

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

Internet Rights

Case Studies

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Sub-Theme	Case-Studies
<p data-bbox="185 239 305 296">Access to Internet</p> <p data-bbox="185 331 342 388">Freedom of Information</p>	<p data-bbox="425 239 1260 268">Digital Literacy Mission programme by GOI & Private Stakeholders</p> <p data-bbox="425 302 1443 457">Government's ambitious National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) aims to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh gram panchayats by December 2016 and the estimated cost of the project is over Rs 20,100 crore. The initiative aims to build the knowledge society online to reduce language barriers to access of information.</p>
	<p data-bbox="425 470 829 499">ICICI Digital Village at Akodara</p> <p data-bbox="425 533 1443 890">Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the ICICI Digital Village at Akodara in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat to the nation. The ICICI Digital Village enables the people of Akodara to use technology in various aspects of life including banking, payments, education and healthcare among others. ICICI bank is digitizing school attendance and school records and implementing school management software in the village school. The bank is providing smart boards, integrating projector and computer at the school and the anganwadi, with audio-visual digital content for classes 1 to 10. It will provide digital access to telemedicine via mobile or video conference, giving villagers access to medical expertise. The aim is also to create enabling infrastructure to make technology available, and access and disseminate information.</p>
<p data-bbox="185 926 331 982">Freedom of Expression</p> <p data-bbox="185 1052 334 1108">Freedom of Association</p>	<p data-bbox="425 926 1024 955">Uttar Pradesh police on detaining Kanwal Bharti</p> <p data-bbox="425 989 1443 1087">In August 2013, Uttar Pradesh police detained scholar Kanwal Bharti for 4 hours under Section 66A of the IT Act after he posted Facebook comments in support of a civil servant who allegedly demolished an illegal mosque</p>
	<p data-bbox="425 1094 834 1123">Taslima Nasreen Case on Twitter</p> <p data-bbox="425 1157 1443 1318">In November 2013, cleric Hasan Raza Khan filed a criminal complaint in Uttar Pradesh under Section 66A against writer Taslima Nasreen for using Twitter to criticize a meeting between a prominent politician and a cleric instrumental in issuing a fatwa against her. The Supreme Court restrained the police from arresting her, though the case remains pending</p>
	<p data-bbox="425 1325 959 1354">Two Girls arrested over Facebook comment</p> <p data-bbox="425 1388 1443 1644">Two girls-Shaheen Dhada and Renu--were arrested over their Facebook post questioning the shutdown in the city in November 2012 for Shiv Sena patriarch Bal Thackeray's funeral with the comment also leading to an attack on the clinic of an uncle of one of them by Shiv Sena activists. The Union government for the first time conceded before the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it was abuse of power under Section 66A of Information and Technology Act to arrest two Mumbai-based girls for Facebook posts criticizing shutdown of the city on November 18, 2012 for Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray's funeral.</p>
	<p data-bbox="425 1650 1019 1680">Movie, PK online debate on religious sensitivity</p> <p data-bbox="425 1713 1443 1875">Actor Amir Khan's film PK (released on December 19, 2014) has stirred debate on social media and blogging sites like Facebook and Twitter where many expressed that the film has hurt religious sentiments of the Hindu community. While many have been supportive of the film and it's content, online and offline, supporters of Bajrang Dal (political party) have taken the streets to protest and vandalize theatres</p>

