



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

Writing for *Foreign Policy*, Andrew Grotto and Martin Schallbruch argue the need for the United States and Europe to [forge a digital governance alliance](#) in the face of China pulling into the pole position in the global race to govern digital technology. The Conversation explores the disconnect between new sources of data (led by India) and the location of data centres (mostly in North America and Europe), which has led to accusations from countries such as India of [“data colonisation” and “digital colonialism”](#). This has been exemplified in their boycott of the international declaration on data flows, at the Osaka Track, during the G20 meeting in Japan.

With the possibility of a hard Brexit very much on the cards as Britain hurtles towards no-deal, Daphne Leprince-Ringuet posits that [UK companies, particularly the data sharing industry](#), could be adversely impacted. At the same time, Simon Stokes explores the difficulties [Brexit would place on the free flow of personal data](#), since no-deal would effectively erect a personal data border between the UK and the EU. Meanwhile, writing for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) blog, Yan Carrière-Swallow and Vikram Haksar contend that [global cooperation is needed](#) to ward off the risk that the digital economy become fragmented, with data access limited by national borders.

[First international standard for data privacy published](#)

The first international standard aimed at tackling privacy information management head on has been published by the International Standards Organization (ISO). The standard addresses the privacy issues relating to a connected world. It has been developed to help organizations manage privacy information and meet regulatory requirements.

[Google is investing \\$3.3B to build clean data centres in Europe](#)

Google announced today that it was investing €3 billion (approximately US\$3.3 billion) to expand its data centre presence in Europe. In a [blog post](#) announcing the new investment, CEO Sundar Pichai made it clear that the company was focusing on running these data centres on carbon-free fuels. It will invest €600 million to expand its presence in Finland.

Data on almost every Ecuadorean citizen leaked

Personal data about almost every Ecuadorean citizen has been found exposed online. Names, financial information and civil data about 17 million people, including 6.7 million children, was found by security company vpnMentor. The massive cache of data was found on an unsecured cloud server almost anyone could look at.

EU competition chief hints at new data rules for tech firms

The European Union's competition chief Margrethe Vestager indicated Friday that she is looking at expanding regulations on personal data, dropping an initial hint about how she plans to use new powers against tech companies. "When a few companies control a lot of data about us," she said, "that can also help them influence the choices we make."

Egypt censors news websites and social apps during unrest

With a history of internet shutdowns, censorship, and surveillance over the past decade, data from an Egyptian NGO monitoring internet governance suggests that this practice may be continuing. According to NetBlocks, network disruptions have been recorded with two major Egyptian ISPs starting Sunday and affecting social platforms and news websites.

Google wins EU fight against 'right to be forgotten' worldwide

Google is not required to apply an EU "right to be forgotten" to its search engine domains outside Europe, the EU's top court ruled Tuesday in a landmark decision. The European Court of Justice handed victory to Google in the case, seen as crucial in determining whether EU online regulation should apply beyond Europe's borders or not.

INDIA

Arguing that there does not appear to be any correlation between localization of payment data and regulation of payment systems in India, Lagna Panda characterises the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s April 2018 directive on the localisation of private data as a [cure without a problem](#). Kazim Rizvi proposes the establishment of an [autonomous national Data Protection Authority](#) to implement data privacy, while Subimal Bhattacharjee, writing for *The Hindu Business Line* contends that India offers free play to digital giants in the domestic space and accordingly [needs localisation safeguards](#).

Anubhuti Singh, Malavika Raghavan, Beni Chugh and Srikara Prasad capture the [contours of public policy for non-personal data flows in India](#), discussing considerations of international trade, national security, as well as privacy. Sumeesh Srivastava, in *The Hindu*, meanwhile expounds on the imperative of the right to [Internet access and digital literacy](#) being recognised as a right in itself.

E-commerce deadline extended: More time given for comments on draft consumer protection guidelines

The Department of Consumer Affairs had issued the draft more than five months after the Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) came out with the draft e-commerce policy for regulating flow and storage of user data along with regulations governing e-commerce portal including Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal, etc.

Digitising small businesses an \$80 bn opportunity over 5 years, says study

With smartphone and internet penetration going up, millions of small businesses are moving online. A recent study, by consulting firm Zinnov, estimates that over \$80 billion of digital services may be consumed by this new class of small and medium businesses (SMBs) in the country over the next five years.

How cities can leverage citizen data while protecting privacy

In a new study, MIT researchers find that there is, in fact, a way for Indian cities to preserve citizen privacy while using their data to improve efficiency. They obtained and analysed data from more than 380,000 government service across 112 cities in one Indian state for a year to measure city governments' efficiency based on how fast they completed each service request.

RBI rider on credit bureau data access has Fintech in a quandary

A recent directive by the Reserve Bank of India asking banks and non-bank lenders to stop 'agents' from accessing credit bureau data has thrown the banking technology sector into a

state of flux. Software services providers, who directly work with banks to evaluate credit quality, are likely to be affected the most.

Sensitive, super-sensitive data must be stored locally in India: Ravi Shankar Prasad

The government on Friday asserted that it will not allow the country's data sovereignty to be compromised and made it clear that sensitive and super-sensitive data must reside in India. The Union Minister for IT and Electronics Ravi Shankar Prasad said there must be a fine balance between data availability, utility, innovation and data privacy.

Why everyone wants a piece of the data centre pie

India's data centre market is expected to hit \$4 billion by 2024, reports suggest. This is double given the current estimated size of \$2 billion and an over 200 percent jump from \$1.3 billion in 2016. Going by current trends, data centres are not sustainable. Climate change studies reveal that they account for about 3 percent of total electricity consumed totally.

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