



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

Facebook and Amazon clamp down on anti-vaccination content

Facebook will downrank groups and pages that spread anti-vaccine propaganda, and reject ads promoting anti-vaccine misinformation. Amazon started removing anti-vaccine documentaries on its Prime Video streaming services while removing from its online marketplace, 'autism cure' books that unscientifically claim cures for children suffering from autism.

Facebook tightens measures to safeguard elections in Indonesia; Google to ban political ads ahead of Canadian elections

Facebook will disallow foreign electoral ads using automated and human review; provide more information about ads and, inter alia, set up an operations center in Singapore to monitor election integrity across the Asia Pacific. An election measure undertaken by the Canadian government, Bill C-76, compelled Google to stop accepting election ads as defined in the legislation for Canada's 2019 election.

U.S. threatens Germany with reduced intelligence sharing if the latter doesn't ban Huawei

The U.S. government communicated that it will not be able to continue sharing the same amount of classified intelligence if Huawei wins a contract to build Germany's 5G network. Most of EU, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan dropped plans to use Huawei gear. Huawei opened a cybersecurity lab in Brussels in its bid to assuage EU's policymakers about its credentials.

Macron calls for new EU agency to fight against international cyber-attacks; UK publishes guide for Post-Brexit data protection regime

French President Emmanuel Macron called for a new European agency to counter election manipulation and cyber-attacks in his plans to overhaul EU in response to Brexit. Meanwhile, in the event of Brexit, the UK government published its 'Data Protection, Privacy, and Electronic Communications Regulations 2019' that amends the GDPR to fit into UK domestic law.

Thailand passes cybersecurity bill, criticized for vagueness and increasing State power for surveillance

Controversial clauses include those that may allow the government to search and seize data

and equipment in cases that are deemed issues of national emergency. The powerful National Cybersecurity Committee, headed by the PM, was also criticized for lack of industry and civil society representation.

Undersea cable experiment achieves record fibre optic cable capacity of 26.2 terabits per second

The experiment conducted by US based company Infinera used more than 6,000km of transatlantic fibre optic cable jointly owned by Facebook and Microsoft to test an emerging approach for how light signals are transmitted, called 16QAM modulation.

INDIA

Neustar completes transition of India's .IN country code top level domain (ccTLD) to Neustar's Registry Platform

A total of two million .IN domain names were successfully migrated to Neustar's Registry infrastructure. Neustar offers enhanced services to register Indian language domains in native script by providing end-to-end web portal language support, and was selected through NIXI's Request For Proposal (RFP) process.

IT firm in Hyderabad accused of stealing official database of Andhra Pradesh beneficiaries; TDP allegedly using data for voter profiling

IT Grids, a Hyderabad based company which developed an app for Telugu Desam Party for its internal functioning, allegedly stole personal data of beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh and processed the data without consent. The app, used by TDP party cadres, has features that allow voter classification based on constituency and booths. The firm has been booked for violating provisions of data theft under the IT Act.

Answers to a question in Lok Sabha reveals the extent to which URLs are being blocked by MeitY

In 2018, MeitY blocked 2799 URLs for allegedly hosting malicious content, a sharp increase from its 2017 number of 1,385 blocked URLs, and 2016 figure of 633, but remains non-transparent over why it blocks websites. The Center for Internet and Society compiled a list of all blocked URLs and websites, which amount to 3,200 so far.

Digital ad-fraud in India contributes to 8.7% of Global ad-fraud total in 2018

Market research firm techARC's India digital ad-fraud market report finds that, of the total ad-fraud in India digital commerce contributed to 51%, followed by leisure and travel at 26%, entertainment and gaming at 13%, banking and finance at 8% and healthcare at 1%.

India's Media and Entertainment sector touched Rs.1.67 trillion in 2018, powered by digital platform growth

A report published by FICCI-EY finds that the Media and Entertainment sector grew by 13.4% y-o-y, powered by a 42% growth in digital platforms in the same period. The report also finds that online gamers grew by 52% to 278 million in 2018, with 5 billion gaming apps being downloaded.

India launches 3rd IT Corridor in China to facilitate partnerships between Indian and Chinese companies

NASSCOM entered into a partnership with China's Xuzhou city to develop the IT corridor that will facilitate matchmaking between Indian companies wanting to collaborate with Chinese companies in the area. The previous two IT corridors in Dalian and Guiyang regions have generated business opportunities worth \$4.6 million, and \$8.9 million respectively.

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