



MINISTÈRE  
DE L'ÉCONOMIE,  
DES FINANCES  
ET DE LA RELANCE

Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité

Direction générale du Trésor



# REVUE DE PRESSE SECTORIELLE NUMÉRIQUE

UNE PUBLICATION DU SERVICE ÉCONOMIQUE REGIONAL

DE NEW DELHI

N° 9 –1 au 15 Juillet 2021

## G En bref

### NUMÉRIQUE :

- La nouvelle stratégie indienne en matière de cybersécurité sera publiée cette année
- Les nouvelles règles IT vont créer un écosystème responsable pour les médias sociaux **d'après** le nouveau ministre de l'IT, **M. Vaishnaw**
- WhatsApp n'appliquera pas sa nouvelle politique en matière de données personnelles tant que l'Inde n'aura pas adopté sa loi sur la protection des données.
- Le gouvernement indien représente 25% des demandes mondiales d'information de gouvernements auprès de Twitter.
- La RBI interdit Mastercard **d'émission** de nouvelles cartes en Inde au motif du non respect de **l'obligation de localisation des données**

### TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS:

- La société néerlandaise de semi-conducteurs NXP fournira des puces à Jio pour son réseau 5G.
- SpaceX prêt à s'associer à des entreprises indiennes pour fabriquer localement des équipements de communication satellitaire.
- Brookfield asset management et Digital Realty forment une coentreprise pour construire des data centers en Inde.

# Revue de presse

## 1. NUMÉRIQUE

Govt to unveil national cyber security strategy soon: National Cyber Security Coordinator

*PTI, 3/07/2021*

The government will release a new cybersecurity strategy this year, National Cyber Security Coordinator Rajesh Pant said at an event organised by Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI). He said the strategy would holistically cover the entire ecosystem of cyber space in India.

The government is expected to release a new cybersecurity strategy this year, he said speaking at the PAFI event on Friday.

"The vision of this strategy is to ensure safe, secure, resilient, vibrant, trusted cyber space," Pant said.

The new strategy would serve as a guideline to tackle various aspects, be it data as a national resource, building indigenous capabilities or cyber audit.

"There are about 80 odd deliverables coming out of this new strategy," the PAFI statement quoted Pant as saying.

The theme of the PAFI Dialogue was 'Cyber Security in the New Normal.'

On the national security narrative for the telecom sector, Pant said, "While other nations have created a black-list of companies that cannot operate in the country, India is the only nation to create a white-list of telecom companies that are allowed to operate in India".

The companies allowed must be a 'trusted source', he said adding, "We were able to create and launch the trusted telecom portal during the pandemic and within six months."

New IT rules will empower users, says Ashwini Vaishnaw

*ET Bureau, 11/07/2021*

Ashwini Vaishnaw, the newly appointed Union Minister of Electronics and IT, Communication and Railways, said on Sunday that the new Information Technology Rules will empower users and create a responsible social media ecosystem in the country, while reviewing the implementation and compliance of the rules which came into effect from May 26.

Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar was also present during the review meeting with officials from the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).

These guidelines are empowering and protecting users and will ensure a safer and responsible social media ecosystem in India," Vaishnaw said on homegrown micro-blogging platform Koo, which he joined on Sunday.

The post was exclusively shared on Koo, which has been gaining in popularity amid the government's stand-off with US-based Twitter over its alleged non-compliance with India's new IT Intermediary Guidelines.

Vaishnaw has over the last week held meetings with ministry officials and has taken stock of various key initiatives such as the Digital India programme and the National Supercomputing Mission run by the Centre for Development for Advanced Computing (CDAC).

Soon after taking charge on Thursday, Vaishnaw had made clear that the social networking platform Twitter must follow India's laws.

"Law of the land is supreme, Twitter must follow the rules," Vaishnaw had said, in his first public comments after taking over the IT portfolio.

The issue of Twitter's non-compliance is also being heard in courts.

The San Francisco-based company admitted to the Delhi High Court on Thursday that it was in breach of the new Intermediary Guidelines. It sought more time to comply with the rules, which include hiring three key officers and setting up a permanent contact address. On Sunday, it appointed Vinay Prakash as its grievance officer in the country.

