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 adopts adequacy decision on Japan, creating the world's largest area of safe data flows
The adoption marks the final step of the procedures launched in September 2018, to arrive at a set of rules for the transfers of personal data between Japan and the EU. Key elements of the rules include bridging gaps between the two data protection regimes, access to authorities for law enforcement purposes, and a complaint-handling mechanism.

New ITU standards aim to enable high-speed broadband rollout in rural areas and challenging conditions
The new ITU standards on lightweight optical cable aims to reduce costs of deploying expensive yet critical lightweight terabit-capable optical cable by providing a 'do-it-yourself' solution. Optical cable remains crucial for services such as telemedicine that require high capacity and low latency for quality transmission of medical imagery.

U.S. Government shutdown puts America's cybersecurity at risk
The shutdown caused the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to furlough 37% of its staff. Moreover, 85% of employees at the National Institute of Standards and Technology are also furloughed, affecting correct and secure implementation of encryption schemes across the globe.

2019 is already a busy year for Internet shutdowns in the African continent
Zimbabwe ordered 'total Internet shutdown' at the end of January, due to protests and a deadly crackdown. Congo restored its Internet 20 days after its disputed presidential election. Earlier, Gabon shut off its Internet during an attempted coup, while Sudan suspended its social media amid calls for its president to step down.

Google faces its first penalty from France for violating EU GDPR
France's data privacy watchdog fined Google 50 million euros for violating GDPR. The commission stated that Google users were 'not sufficiently informed' about data collection, and that users had had to take too many steps to find out how and why their data is being used.

China deletes troves of online information and thousands of apps deemed unacceptable or harmful

China's Cyberspace Administration stated it had deleted more than 7 million pieces of online information as well as 9,382 mobile apps. Last November, the Cyberspace administration deleted 9,800 independent social media accounts for spreading politically harmful information and falsifying the history of the Communist Party.

Apple to ban Facebook's research app that collects users' personal information

Apple stated that Facebook took advantage of Apple's 'Developer Enterprise Program' which lets Facebook test and distribute apps for Apple's employees. Facebook allegedly used the program to pay non-employees as much as $20 dollars per month to download the research app without Apple's knowledge.

INDIA

Davos leaders urge India to join Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace

India and the U.S. are two major democracies that have not signed to be a part of the Paris Call of November 12, 2018, for Trust and Security in Cyberspace coalition. The coalition currently includes 64 states, more than 300 private sector companies, and over 150 NGOs and other civil society organizations. Other non-signatories include Israel, Iran, China, and Russia, among others.

Tech giants extend political advertising tools for enabling transparent elections in India

Google and Facebook will place electoral ads in a searchable online library starting March. The Indian archive will contain contact information for some ad buyers or their official regulatory certificates.

Bombay Stock Exchange ties up with Lucideus for cybersecurity operations

Lucideus will provide a cybersecurity operations centre using an AI and machine learning-backed Security Assessment Framework for Enterprise (SAFE) solution. BSE's security upgrade comes at the back of SEBI's mandate for market infrastructure institutions to set up and continuously man a cybersecurity framework.

Haryana State launches country's first cybersecurity portal and toll-free helpline number

The services were launched during the National Summit on Digital Innovation and Cyber Security. Users can log on to http://haryanaismo.gov.in/ and learn more about securing themselves against cyber threats and guidelines to keep children safe online.

Microsoft plans to set up 10 AI labs in India, upskill 10,000 developers in emerging technology

The company also aims to train 5 lakh youth in AI over three years, and set up 10 AI labs. Currently, Microsoft is also running the Intelligent Cloud Hub Program to equip higher educational institutions with AI infrastructure, curriculum and skills in cloud computing and data sciences.

OpenSignal finds India's 4G download speeds are best at 4 a.m. and worst at 10 p.m.

The "State of Mobile Networks: India" study finds that users across India are experiencing widely different 4G speeds at different hours of the day. It finds that cities across witness decreasing download speeds through the day, reaching the slowest at 10pm. Navi Mumbai scored the highest of 8.1 Mbps in average LTE download speeds, while Allahabad came in last with 4 Mbps.

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