

N1. New normal: LS, RS to meet on alternate days for next session

Times of India – August 17 , 2020

As a part of this proposal, district centres of the National Informatics Centre, the government's technology providers, were to serve as congregation points for MPs ...

NEW DELHI: The monsoon session of Parliament, likely to be convened in September, will see Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha meet on alternate days in order to accommodate members in the chambers and galleries of both House.

To adapt to the new normal of physical distancing necessitated by coronavirus, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will also see staggered sitting arrangements and audio-visual connectivity across both the chambers to allow members to participate in the proceedings from where they are seated, in either of the two chambers or galleries.

Sources said preparations have gathered steam after Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla directed the secretariat staff to ensure preparedness by next week to have the systems are tested during dry-runs.

Parliament House sources said the final seating plans will accommodate 60 members in the Rajya Sabha chamber, 51 in the galleries and the remaining 132 in the Lok Sabha chambers.

Similar staggered seating arrangements will be worked out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. To ensure ease of participation, the chambers and galleries will also be fitted with additional large display screens and consoles for participation from galleries, ultraviolet germicidal irradiation, and polycarbonate separators between the officers' box and the rest of the House.

The Indian Parliament last met on March 23 and must be convened before September 22, within six months of the last session. The presiding officers of both Houses have been seized of the matter and have held several deliberations over options to hold the session. Sources said a proposal to hold virtual Parliament was also mooted, since proceedings of the Parliament are telecast live and there is no confidentiality involved. As a part of this proposal, district centres of the **National Informatics Centre**, the government's technology providers, were to serve as congregation points for MPs in far flung areas with poor or patchy internet connectivity. However, this plan was not accepted.

In light of the staggered seating arrangements, allotment of seats will now be done on the basis of the strength of parties in both Houses. In Rajya Sabha, seats will be earmarked for the PM, Leader of the House, Leader of Opposition and leaders of other parties.

News Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/new-normal-ls-rs-to-meet-on-alternate-days-for-next-session/articleshow/77582060.cms>

N2. 'Padhai Tuhar Duwar' app launched

Daily Pioneer – August 17 , 2020

The mobile app was jointly developed by the Department and the National Informatics Centre, an official press release. "Students can now download their online ...

In a bid to increase the access of study materials for school going students, the Chhattisgarh School Education Department has launched the 'Padhai Tuhar Duwar' android app, officials said on Sunday. The mobile app was jointly developed by the Department and the National Informatics Centre, an official press release.

"Students can now download their online content through this android app. The downloaded content will be available on offline mode," the press release said.

The app is available in google playstore and can be downloaded from the link <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=in.cgschools.learningapp> 'Padhai Tuhar Duwar' was launched to provide online education to school students during the coronavirus lockdown.

Officials said that so far about 22 lakh students have used it while 2 lakh teachers are also connected through it.

News Source: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/state-editions/---padhai-tuhar-duwar---app-launched.html>

N3. India takes first step towards universal health coverage with Digital Health Mission launch

ThePrint – August 15 , 2020

... justice & empowerment, MeitY, AYUSH, and expenditure as well as NHA CEO and directors general of health services and the National Informatics Centre.

New Delhi:

The National Digital Health Mission, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Saturday in his Independence Day address, is envisioned as the first step towards Universal Health Coverage.

A digital health ecosystem will be put in place, complete with a personal health ID for every Indian, identifiers for doctors and health facilities and personal health records. All of this will be accessible through an app or a website with the health records “ownership” lying with the individual, as ThePrint had been the [first to report](#) on 23 July. To be led by the National Health Authority that is also the administrative authority for the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the Rs 144 crore National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) will need all government health programmes, such as Ayushman Bharat and the tuberculosis programmes, to [integrate with it](#) and issue health IDs to beneficiaries.

While the health ID is not mandatory, the government is hoping that the feature will attract more users to it since it allows a person online access to all their health records right from birth. There will be an option of the ID being linked to Aadhaar but it will not be mandatory unless the person wants to avail of any government subsidy scheme.

Pilots to start by month end

According to its strategy document, the NDHM’s vision is: “To create a national digital health ecosystem that supports universal health coverage in an efficient, accessible, inclusive, affordable, timely and safe manner, that provides a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards- based digital systems, and ensures the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information.”

