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

UNCTAD eCommerce Week witnesses Governments and Industries taking on the digital trade-privacy trade-off

UNCTAD Deputy Secretary General Isabelle Durant highlighted the significance of the balance between trade disciplines and national policy objectives. The Ministerial roundtable saw representatives from the African Union (AU) raise the issue of the lack of data, its inconsistency and AU's inability to process when data is available. Representative from the Asian Trade Center stated that there is a need to define precisely what 'data' means and will be central issue in trade dialogues .

Julian Assange arrested by British Police after Ecuador revoked his seven-year Asylum

Assange's indictment began when WikiLeaks, an organization he found that reveals war crimes and human rights abuses, published a series of leaks on U.S army activity, provided by Chelsea Manning, a former US Army soldier. The legal grounds for arresting Assange seemed to have changed, with prosecutors not charging him under the Espionage act, but for conspiring to commit unlawful computer intrusion. This is seen to be an attempt to sidestep issues arising out of the First Amendment that guarantees freedoms to U.S. citizens.

Familiarize yourself with the new language of privacy in a swiftly evolving digital landscape

The definitions are provided by the International Association of Privacy Professionals, a large scale global information privacy community. Terms include 'Fair Information Practice Principles', which are a set of unenforced principles set by the Federal Trade Commission for collecting data in a consumer-friendly manner, 'Opt Out', a central concept of choice online, which means that an individual's lack of action implies that a choice has been made.

EU Commission's experts present guidelines for 'trustworthy AI'

The guidelines outline a trustworthy AI to be 'lawful', 'ethical', and 'robust', further setting 7 key requirements for AI systems to be deemed trustworthy. The High-Level Expert group have set

up a forum for exchange of best practices on trustworthy AI, using which the group will propose further amendments and next steps to the guidelines.

Facebook updates its terms and conditions to make clear how it makes money from data
The new wording will explain to users how Facebook, in order to finance itself, uses the data it collects to develop profiling and target advertising. These changes follow from discussions with the EU commission and European Consumer Protection authorities.

EU Parliament, members and agencies test cybersecurity preparedness ahead of 2019 EU elections
The main responsibility for protecting electoral integrity lies with EU member states and the exercise was designed to improve awareness and capabilities for swift action. Earlier, the EU drafted recommendations for safeguarding elections, established the European Cooperation Network, and adopted the Action Plan against disinformation, as part of efforts to protect electoral integrity.

INDIA

McKinsey's report on Digital India lauds Indian consumer 's digital embrace, urges Indian firms to follow suit
The report states high social media and app consumption rates of Indian consumers, and India's second best standing across fast digitising economies, after Indonesia, in a group that includes 17 emerging and developed economies. The report also surveyed 600 large and small companies on digital practices adopted by companies to find uneven adoption, with large companies having more capabilities to invest in some advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things.

Access to Internet and the varying impacts of online election campaigns in India
This Mint Analysis analyses the divergent effects of online poll campaigns and fake news given unequal access to Internet in India. The analysis finds that in the 2014 elections, certain parties polled more votes than others in a majority of districts with relatively high Internet penetration. The analysis also shows that upper castes have greater access to Internet than other castes, with a similar divide across educational attainements as well.

What have India's major National parties offered the Tech world in the upcoming 2019 elections?
Medianama's coverage of election manifestos of major parties capture elements related to tech policy. The Incumbent BJP's Tech manifesto focuses on fintech, inclusion, agriculture but goes quiet on Aadhaar, Digital India and Smart Cities. Congress's Tech manifesto promises amendments to Aadhaar, provision of Net neutrality and data privacy and protection, among others. The CPI(M) touches on e-commerce regulations, regulation of 'monopolies' and anti-surveillance measures while regional parties such as Orissa's Biju Janata Dal promises expansion of Laptop scheme and a youth innovation fund, among others.

Maharashtra's Cyber cell publishes handbook for election commission officials for maintaing electoral integrity
The handbook describes how on-duty election officials can identify and report against suspicious mails, social media posts, fake news and websites among other channels that can likely affect election data.

Office of U.S Trade Representatives release 2019 Trade estimate report, critical of India's data localization and digital protectionist measures
The report terms India's data localisation and draft e-commerce policy as ''most discriminatory and trade distortive'', stating that such requirements raise costs for suppliers of data-intensive sectors, disadvantage foreign firms and act as barriers to market entry for smaller firms.

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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