Three issues with global implications will need Vaishnaw's immediate attention, industry watchers have said.

One, where global tech giants are fighting back against India's new social intermediary guidelines; two, the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill and especially its clauses on data localisation; and three, the survival of Vodafone Idea -- the cash-strapped telecom JV between UK's Vodafone Group Plc and India's diversified Aditya Birla Group.

### WhatsApp privacy policy update on hold till India gets data laws

*ET Bureau, 10/07/2021*

WhatsApp informed the Delhi High Court on Friday that it will not enforce its updated privacy policy until India's upcoming Personal Data (Protection) Bill is enacted into law. Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing on behalf of the Facebook-owned platform, told the court that WhatsApp agreed to do so "voluntarily", after the government made it clear that the

proposed changes to the US company's privacy policy was in breach of India's IT Rules, 2021.

Salve was making his submission to a division bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh, which is hearing an appeal by WhatsApp and parent Facebook against a single-judge bench's order refusing to stay an ongoing probe by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) into WhatsApp's updated privacy policy.

WhatsApp said it will conform to the data protection law whenever it is enacted. "In our case, there is no statutory regulator, it's the government (which) administers the rules. The government looked at this (privacy policy) and said sorry you can't do this, and we said very well, we'll wait for the Private Data Protection Bill," Salve told the court.



### SEEKS TIME

During the hearing on Friday, WhatsApp also sought additional time of about two to three weeks to respond to the competition regulator's notice. The US-based company told the court that it has partially responded to the CCI notice issued on June 4, but it would require more time to answer certain questions, including queries that require sharing of proprietary information. The next hearing of the case has been set for July 30. Earlier, terming the CCI probe as academic exercise at a time when the personal data protection law is yet to be enacted, WhatsApp's counsel sought the quashing of the probe. "If

Parliament allows data sharing, then the CCI cannot say anything about the practice, he said. **"If Parliament doesn't allow me to do it, I have two choices — either I close shop in India, or I don't do it. So, this has become academic now,"** Salve added.

#### USER OUTRAGE

**WhatsApp's updated privacy policy** allowed for user data from chats with business accounts to be shared with third-parties including Facebook. In January, the company had set a deadline for all its users in India to agree to the new terms by February. But, it later pushed the deadline to May following widespread outrage from users who began shifting to other messaging platforms.

Earlier on March 24, India's competition regulator had ordered a probe on whether the messaging platform was violating the provisions of the Competition Act on abuse of dominance, in the garb of a policy update. The datasharing policy seemed exploitative and could have exclusionary effects, with potential to undermine the competitive process and create further barriers to market entry, the CCI had said in its order. "The Commission is of the considered opinion that WhatsApp has prima facie contravened the provisions of Section 4 of the Act through its exploitative and exclusionary conduct...in the garb of policy update," the March order by the CCI had read.

In May, the government directed WhatsApp to withdraw its policy, saying it was harmful to the "interests of Indian citizens".

WhatsApp in its reply informed the ministry of electronics & information technology (MeitY) that it would not restrict functionality for users who do not accept its updated privacy policy until the Personal Data (Protection) Bill comes out as a law.

**India single largest source of government information requests: Twitter**

*ET Bureau, 14/07/2021*

India is the single largest source of government information requests, accounting for 25% of the global volume and 15% of the global accounts specified, microblogging platform Twitter disclosed on Wednesday under its bi-annual Transparency Report for the period July to December 2020.

India is the third largest market in terms of users for Twitter with 18.8 million users in India, after the US and Japan, as of April, according to data platform Statista. The US with 73.2 million subscribers, requested the second highest volume comprising 22% of global information requests the microblogging platform received.

Saying that requests from governments for information about users along with takedown requests has touched an all-time high, Twitter said that in terms of volume of legal demands also India ranked at the second spot after Japan. Close to 94% of the total global volume of legal demands originated from only five countries (in decreasing order): Japan, India, Russia, Turkey, and South Korea, it said.

Twitter has been embroiled in a battle with the government of India over multiple issues which include request for taking down tweets, removing tagged tweets and also over its delay in **complying with India's new intermediary** guidelines that mandate several new Rules for social media companies including setting up a physical office in India and appointing key officials who are residents of India.