In its first phase, the mission will pilot in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Ladakh and Puducherry. According to the original schedule, this was supposed to have started before the prime minister’s announcement, but there is a slight delay now and officials are hoping to get it off the block by the end of August.

The strategy document that was approved some time back says: “Phase 2 will be taking forward the pilot in additional States and expand the service bouquet. Phase 3 will target nation-wide roll-out, operationalizing and converging with all health schemes across India along with promotion, on-boarding, and acceptance of NDHM across the country.”

Safety and privacy of health data

Theoretically, health data is generated every time a doctor writes a prescription, every time an individual self medicates and every time the person undergoes a diagnostic test. Most of this data currently either exists in cumbersome and poorly kept files by patients, is not recorded or simply lost. The mission will require doctors/hospitals to upload a digital copy of any health reports being physically shared with the patient to enable creation of longitudinal health records.

“NDHM will implement a federated health records exchange system that will enable patient data to be held at point of care or at the closest possible location to where it was created. Health records will be

accessible and shareable by the patient with appropriate consent and complete control of the records will remain with the patient,” says the strategy document.

“An appropriate digital consent framework as per standards specified by NDHB (leveraging DigiLocker consent management framework to the extent possible) will be adopted for consent management,” it further outlines.

The document categorises health data into three distinct layers.

Electronic Medical Records (EMR) — This refers to systems that are used within a hospital or a clinic to support patient diagnosis and treatment and are transaction focused. NDHM requires these systems to be updated to support standards and provide access to patients’ data.

Electronic Health Records (EHR) — EHRs contain records for a patient across multiple doctors and providers and is used within a Healthcare system (like say across a state government) to provide better care for patients.

Personal Health Records (PHR) — PHRs enable patients to compile, update and keep a copy of their own records that can help them better manage their care and are person focussed.

It will not be possible to have access to digital health records without creation of a health ID.

Governance structure

The mission will keep two separate arms, according to the National Digital Health blueprint. One arm will be for regulation and other for implementation and operational management. The Mission Steering Group, under the chairpersonship of the Union health minister, will oversee and guide the NDHM. Its members will include ministers of women and child development, social justice and empowerment, AYUSH and information technology, the principal scientific advisor, Member Health (NITI Aayog), secretaries of health, expenditure and information technology, the National Health Authority (NHA) CEO and others.

An Empowered Committee will be set up under the chairpersonship of the health secretary, that will take necessary policy-level decisions, help the mission with coordination with different stakeholders and engagement with different ministries and departments to ensure their participation. Its members will include NITI Aayog CEO, secretaries of women and child development, social justice & empowerment, MeitY, AYUSH, and expenditure as well as NHA CEO and **directors general** of health services and the **National Informatics Centre**.

News Source: <https://theprint.in/health/india-takes-first-step-towards-universal-health-coverage-with-digital-health-mission-launch/482258/>

N4. जिला प्रशासन ने बिहार विधानसभा चुनाव की तैयारी शुरू की, विभिन्न पदाधिकारियों को सौंपी गई जिम्मेदारी
दैनिक भास्कर – August 17 , 2020

जिला प्रशासन ने बिहार विधानसभा ...

... के अनुसार जिला स्थापना शाखा एवं एनआईसी को कोषांग कार्यालय बनाया गया है। वही प्रीति कुमारी वरीय उप समाहर्ता, सुमन शर्मा जिला कार्यक्रम पदाधिकारी स्थापना, शिक्षा विभाग, ...

बिहार विधानसभा चुनाव 2020 को लेकर जिला स्तरीय नोडल पदाधिकारियों एवं वरीय प्रभारी पदाधिकारियों के नेतृत्व में विभिन्न कोषांग का गठन किया गया। कोषांग के नोडल पदाधिकारी एवं कोषांग के वरीय पदाधिकारी निर्वाचन आयोग से प्राप्त निर्देशों के आलोक में अवगत होने का निर्देश जिला पदाधिकारी सह निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी अरविंद कुमार वर्मा ने दिया है।