	<p>and public places. BJP national president Amit Shah on Friday said every individual had the right to freedom of expression including those who opposed the film PK.</p>
	<p>Fatwa against Kashmiri girls on music band</p> <p>Kashmir's top clergyman, Mufti Azam Mufti Bashiruddin, issued a "fatwa" against three Kashmiri girls for being part of a rock band which performed in Srinagar in December 2012. The grand mufti said he has decreed against the girls because music is banned in Islam and girls should imbibe "better values" instead of vices.</p>
	<p>Regulation on content by Govt of India on Facebook</p> <p>Facebook restricted access to almost 5,000 pieces of content from India during the first six months of 2014 following requests by government agencies, a report. India has 100 million FB users. In Facebook's report listing 83 countries, India topped the chart with as many as 4,960 registered requests to regulate content. Trailing behind were Turkey with 1,893 requests and Pakistan with 1,173. India had the second highest number of government requests to access user accounts with 5,958, behind the US which asked to track 23,667 accounts.</p>
<p>Communications Surveillance</p>	<p>Surveillance on 170 phones</p> <p>Incumbent Congress government stated that BJP administration tapped over 1,300 phones when the Home Department had authorized 170 taps. These were targeted to political opposition and journalists.</p>
	<p>CMS System for communication surveillance</p> <p>GoI has set up the Central Monitoring System which allows authorities to monitor individuals' digital communications directly without issuing orders to service providers. This will allow the government to intercept any online activities, phone calls, text messages, and social media conversations in real time.</p>
	<p>GoI seeking user information from Google, Facebook & Twitter</p> <p>Indian government sought user information from Google (2,794 data requests), Facebook (3,598 requests) and Twitter during 2013-2014 period, according to Freedom House</p>
	<p>GOI asks Nokia & Blackberry to establish local servers</p> <p>Since 2011, Nokia and Blackberry, for example, have been required by the Government to establish local servers under Indian laws, under threat of blocking their services. This indicates that officials have sought to prevent international providers from encrypting user communications.</p>
<p>Freedom of Speech</p>	<p>Online harassment against activist Kavita Krishnan</p> <p>Activist Kavita Krishnan was harassed, threatened and Delhi Police filed a charge sheet for her anti-rape protests in December 2012. Krishnan's speech went viral online and more than 57,000 people viewed her speech online which was later translated into many Indian languages.</p>
	<p>Whatsapp case</p> <p>A 25-year-old MBA student, Waqas Barmawar, and Aam Aadmi Party activist from the coastal Karnataka town of Bhatkal was arrested in May 2014 for allegedly circulating an MMS ridiculing Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi. His four friends</p>

	<p>were also held in custody. The MMS that got Waqas into trouble shows a corpse morphed with Modi's face. Spoofing the BJP election slogan "Abki Bar Modi Sarkar", the image runs with the headline "Abki Baar antim sanskaar". The image was allegedly doing the rounds on a few WhatsApp groups administered by AAP activists. According to sources, it was accidentally forwarded to a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporter in Belgaum and he complained to the police.</p>
Right to Privacy	<p>Online anonymity in India</p> <p>There is limited opportunity for online anonymity in India. Due to prepaid and post paid mobile accounts, IDs are reviewed and verified for usage and activity. Cyber café are required, under law, to collect ID information from customers to access the internet facilities.</p>
Content Blocking	<p>Blockage of web content</p> <p>130 court orders to block web content were received by the Information ministry between February 2009 and December 2013.</p> <p>On Dec. 31st 2014, 32 websites were blocked by the Government of India Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), under the Blocking Rules of the IT Act 2011 for "Objectionable Content" on grounds of national security.</p> <p>Banning of Salman Rushdie book</p> <p>Legal experts and government officials have told The Hindu that there is no ban on reading, possessing or downloading copies of Salman Rushdie's controversial book, The Satanic Verses. The book, sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Finance said, was only barred from being imported under Section 11 the Customs Act of 1962, which, among other things, allows the government to prohibit imports to protect "the maintenance of the security of India" and "the maintenance of public order."</p> <p>GOI asks Google & FB to block content</p> <p>The Indian government, in 2013, issued orders to various companies like Google and Facebook, among others to block content. Whether a criteria exists to evaluate to block or filters websites is unclear. However, in the interest of national security and other national matters to protect sovereignty, the Indian government does block websites</p> <p>Blocking based on obscenity</p> <p>In June 2013, 39 websites has been ordered by the court to be blocked for obscenity. Currently, there is no law in India against viewing pornography. However, both laws prohibit producing and transmitting "obscene material."</p>
Cyber Security	<p>Anonymous India Letter to Government of India on DDoS</p> <p>Anonymous India wrote a letter to GoI to abreact the Government of DDoS attacks. It further distinguished between hacking and Distributed Denial of Service, as a way of peaceful demonstration around restricting content in India.</p>

	<p>\$4 billion loss to the Indian Economy due to cyber-attacks</p> <p>In India, companies and the government have often been victims to cyber-attacks. For example, India companies lost around \$4 billion due to cyber-attacks in 2013 and the amount is set for a 30% jump this year, according to experts. A study ranked India as the fifth-most targeted country globally by phishing attacks. Between July and September 2013, Indian companies suffered a loss of approximately US \$53 million via 3,750 attacks. Hackers defaced tens of thousands of websites during the coverage period, a number that has grown five times since 2007.</p>
<p>Open Data</p>	<p>Aadhaar: Providing Identity to every single Indian</p> <p>Aadhaar is a unique Identification number issued by UIDAI to individuals for the purpose of establishing unique identification of every single person. The Aadhaar number can be used while opening a bank account, applying for passport, booking e-tickets and many other places where there is a need to give your identity.</p>