**Vijaya Gadde, Twitter's chief legal and policy officer** said that in case of removal requests, the firm removed some or all of the content in only about 31% of the cases.

**"We challenge these requests when we see things that are newsworthy, content related to political speech under recognized international human rights principles, of course we have respect for local laws, and in many instances when we challenge a request under local law itself."**

She added that such requests were at an all time high since Twitter started publishing its **transparency report in 2021**. **"It's very critical to make sure that (when) we're responding to the request, we're doing so in accordance with our values and (its) imperative (to) protecting the people that you service," Gadde said.**

After getting a rap from the Delhi High Court, Twitter appointed Vijay Prakash as its chief grievance officer after it admitted last week in the Court that it had breached the timeline of May 25 to comply with the IT rules after the government stated in an affidavit to the court that Twitter lost its intermediary status for failing to adhere to the timeline.

Twitter also told the court that it expects to complete the process of having a resident nodal, grievance and compliance officer, besides setting up a liaison office in eight weeks.

Gadde said that by publishing the data at a more granular level the company is trying to build **more "accountability around content moderation" not just for ourselves which we have a lot further to do, but for the governments around the world."**

**"I think that's really important and we do this understanding that a lot of people may not be happy, either with us not taking down (content) or providing too much information, or that we're not responding enough and we do this because it's really important for public accountability,"** Gadde said.

During this reporting period, Twitter received 38,524 legal demands to remove content **specifying 131,933 accounts**. **"We withheld or otherwise removed some or all of the reported content in response to 29% of these global legal demands; 11,091 total, it said in a blogpost.**

**"Although there was a 9% decrease in the number of legal demands Twitter received, compared to the previous reporting period, these requests sought removal of content from the largest number of accounts ever in a single**

**reporting period," it said. "Accounts of 199 verified journalists and news outlets from around the world were subject to 361 legal demands, a 26% increase in these requests since the previous reporting period."**

Twitter said that the submissions of Digital Millennium Copyright Act takedown notices decreased by 2%, and saw a 44% decrease in accounts affected between July and December last year.

In June, Twitter had locked the account of former Union IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad under the DMCA takedown notice following a complaint by the International Federation of Phonographic Industry (IFPI) for a video containing music of A R Rehman. IFPI told ET that it had sent the notice to Twitter as the platform had not bought the rights for the music, unlike other social media companies such as Facebook.

Tweets withheld and media withheld also dropped by 25% and 43% respectively, as **Twitter's operations were affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a security incident in July 2020.**

**"Now, amid an increasingly complex global landscape, continued transparency around our own efforts to protect the public conversation is paramount," the company said.**

**Citing data storage violations, India blocks Mastercard from onboarding new customers**

*TechCrunch, 15/07/2021*

Reserve Bank of India has indefinitely barred Mastercard from issuing new debit, credit or prepaid cards to customers in the South Asian market over noncompliance with local data storage rules.

**The South Asian market's central bank said the new restrictions will go into effect on July 22. "Notwithstanding lapse of considerable time and adequate opportunities being given, the entity has been found to be noncompliant with**

the directions on Storage of Payment System Data," RBI said in a statement Wednesday.

**The new order won't impact existing customers** of Mastercard, which is one of the top three card issuers in India, RBI said. **"Mastercard shall advise all card-issuing banks and non-banks to conform to these directions,"** it said.

**This isn't the first time India's central bank has** penalized a firm for noncompliance with local data-storage rules, which were unveiled in 2018 and mandated compliance within six months. The rules require payments firms to store all Indian transaction data within servers in the country.

In April, RBI restricted American Express and Diners Club from adding new customers, citing violation of the same rules.

Visa, Mastercard and several other firms, as well as the U.S. government, have previously requested New Delhi reconsider its rules, which they have argued are designed to allow the regulator **"unfettered supervisory access."**

Visa, Mastercard and American Express had also lobbied to either significantly change the rules or completely discard them.