इस संबंध में कार्मिक प्रबंधन कोषांग के वरीय गई प्रभारी पदाधिकारी अपर समाहर्ता को बनाया गया है, जबकि नोडल पदाधिकारी के रूप में जिला स्थापना उप समाहर्ता संदीप कुमार को दायित्व दिया गया है। जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी के अनुसार जिला स्थापना शाखा एवं एनआईसी को कोषांग कार्यालय बनाया गया है। वही प्रीति कुमारी वरीय उप समाहर्ता, सुमन शर्मा जिला कार्यक्रम पदाधिकारी स्थापना, शिक्षा विभाग, मनीष कुमार मिश्रा जिला सूचना विज्ञान पदाधिकारी, राजन कुमार सिन्हा जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति, राजीव राज नेटवर्क इंजीनियर, रोशन कुमार शिक्षक, उच्च विद्यालय बागवारा को कोषांग का दायित्व सौंपा गया है।

वहीं दूसरी ओर जिला स्थापना के प्रभारी प्रधान लिपिक अशोक कुमार पासवान, उच्च वर्गीय लिपिक परशुराम सिंह, कुमार विभूति, रविशंकर प्रसाद, केशव कुमार, अरविंद कुमार, जितेंद्र कुमार, कमल किशोर सिंह, राजीव कुमार सिंह, माधव प्रसाद चौधरी सहित 22 विभिन्न विद्यालयों के शिक्षक एवं कर्मियों को कोषांग में चुनाव तक के लिए कार्यभार दिया गया है। इसके अलावे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग मशीन से संबंधित दायित्व डीडीसी को दिया गया है, जबकि इसके नोडल पदाधिकारी के रूप में जिला पंचायती राज पदाधिकारी मंजू प्रसाद को दायित्व दिया है।

सहयोग करने के लिए 8 पदाधिकारियों को लगाया गया है

सहयोग करने के लिए आठ पदाधिकारियों एवं 25 विभिन्न विभागों के कर्मियों की टीम इन्हें दिया गया है, जबकि प्रशिक्षण कोषांग का वरीय पदाधिकारी अपर समाहर्ता होंगे और इसके नोडल पदाधिकारी होंगे संदीप कुमार जिला स्थापना उप समाहर्ता। चुनाव के दौरान वाहन संबंधी प्रबंधन का कार्य नोडल पदाधिकारी के रूप में डीटीओ श्री प्रकाश का होगा। इसके अलावा सामग्री प्रबंधन, विधि व्यवस्था, आदर्श आचार संहिता, मीडिया कोषांग, निर्वाचन व्यय लेखा, अनुश्रवण कोषांग एवं सर्विलांस का दायित्व अलग-अलग पदाधिकारियों को दिया गया है।

News Source: <https://www.bhaskar.com/local/bihar/patna/begusarai/news/district-administration-started-preparations-for-bihar-assembly-elections-responsibility-assigned-to-various-officials-127621128.html>

M1. PM's digital health mission may face hurdles

Livemint – August 17 , 2020

*When it comes to electronic health records (EHR), a 2018 report by the ministry of electronics and information technology, titled *Adoption of EHR: A Roadmap for ...**

NEW DELHI : Adopting and implementing the ambitious National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day, will have its share of challenges, said health experts.

While the covid-19 crisis has already put immense pressure on India's poor health infrastructure, limited government resources will further accentuate the problems in the implementation of NDHM, which comprises six essential digital building blocks—Health ID, DigiDoctor, health facility registry, personal health records, e-pharmacy and telemedicine, they added.

The technology-based initiative is a potential game changer, but is expected to face hurdles, especially in rural India, considering low internet penetration and little digital health resources.

“Digital literacy and accessibility of digital records is a particular concern in rural areas. The government will need to train and equip healthcare workers in digital technology,” said Vikram Thaploo, CEO of Apollo TeleHealth.

A senior health ministry official, requesting anonymity, said most villages do not have the required digital infrastructure to support doctor consultations through a telemedicine platform as it requires a minimum speed of 2 Mbps. India has over 350 internet service providers but broadband penetration is around 6%, according to the government.

When it comes to electronic health records (EHR), a 2018 report by the ministry of electronics and information technology, titled *Adoption of EHR: A Roadmap for India*, had highlighted the shortage of basic needs to implement the system. The report said government hospitals and dispensaries had limited information and communications technology infrastructure with only a few major public hospitals having computers and connectivity. The report said huge investments in hardware and software were required.

“EHR is the foundation for NDHM and implementation based on international classification of diseases is a challenge in itself. The disparity in quality and availability of health services, makes it extremely difficult to implement,” said Dr Vispi Jokhi, CEO of Masina Hospital in Mumbai.

News Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/pm-s-digital-health-mission-may-face-hurdles-11597631224742.html>

M2. Now email IDs can be created in Kannada language: Data XGen

Outlook India – August 15 , 2020

Data XGen has also created a video conference app which was recognised by the Ministry of Electronics and IT. According to the company report based on ...

New Delhi, Aug 15 (PTI) Jaipur-based IT firm Data XGen Technologies on Saturday said it has launched a service to create email IDs in the Kannada language. This is 22nd non-English language in which Data XGen Technologies service will allow users to communicate in the regional language. Data XGen Technologies founder and CEO Ajay Data in an online launch said that Indian languages account for less than 0.1 per cent of content on the world wide web as per an IAMAI report. More than 89 per cent of population is non-English speaking who is unable to read and communicate via email as the language utilised to communicate is English on the world wide web, the report claimed.

"We at Data XGen Technologies Pvt. Ltd., launched the first free "Kannada" email service under the name "DATAMAIL". The email service will allow people to communicate in regional Kannada and other languages ... provide ease of communication to Indian citizens in their own local regional languages through emails," Data said. Members of Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC) including Kiran Mazumdar Shaw and T V Mohandas Pai participated in the virtual conference. "I am very happy that this initiative adds more steam to PM (Narendra) Modi's AatmaNirbhar Bharat initiative.

I hope the Karnataka government takes note of this and starts using this extensively for all official communication inside the state. I also urge the education minister to introduce this in schools and colleges," Pai said. Data XGen has also created a video conference app which was recognised by the Ministry of Electronics and IT. According to the company report based on secondary data, 4.89 crore people in India speak Kannada. PTI PRS MR

News Source: <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/now-email-ids-can-be-created-in-kannada-language-data-xgen/1916678>

M3. PM assures to connect every village of country through optical fibre cable in next one thousand days

All India Radio – August 15 , 2020

Terming Prime Minister's Mission as a game changer for Digital India, Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad assured that the target of connecting all ...

In the coming one thousand days, every village in the country will be connected with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his address on the occasion of 74th Independence Day today.

Mr. Modi mentioned that before 2014, only five dozen Panchayats in the country were connected with optical fiber cable. In the last five years, nearly one lakh 50 thousand Gram Panchayats in the country have been connected with optical fiber cable. He further added that participation of rural India and villages in Digital India is very important for balanced development of India. To enable this, he said, optical fibre networks will be expanded in the country.

This will reach all the six lakh villages within the next one thousand days. Prime Minister also announced that in the next one thousand days, Lakshadweep will be connected with submarine optical fiber cable.

Terming Prime Minister's Mission as a game changer for Digital India, **Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad** assured that the target of connecting all the villages through optical fibre will be achieved within the time frame.

While commenting on announcement for high speed Internet services in Lakshadweep Islands, Mr. Prasad said that Department of Telecommunications will fast track laying up of submarine OFC network in a similar way as it did for the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

OFC connectivity to the villages and submarine OFC to the Lakshadweep islands will help the people in rural areas and villages and those in Lakshadweep islands in getting cheaper and better connectivity and all the benefits of Digital India.

News Source: <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=397377>

M4. Avail almost free medical consultation at your nearest CSC

Elets – August 14 , 2020

The CSC, a special scheme under the Ministry of Electronics & IT to provide citizens at the last mile access to technology and services, has been providing ...

At a time when nation is grappling with Corona crisis which has sparked fear and panic among people, affecting more than 22 lakh people across the country, the Common Services Centres or the CSCs have brought telemedicine facilities for people for smaller towns and rural areas. The facility can be availed at minimum cost of Rs 1.

The CSCs which have their branches across the country have started acting like e-hospitals, helping those who require medical help. It will guide people living in rural areas, seeking medical assistance from top doctors of hospitals as they are not well versed with internet and technology.

Telemedicine has proved to be a gamechanger tool amidst health infra crisis led by covid-19. Recently, the government also issued guidelines and protocols on how to provide medical treatment to a patient through tele consultations.

The CSC, a special scheme under the Ministry of Electronics & IT to provide citizens at the last mile access to technology and services, has been providing telemedicine services, especially in rural and remote areas of the country, a TOI report states.

CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle managing the CSC scheme, has developed a web platform for telemedicine and has been offering telemedicine service to citizens from experienced medical practitioners of Apollo, docOPD, Optimus and WelcomeCure.

