NEWS DIGEST

MEITY Chair on Internet Policy

ICRIER's Internet Policy News Digest is your update on Indian and global developments in cyber-security, digital economy, and Internet governance. We have recently re-designed the news digest to include opinion pieces covering issues both global as well as focused on India. We sincerely welcome your valuable feedback and comments at www.internetpolicy.in. Please email your valuable feedback and comments to internet.news@icrier.res.in.

GLOBAL

In light of the record $5 billion fine the FTC imposed on Facebook for data privacy violations last month and additional GDPR fines expected, Alex Woodie deconstructs the pole position Facebook held among big tech companies for its ability to monetise data. One year after the GDPR came into effect, Amnon Drori, writing for the *International Business Times*, assesses the performance of data companies. An article published by the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania explores the illusion of data privacy, and the inadequacy of the straightforward approaches of consent and transparency in ensuring users' data protection. In *The Washington Post*, Cat Zakrewski discusses Facebook and Twitter's decision to crack down on fake accounts tied to China, and how this reflects Silicon Valley's disinformation challenges having gone global.

Apec's new data privacy rules
The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) will establish a region-wide data privacy framework called the Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR), and the Philippines is about to enter this process. It is a set of privacy rules that will facilitate the sharing of data across borders within the 21 economies that make up more than half of the world's GDP, trade, and FDI.

A Company That Embeds The Like Button On Its Website Can Be Considered A Data Controller Jointly With Facebook
The Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) has ruled that companies that embed the Facebook "Like" button within their website pages can be considered as a joint data controller within the meaning of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), alongside Facebook, in respect of the collection and transmission to Facebook of the personal data concerned.

US among global leaders in cybersecurity, report finds
Though the U.S. ranks just outside of the top 10 nations with the highest digital quality of life, it is among the top three in cybersecurity efforts, according to a new report from online security provider Surfshark. In compiling the Digital Quality of Life report, Surfshark measured the "Global Cybersecurity Index" of each of the 65 nations studied.

Billions of records exposed: 2019 on track to be worst year ever for data breaches
The number of data breaches resulting in exposed records is up by 54% year over year in the first half of 2019, and the number of records exposed in those breaches is up by 52%. More than 3,800 data breaches were reported in the first six months of this year, and just eight of those exposed more than 3.2 billion records, nearly 80% of all records exposed so far in 2019.

Fearing data privacy issues, Google shuts Mobile Network Insights service
Alphabet Inc's Google has shut down a service it provided to wireless carriers globally that showed them weak spots in their network coverage, people familiar with the matter told Reuters, because of Google's concerns that sharing data from users of its Android phone system might attract the scrutiny of users and regulators.

Thailand to set up center to combat "fake news"
Thailand's government on Wednesday announced a plan to set up a center to combat unverified news on social media platforms, rejecting concerns that it might be used to suppress free speech. The planned center's goal would be to fight all kinds of fake news, with a focus on misinformation about disasters and financial matters, Minister Punnakanta said.

The EU may give citizens more control of their facial recognition data
The EU may impose strict limits on the use of facial recognition technology. According to *Financial Times*, the European Commission is working on laws that would give citizens explicit rights over their facial recognition data, like the right to know when it's used. The regulations would apply to both businesses and police or security forces.

INDIA

Brahma Chellaney argues in the *Hindustan Times* that India's Personal Data Protection Bill, carrying European-style protections and penalties for data privacy breaches, is a step in the right direction, given the monopolistic control of the most powerful tech companies on personal data. In the backdrop of India making a huge transition to a cashless economy, Rameesh Kailasam and Priyanka Mathur write in *Mint* that data deprivation makes cybercrime difficult to tackle, and that public faith in the digital system needs to be consistently reinforced. Sunil Abraham argues in the *Business Standard* that linking Aadhaar with social media or ending encryption would be counterproductive and that there is a need for sustained research and development of privacy protecting surveillance mechanisms. Sameer Hedge and Kartikeya Garg explore how India's approach to data regulation seeks to harmonise two seemingly conflicting objectives of data protection, namely protecting personal data and facilitating growth of the digital economy.

Wireless data subscriber base soars to 578.20 million ; Reliance Jio adds 82.6 lakh subscribers in June: Trai data
ARPU rose to ₹90.61 in 2018 from ₹79.98 in 2017, TRAI data show. The total number of wireless data subscribers in the country rose to 578.20 million as of end of 2018. This is a 36.36 per cent rise from 424.02 million posted in 2017. Reliance Jio has added over over 82.6 lakh subscribers in June, Vodafone Idea shed 41.45 lakh subscribers, and Bharti Airtel 29,883.

Government identifies an issue in TikTok's ShareChat notices
Following Tik-Tok's legal content takedown notices to ShareChat, which the latter complied with, the government is set to ask the app whether such action puts a question mark over its status as a social media intermediary. ShareChat wrote to the government, arguing that claims on exclusivity of content are inconsistent with its declared status as an intermediary.

Govt working towards tabling data protection bill in winter session, says Ministry official
The government is working towards tabling the data protection bill in the winter session of Parliament, Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Ajay Prakash Sawhney said on Thursday. "Yes. Keep watching for that space. We are working towards that," he said when asked whether the Data Protection Bill could be tabled in the winter session.

IoT security: India faces growing onslaught of cyber-attacks

With cyber-attacks against internet of things (IoT) deployments in India up by 22% in the last quarter, experts are pointing the finger, in part, at politically-motivated hackers. A new report from telecom analytics firm Subex states that, for the second quarter running, India is the most-attacked country in the IoT space. Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru attracted the most attacks.

India to unveil cyber security strategy policy in January
India will release the cyber security strategy policy in January 2020 to enable the government to "cyber-secure the nation", which will also help in achieving the target to achieve a $ 5-trillion economy, an official said. The most important requirement for safety is increased coordination between ministries overseeing cyber security, critical infrastructure protection, and PPP.

MeitY seeks views on non-personal data
MeitY may come up with a report on non-personal data like community data, anonymised data and ecommerce data held by companies such as Uber, Google and Amazon, to chalk out a policy on non-personal data regulation. A senior official said that it may be left to concerned ministries or regulators to define which data should come under the purview of such a policy.

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.

Rajat Kathuria
Director & CE

To unsubscribe please click here