## 2. Télécommunications

### NXP Semiconductors To Provide Chips For Jio's Upcoming 5G Solutions

*News Update, 1/07/2021*

Dutch semiconductor firm NXP Semiconductors, today, announced a partnership with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio Platforms Limited. Under the partnership, Jio will use NXP's Layerscape multicore processors for its upcoming 5G Radio Access Networks (RAN). The homegrown telecom firm will use NXP's chips for its 5G New Radio (NR) Open-RAN small cell solutions, for enabling use cases in 5G broadband, like Internet of Things (IoT).

According to the companies, the 5G NR solutions have already been tested successfully at 100MHz channel bandwidth in the 3.5GHz spectrum, with peak data rates of over 1Gbps.

**"Along with NXP, Jio Platforms has developed state-of-the art radio products, which are compliant to the 3GPP as well as to the O-RAN standards. We have a history of close collaboration with NXP, and we look forward to strengthening it further,"** said Aayush Bhatnagar, senior vice president of Jio Platforms.

Ambani had announced that Jio tested its indigenous 5G solution with partners in India during the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) earlier this month. **"Jio's engineers have developed a 100% home-grown and comprehensive 5G solution which is fully cloud native, software defined, and digitally managed. Jio has taken tremendous strides in maturing this state-of-the-art Standalone 5G technology, which signifies a quantum leap to the next frontier of wireless broadband,"** he said at the time.

The telecom major had applied for trial licenses in four major metro cities in India, including Delhi, Gujarat, Mumbai and Hyderabad. The Department of Telecom (DoT) had allowed Jio, Airtel and Vodafone Idea to begin testing 5G services on 700MHz, 3.5GHz and 26GHz bands in May.

### SpaceX to partner local firms to make satcom gear in India

*ET Bureau, 14/07/2021*

Elon Musk's SpaceX plans to partner with Indian firms to locally manufacture satellite communications equipment, including antenna systems and user terminal devices, as it gears up to launch its high-speed Starlink satellite broadband services in the country next year.

**"SpaceX is excited to find ways to work together with the Indian industry for manufacturing products for its Starlink devices,"**

Matt Botwin, director (market access with the Starlink program), said on Monday during SpaceX's first official interaction with Department of Telecommunications (DoT) secretary Anshu Prakash.

The company always looks for opportunities to maximise the efficiency of its (global) supply chain, and "is now looking forward to working with its partners in India to recognise those opportunities", Botwin said.

This was also SpaceX's first official comments on its India plans in the satellite communications space.

The DoT had called a meeting with global satellite companies to discuss a holistic roadmap for locally manufacturing satellite communications gear and ways to create an enabling regulatory regime for global low earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation operators to establish in-country gateways in India.

Those present at the meeting included officials from OneWeb, Viasat, Hughes, Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea, Department of Space, and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

India's satellite based communications space is heating up with the likes of SpaceX, Bharti Global-backed OneWeb and Jeff Bezos-led Amazon's Project Kuiper looking to enter the country's nascent satellite broadband space starting next year.

During the meeting, Botwin, one of Musk's key lieutenants, said, "SpaceX has been working with the Indian industrial sector for a long time, buying steel and steel-tubing for many of its rockets." It is now committed to manufacturing hardware and satellite components and components of (satellite broadband) networks in India, he said.

The company, known for its vertical integration, manufactures the gamut of rockets, antennae systems and user terminal devices.

SpaceX has been accepting pre-orders for beta version of its Starlink satellite internet service in India for a fully refundable deposit of \$99 (above Rs 7,000). According to its website, the company's satellite broadband services are being targeted in India in 2022, although availability, it says, is subject to regulatory approvals.

## Countdown Begins

**SpaceX, Bharti Global's OneWeb and Amazon's Project Kuiper are eyeing India's satellite broadband space**

**SpaceX** has been accepting pre-orders for beta version of its service in India for a fully refundable deposit of **\$99**

**Co's satellite broadband services are being targeted in India in 2022 subject to regulatory approvals**



During the meeting, satellite companies strongly discouraged the Indian government from auctioning mmWave satellite spectrum in the 28 GHz band for 5G mobile services, saying such a move would impact their data download speeds and geographical reach in India.

“Unlike the mobile use case, by its very nature of usage, satellite spectrum is not dedicated to a single satellite operator, and the world over, it is not auctioned but assigned as per International Telecom Union (ITU) regulations ,” said Anil Prakash, director general of Satcom Industry Association of India (SIA-India), who was present at the meeting with Prakash.