News Source: <https://ehealth.eletsonline.com/2020/08/avail-almost-free-medical-consultation-at-your-nearest-csc/>

M5. Why India needs a strong cybersecurity policy soon

<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com> - August 16, 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reiterated that the government will soon unveil a new cybersecurity policy

During his speech from the Red Fort on the 74th Independence Day, Modi said that India is alert, cautious and is taking decisions to counter cyber threats and is constantly developing new systems. The draft of National Cyber Security Strategy 2020, that envisages creating a secure cyberspace in India, is ready and is likely to be finalised this year.

"The threats from cyberspace can endanger all these aspects of Indian life. The government is alert to this threat and is taking all the necessary action," Modi said. The government recently banned several Chinese apps to protect the personal data of the Indian users. As nation-state bad actors from countries like China, Russia and Pakistan amid the demand to keep the data of Indians to remain within the boundaries of the country, the government has envisioned the "National Cyber Security Strategy 2020".

"Cyber intrusions and attacks have increased in scope and sophistication targeting sensitive personal and business data, and critical information infrastructure, with impact on national economy and security. The present cyber threat landscape poses significant challenges due to rapid technological developments such as Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, 5G, etc," according to the draft. "New challenges include data protection/privacy, law enforcement in evolving cyberspace, access to data stored overseas, misuse of social media platforms, international cooperation on cybercrime & cyber terrorism, and so on".

Digitisation in India will dramatically rise in a post COVID-19 scenario which in turn will increase demand for greater cybersecurity and privacy, according to experts. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, as businesses are still coping up, cybersecurity is being seen as a core technology to keep companies secure as they go online and virtual, and as emerging deep tech such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, **Blockchain** evolves, investment in cybersecurity will be a key differentiator for companies offering such services.

"We have joined hands with DSCI (the Data Security Council of India) in establishing a National Centre of Excellence to accelerate innovation and make India an attractive cybersecurity market," **Ajay Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, said recently.

Ransomware-related cyber attacks on the Indian enterprises saw a significant rise in the first three months of the year, and the increase has been enabled by operators offering ransomware as a service (RaaS) to cyber attackers. The report from Global cyber security major K7 Computing also found that Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad recorded the highest rate of infections amongst Tier-I cities.

Guwahati, Jaipur and Jammu had the highest infection rate of 38 per cent each, followed by Patna at 35 per cent among Tier-II cities. One in two Indian companies have experienced a data breach involving the loss or theft of more than 1,000 records containing sensitive or confidential customer or business information in the past two years and the Covid-19 has only accelerated the cyber attacks, according to Sandip Patel, General Manager, IBM India/South Asia. For 46 per cent of Indian firms, data breaches led to significant disruption to their IT and business processes, according to a recent global survey conducted by Ponemon Institute and sponsored by IBM Security.

News Source: <https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/digital-india/why-india-needs-a-strong-cybersecurity-policy-soon/77571413>

M6. 'Twitter misused user data for targeted advertising'

The Sunday Guardian – August 15 , 2020

... Information Technology (MeITY), including Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, and Dr Rajendra Kumar, Additional Secretary (cyber security, data-governance) ...

For six years, from 2013 to 2019, social media platform Twitter misused personal details of its users such as phone numbers and email addresses for targeted advertising. Twitter had sought personal details from users to put in place a more secure experience by way of two-factor authentication. This misuse of data is likely to cost Twitter at least \$150 million (more than Rs 11 billion, \$=Rs 74.86) as this is not for the first time that it has misused users' data surreptitiously.

This has been revealed by the company itself in its latest regulatory filing, which it did with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on 3 August. Twitter has not given any numbers in the filings as to how many Indian users were impacted by this data misuse. It is the second time in the last 10 years that Twitter has done something like this. When reached out for a response by *The Sunday Guardian*, Twitter refused to share the number of users from India—which is its third largest user-based market after the US and Japan—who were affected by this data misuse.

As per the filings with the SEC, Twitter has stated that it had received a draft complaint from the United States' Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on 28 July 2020, alleging violations of Twitter's 2011 consent order with the FTC. In this draft complaint, the FTC has stated that Twitter used phone number and/or email address data provided for safety and security purposes, for targeted advertising during the periods between 2013 and 2019. As per Twitter's admission to its investors, it was likely to take a loss of a massive \$150.0 million to \$250.0 million (Rs 18 billion) in the matter as the result of a fine that is likely to be imposed by the FTC.

