, innovation, sustainable developmental goals, and prevention of misuse of ICT, among others.

### Database containing millions of messages containing two-factor codes, password reset links exposed due to security lapse.
The exposed server belongs to Voxox, a California based company that acts as a gateway that converts two-factor codes and the like, into text messages to be passed on to cell networks for delivery to the user's phone. The lapse allowed access to personal information and two-factor codes in real time.

### Google releases annual report on South East Asia's Digital Economy
The report, co-authored by Singapore Sovereign Fund Temasek, estimates the region's digital economy to reach $72 billion this year, up from last year's $50 billion, and $240 billion by 2025. Online travel accounts for the largest share in revenue at $30 billion, followed by e-commerce at $23 billion.

### Instagram removes fake accounts, threatens users who use companies that help increase followers
Instagram stated that it built machine-learning tools to help identify accounts that use third-party apps for boosting followers, and remove inauthentic activity. Some of the bot apps for boosting followers such Archie, InstarocketProX, charge $10 to $45 per month, and are also found to violate Instagram policies.

### France passes law that empowers judges to order the removal of 'fake news' during Election campaigns
The law, which was rejected twice by the senate and passed by the parliament, allows candidates and political parties to appeal to judges, three months before the scheduled voting, to stop spread of 'disinformation'. It also designed similar procedures that can lead to removal of foreign-based television channels.

### Study finds almost half of all Phishing sites now have 'the padlock' security icon

Phishlabs found that Phishing websites are now registering their own domain names and use Security Sockets Layer (SSL) for Google Chrome to display phishing websites as secure. The 'https://' or SSL only signifies that data being transmitted between browser and site is encrypted and inaccessible to third parties.

### Widely used open source code library 'event-stream' inserted with code that lets hackers steal from bitcoin wallets

Notable Pseudocode Mashup (NPM) that hosts event-stream, stated that the code was designed to target bitcoin wallets developed by Copay, a company that incorporated Event-stream. Event-stream has over 2 million downloads and is used by Fortune 500 companies and small start-ups alike.

### A committee of elected representatives from 9 different countries conducts hearing to hold Facebook accountable

Representatives from the UK, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Ireland, Latvia, and Singapore questioned Facebook's stand-in Vice President over disinformation on Whatsapp, how Facebook continues to track non-users in Belgium, and why in the context of Facebook's privacy scandals, should anyone trust the company.

## INDIA

### BSNL and Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) pulled up over poor implementation of rural connectivity program

BSNL and BBNL are tasked with connecting 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats with high-speed Internet by March 2019, under the National Digital Communications Policy. However, a poor utilization record, at 10% of the target utilization, prompted the Telecom Secretary to threaten disciplinary action over poor implementation.

### Broadband India Forum conducts its fourth International Annual Satcom Summit, 2018.

The summit delved on issues including use of satellite to deliver broadband to inaccessible parts of the country, satellite mobility, in-flight connectivity, new technologies and innovations in satcom.

### Report finds rise in cyber security startups in India, attributes to increasing cyber attacks in the country

The study by Belong finds that cyber attacks increased by nearly 5% to 53000 in 2017 from 50362 in 2016. In 2014, the number was 44769. The study finds that India currently has an estimated 200 cyber security start ups, half of them being located in Mumbai and Pune, driven by demand from banking and financial sectors.

### Facebook points to steep rise in data requests from the Indian Government

The company stated that it received 16,580 requests from the Government between January-June 2018, compared to 22,024 requests in all of 2017, and 13,613 in all of 2016. Facebook further stated that it provided data to the government in 53% of the cases, although it did not reveal what kind of data was being sought.

### Boston Consultancy Group report estimates India's Over-The-Top (OTT) market to reach $5 billion by 2023

The report, based on consumer survey, also finds various OTT models such as subscription-based platforms, advertising-based platforms and transaction-based platforms to succeed in the market. Bollywood content, music and cricket will drive the demand in OTT markets, the report finds. TRAI released a consultation paper on the regulatory regime for OTT in India, with a public comment period that ends on 10 December 2018.

### Google launches 'Neighbourly' app across major cities in India

As part of 'Next Billion Users' Initiative, Google launched its app 'Neighbourly' that allows users to ask and answer questions on recommendations in text or voice format, in eight Indian languages. Users can also keep up with information on neighbourhoods by browsing through relevant conversations on the app.

## New Department of Telecom (DoT) figures show broadband subscription in August-end touched 463.65 million

According to the data released on its website, the number of broadband subscribers rose to 460.24 million in July 2018, an increase of 0.74%. The DoT also updated its figures on the total number of telephones, and wireline and wireless subscriptions, among others.

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