The coveted 28 GHz spectrum – with a band range from 27.5 GHz to 29.5 GHz – is currently used exclusively by satellite players but it is considered a highly efficient band for 5G services.

Telcos, on their part, have repeatedly told DoT that unavailability of 28 GHz spectrum could jolt India’s 5G business case. Without these airwaves, 5G deployment costs would surge and make the ultra-fast wireless broadband service unaffordable in the country, they said.

Brookfield Infra, Digital Realty ink JV to develop, operate data centers in India

*ET Bureau, 15/07/2021*

Global alternative asset manager Brookfield Asset Management’s flagship listed infrastructure company Brookfield Infrastructure and NYSE-listed Digital Realty have entered into a joint venture to develop, own and operate institutional data centers across India.

The 50:50 joint venture between Digital Realty, the largest global provider of cloud- and carrier-neutral data center, colocation and interconnection solutions, and Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L.P. will operate under the brand name BAM Digital Realty.

“India is a rapidly emerging data center market and offers a bright future, with accelerating adoption of digital business models among a population that recognizes the role of technology for future economic development,” said A. William Stein, CEO, Digital Realty. “Our existing partnership with Brookfield, our Ascenty platform across Latin America, has already delivered long-term value to our customers, with over 250 megawatts of IT load capacity in Brazil, Chile and Mexico either fully built out or currently under construction.”



**Data Deal**  
Digital Realty & Brookfield Infrastructure enter **50:50** partnership  
JV will operate under brand name **BAM Digital Realty**  
It intends to acquire land parcels in Indian metros  
Aims to develop data centre campuses

BAM Digital Realty intends to acquire land parcels in multiple Indian metros for the development of data center campuses to support the needs of global hyperscale service providers as well as international and local enterprises. The joint venture expects to design, build and operate sustainable facilities, drawing upon the firms’ broader commitments to sustainable operations, including carbon reduction initiatives.

“We are pleased to further expand both our partnership with Digital Realty and our presence in India through this joint venture,” said Arpit Agrawal, MD and Head of India & Middle East, Brookfield Infrastructure. “Through the development of a high-quality, multi-city, India-focused data center platform, we believe BAM Digital Realty is well positioned to play a meaningful role in addressing the large and



growing data demand in the country and to offer a differentiated solution to customers.”

The joint venture will expand Brookfield Infrastructure’s global data infrastructure portfolio, which currently includes \$23 billion in assets across data transmission, distribution, and storage. This also includes a portfolio of 139,000 operational telecom wireless towers in India, which it intends to expand to 175,000 over the near term.

Brookfield has over a decade of experience investing in India, with around \$20 billion of assets under management including infrastructure, renewable power, real estate, and private equity.

“Today’s collaboration marks the beginning of a new chapter for Digital Realty’s operations, customers and partners in Asia Pacific. India is on the cusp of rapid digitization of services to support the country’s economic growth,” said Mark Smith, Managing Director, APAC for Digital Realty.

“PlatformDIGITAL will offer our new and existing customers a consistent deployment model for extending their operations into India, providing fit-for purpose infrastructure that will enable them to scale their digital business into one of the fastest-growing data markets in the world.”

The closing of the joint venture is subject to customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals and is expected to occur in the second half of 2021.

With a population of over 1.4 billion, the world’s fifth-largest economy in terms of GDP and an expanding focus on the digital delivery of services, India represents a key market opportunity to extend coverage, capacity and connectivity options for the world’s leading service providers as well as local and global enterprise customers.

India is a high-growth market, with data center demand expected to significantly increase, driven by rapidly growing data consumption, digitization of the economy, the onset of 5G and data localization trends.

La direction générale du Trésor est présente dans plus de 100 pays à travers ses Services économiques.  
Pour en savoir plus sur ses missions et ses implantations : [www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/tresor-international](http://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/tresor-international)



Responsable de la publication : Service économique de New Delhi  
Rédacteurs : Feli VISCO

Pour s’abonner : [Contacter le SER de New Delhi](#)  
Crédits photo : ©DG Trésor