The March 2011 consent order, which has been referred to in the draft complaint, had come into existence after the FTC finalised a settlement with Twitter after it emerged that Twitter had “deceived consumers and put their privacy at risk by failing to safeguard their personal information”. In this incident, as per the FTC, serious lapses in Twitter's data security had allowed hackers to obtain unauthorised administrative control of Twitter, including both access to non-public user information and tweets that consumers had designated as private, and the ability to send out phony tweets from any account.

In this misuse that took place between July 2006 and July 2009 (Twitter started operating in March 2006), Twitter granted almost all of its employees the ability to exercise administrative control of the Twitter system, including the ability to reset a user's account password, view a user's non-public tweets and other non-public user information, and send tweets on behalf of a user. In the consent order, as per the FTC's press release, Twitter was barred for 20 years from misleading consumers about the extent to which it protects the security, privacy, and confidentiality of non-public consumer information, including the measures it takes to prevent unauthorised access to non-public information and honour the privacy choices made by consumers. It was also required to establish and maintain a comprehensive information security program, which will be assessed by an independent auditor every other year for 10 years.

What information does Twitter collect without making it public?

As per Twitter's own admission, it collects certain information from each user that it does not make public. This information includes: an email address, Internet Protocol (“IP”) addresses, mobile carrier or mobile telephone number (for users who receive updates by phone), and the username for any Twitter account that a user has chosen to “block” from exchanging tweets with the user. This non-public information (collectively, “non-public user information”) cannot be viewed by other users or any other

third parties, but—with the exception of IP addresses—can be viewed by the user who operates the account.

The Sunday Guardian reached out to senior officials of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY), including Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary,** and Dr Rajendra Kumar, Additional Secretary (cyber security, data-governance), seeking their response on whether they were aware of the FTC complaint and whether Twitter has shared the details of Indian users whose data was compromised, with the ministry. There was no official response received from the ministry. However, ministry officials, not authorised to speak to the media, told *The Sunday Guardian* that the matter had been taken cognizance of and pertinent directions were going to be issued. “No company or organisation will be allowed to misuse data of Indians and we are already working on a policy to safeguard such misuse,” a ministry official said.

It is pertinent to mention that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in 2016, had asked Twitter to place its server in India. However, that order is yet to be complied with. Despite having the third maximum number of users from India, Twitter has only accepted 5% of the request for information made by Indian officials seeking information about Twitter users and their activities. The corresponding figure for the US and Japan, the two countries that occupy the top two positions when it comes to users, was more than 50%. *The Sunday Guardian* had recently done a report on this ([Twitter barely replied to Indian information requests](#)).

The Sunday Guardian also reached out to Twitter with the following questions:

Twitter is being investigated by the Federal Trade Commission of the US government for improper use of Twitter users’ personal information. Were the data of Indian users, too, misused in this incident?

Has Twitter informed the Government of India as per the established rules about the data breach and subsequent misuse? If yes, when was this information shared?

The MHA had requested Twitter to maintain its servers in India in 2016. Has the request been complied with? If yes, when was this done? If not, has the reason for not doing so been shared with the India government? In its response, a Twitter spokesperson stated, “Our investigation and cooperation with law enforcement continues, and we remain committed to sharing updates (on the issue). We hope that our openness and transparency throughout this process, and the steps and work we will take to safeguard against other attacks in the future, will be the start of making this right.”

No response was shared by Twitter on whether it had informed the Government of India or if the data of Indian users were misused in the present instance or whether it had shifted the servers, as the MHA had directed it in 2016, to India or not.

News Source: <https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/news/twitter-misused-user-data-targeted-advertising>

O1. Issues facing online education - india news

Hindustan Times – August 17 , 2020

According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the number of internet subscribers increased from 446 million to 719 million between 2017 and ...

O2. Cyberattack on NHAI traced to Taiwan and Hong Kong IP addresses

Times of India – August 17 , 2020

CERT-In has flagged the significant cyber security gaps in the NHAI system and recommended the authority and the major IT service provider to take immediate ...

O3. Gujarat high court launches e-services for filing cases, knowing status

<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com> - August 16, 2020

The chief justice of Gujarat high court on Saturday launched two new e-services to facilitate e-filing of cases and getting to know their status for lawyers, litigants and public.