



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

China's *Global Times* explores the [geopolitical consequences of cybersecurity](#), while the *Brookings Institution* highlights the [vulnerabilities of 5G networks to cyberattacks](#) and argues that the deployment of 5G would call for companies being held responsible for a new cyber duty of care, and governments establishing a new cyber regulatory paradigm. An editorial in Japan's *Mainichi* illustrates that a lack of information technology expertise among staffers at the Japan Fair Trade Commission will likely pose a [challenge to regulating IT giants' collection and use of personal data](#).

Greg Thomas poses that [keeping a free and open Internet starts at the Internet's root](#), and that dynamics at the Internet's core erode stakeholder legitimacy and aid Sino-Russian efforts for multilateral control. Meicen Sun analyses the [imposition of national borders in cyberspace](#), and finds that states are asserting an even more formidable type of power through controlling the flow of information on the internet, since unlike physical borders, virtual borders are at once everywhere and nowhere, and one may never even know for certain whether they exist.

Google to pay out \$150-200m over YouTube privacy claims: reports

Privacy groups alleged that the platform had violated laws protecting children's privacy by gathering data on users under the age of 13 without obtaining permission from parents, said reports. Google will pay \$150-200 million to settle allegations that YouTube violated a children's privacy law while gathering data to better target its adverts, U.S. media reports.

New York Deploys its Shield Act; is the Tech World Ready for Tougher Regulation?

The State of New York passed the Stop Hacks and Improve Electronic Data Security (SHIELD) Act, which sets requirements for companies to protect the data of NY residents. The law is one of several that have been passed across the US at the state level with the aim of protecting individuals from companies which are increasingly exposed to cyber threats.

Google, Industry Try to Water Down First U.S. Data-Privacy Law

Google and its industry allies are making a late bid to water down the first major data-privacy law in the U.S., seeking to carve out exemptions for digital advertising, according to documents

obtained by Bloomberg. A lobbyist for Google recently distributed new language to members of California's state legislature that amend the California Consumer Privacy Act.

Google Secretly Sharing Users' Data with Advertisers: Report

Google is allegedly relaying your personal information to advertisers via hidden webpages, allowing it to circumvent the European Union privacy regulations, new evidence submitted to Ireland's Data Protection Commission has revealed. The Data Protection Commission began an investigation into Google's practices in May 2019.

Internet users in Kenya least concerned about their privacy online – UNCTAD report

Kenyans online are the least worried lot globally of their privacy, an inaugural Digital Economy Report by UNCTAD has shown. Only 44% of internet users in Kenya are concerned about their privacy online compared to Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Mexico and Nigeria where the proportion of internet users concerned about their privacy exceeded 90%.

Online privacy fears put growing numbers of people off using the internet with 1 in 10 saying they avoid the web because of concerns

A new survey from Oxford University showed that 10 per cent of people in 2019 choose not to be online because they are anxious about privacy. This is compared to the one per cent of people who admitted similar fears in 2013. Almost 70 per cent also said they were uncomfortable with targeted advertising and tracking data used by tech giants.

INDIA

Sneha Alexander, writing for Mint, explores whether, in the midst of an overall economic slowdown, [India's internet economy is also slowing](#), and finds that while India's internet user base is plateauing, long-term growth potential remains intact as internet penetration still remains low in the country. Goutam Das argues in *Business Today* that a recently released [Facebook white paper raises tough questions around data portability](#), while Aditi Agrawal, writing for *Medianama*, finds that it has several shortcomings, such as B2B transfer of information of data portability not being covered, and ambiguities surrounding deleting data, and conceptual irregularities around data sharing and data portability. Nikhil Sud warns in *The Diplomat* that new data protection trends in India may jeopardise innovation, over and above several provisions in the draft data protection bill's which risk undermining investment and innovation in India from companies globally.

Data localisation may not impede digital trade or e-commerce, says UNCTAD report

India's push on mandatory data localisation which has been contested by developed countries, has found some support from UNCTAD. In its latest report on the digital economy, it observes that governments may decide to restrict data flow for reasons such as privacy of data and protection of their citizens, security and economic development.

How Competition Law plans to regulate digital economy

The Competition Commission of India released the interim observations of its study for regulating the digital market recently. It highlights key competition issues in e-commerce like deep discounting, the imposition of unfair terms and conditions, the growing dependence of brick and mortar establishments on online platforms, and opaqueness in search rankings.

NCDC launches Cyber-Security Advisory Forum

Responding to the growing need for cooperatives and other cooperative institutions particularly the banks to keep themselves safe from cyberattacks, NCDC recently has launched a cyber-security advisory forum. It will be assisted in its efforts by Former National Cyber Security Head in the PMO, Dr Gulshan Rai as Honorary Senior Advisor in NCDC.

Indian firms collect, share individuals' data with third parties in dubious ways: report

Several private technology companies currently collect personal information of individuals without their explicit and transparent consent and share it with third party data brokers leading to detailed online behaviour profiling of individuals for business purposes, says a new report on data economy released by Omidyar Network India and Monitor Deloitte.

Government may soon make it mandatory for Google, Facebook to sell users' public data

MEITY may make it mandatory for companies to sell public, or non-personal, data that they collect to anyone in the country seeking access to it, including the government and private entities. It is considering issuing guidelines under the IT Act that will require companies to share freely available information that they collate in the course of their operations.

Infosys co-founder to head government's data governance panel for non-personal data

MEITY has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan to study issues related to non-personal data and suggest how the government should look at regulating it. It was also reported that the Ministry was considering a whitepaper that would form the basis for a wider consultation on non-personal data.

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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