



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

[ICANN concludes that Amazon Inc.'s application for .AMAZON can proceed following public comment](#)

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers [concluded](#) that there is no public policy reason for the .AMAZON application to not proceed in the [New gTLD program](#). The decision was taken after negotiations between Amazon Inc., the applicant for the gTLD and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) represented by the Governments in the Amazon Basin, which was objecting to Amazon Inc.'s application, broke down. [The presidents of Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia criticised the move.](#)

[Reflections on the one-year Anniversary of the EU General Data Protection Regulation](#)

The EU GDPR came into force on the 25th of May 2018, giving authorities teeth to tackle breaches. Within the year, the European Data Protection Board registered 400 cross-border cases around Europe. Over 500,000 organizations across Europe have established Data Protection Officers (DPO), which received over 280,000 cases, among other eye-popping figures ([info graphic](#)).

[U.S. cellular carriers tell the Federal Communication Commission \(FCC\) they have stopped sale of location data to third-party companies](#)

AT&T Inc., Sprint Corp., T-Mobile US Inc., and Verizon Communications Inc. in letters to the FCC [stated](#) that they stopped selling their customer's location data to location aggregation companies. These measures come after a year of scrutiny by the FCC and maintain the status quo of selling real time phone location data by cellular carriers.

[The Huawei Saga: An explainer](#)

Catch up with updates on the contentious issue of Huawei's 5G deployments across the Western world. [This timeline shows](#) over 100 events related to Huawei and 5G across EU and NATO states from 2015 to 2019.

[EU Commission publishes new guidance on interaction of free-flow of non-personal data with GDPR](#)

The new [Regulation on the free flow of non-personal data](#) prevents EU countries from setting laws that unjustifiably force data to be localized inside national territory. [The guide](#) explains the concept of personal and non-personal data, and lists principles of free movement of data, among others.

Intel and WhatsApp's vulnerabilities exposed

Intel and a group of researchers published details on four new potential chip attacks that exploit a 'speculative execution' process used to improve performance, which is also central to [Meltdown and Spectre](#), two critical vulnerabilities in modern processors. WhatsApp, known for its end-to-end encryption safety, was breached through a bug, allegedly in an attempt to access the phone of a UK-based human rights lawyer.

Facebook argues it did not violate user privacy, as there was no expectation of privacy when using social media

At the pre-trial hearing to dismiss a lawsuit stemming from the Cambridge Analytica scandal, Facebook's counsel Orin Snyder said, "there is no invasion of privacy at all, because there is no privacy." The argument was made as Mark Zuckerberg is campaigning for a privacy-oriented vision for social networking.

INDIA

Internet Policy in India for 2019

The 2019 elections have come to a close and it is the BJP that has emerged victorious. For Digital India, 2018 witnessed several public consultations and publications of drafts of key policy measures. 2019 is likely to witness important bills being tabled in parliament that will shape Digital India for the years to come. This piece by Medianama maps the defining themes of India's Internet Governance for the coming years.

This election season, political parties spent Rs. 53 Crore on digital platforms. BJP tops the list

Facebook witnessed 1.21 lakh ads being purchased on its platform, while 14,837 ads were purchased on Google and partner platforms. The winning party, BJP, spent Rs. 4.23 crore on Facebook, and over Rs. 17 crore on Google's platforms. The Congress spent Rs. 1.46 Crore on Facebook and shelled Rs. 2.71 crore on Google's platform.

Reuters finds WhatsApp cloning tools help Indian digital marketers bypass its anti-spam restrictions

Available at Rs. 1000, the tool featured heavily during the election season. Reuters found that, among others, a digital marketing business sent up to 100,000 WhatsApp messages a day for two BJP members. Free clone apps, software tools for automatic delivery of messages, and sending bulk messages from anonymous numbers from a website, are some of the ways in which WhatsApp was misused by political parties.

Riding on credit cards: Ola enters credit card business

Ola has agreed to a deal with State Bank of India (SBI) and Visa to issue 10 million credit cards in the next three and a half years. Ola's advantage and success here hinges on its ability to access troves of consumer data from its ride-hailing services. It becomes another addition to the growing number of Indian 'super apps' that are bundling different services.

RBI publishes 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019-2021

Its core theme constitutes 'empowering exceptional e-payment experience' with 36 specific action points over 36-month timeframe, and 12 specific outcomes some of which include 100% growth rate of payment infrastructure such as UPI and IMPS and four time increase in digital transactions to 8707 crore by December 2021.

Ravi Shankar Prasad becomes the Minister for IT for the second time; tabling personal data protection bill in parliament is his top priority

Ravi Shankar Prasad will also become the minister for telecommunications while retaining the IT and law portfolios from his previous term. The draft personal data protection bill of 2018 is concerned with data protection obligations, limitations to the collection of personal data, and data protection principle, among others. The Government is also working towards amending

intermediary guidelines under the IT Act, and regulating Internet and social media companies such as WhatsApp and Facebook.

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