

can include a person's home address, phone number and even the names of his children.

Recently, hacktivism adopted a new tool called **'techno-politics'**, where hacktivists voice public opinions and stances regarding repressive legislation hindering open access to computer software and websites.

Hacktivism could indeed be for the right reasons as well. **Anonymous**, one of the most popular hacktivist groups, has been known to 'declare war' on politicians and has supported the Occupy movements. It has also made significant efforts to fight the **Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)** and the **Protect Intellectual Property Act (PIPA)**, which were argued to be utilised for censoring the web. In more recent years, the group has been carrying out persistent attacks against the online arms of the terrorist group **ISIS**, targeting websites and social media accounts used to spread terrorist propaganda.

Similarly, in response to Ecuador's London embassy shutting down internet access for **WikiLeaks** founder, some hacktivist groups launched cyber-attack on major websites including **Amazon, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Twitter and Reddit**.

Like any social pressure group, hacktivists will continue to evolve and present a challenge to groups, governments, and corporations worldwide. It is for the governments to weed out legitimate assertions from the narrow minded ones.

Today's News

Bharat Inclusion Initiative wants to help take your fintech solution to 470 million LMI Indians

India's fintech star is on the rise. According to a report by KPMG, the Indian fintech software market is poised to touch \$2.4 billion by 2020. However, to say that the balance of growth is skewed is a serious understatement. A study by IIMA-CIIE and Consulting firm MicroSave says that 80 percent of fintech companies in India are present in Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi, and benefit only 23 percent of the overall population, which is largely affluent, tech-literate and English-speaking. This means that approximately 470 million customers in the low- and middle-income (LMI) segments remain unserved.

Source – YourStory

[READ MORE](#)

Drones to space Internet, IISc incubates start-ups

Better known for his former role as the programme director and chief designer of India's indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA), 75-year-old Kota Harinarayana is the founder-chairman of General Aeronautics, an Indian Institute of Science (IISc) incubated start-up. The start-up designs and makes unmanned aerial vehicles or drones focused on security and civilian applications.

Source – The Hindu

[READ MORE](#)

This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Manish Kulkarni

IT Minister puts WhatsApp CEO on hold

After taking various steps to curb fake messages, WhatsApp Chief Executive Officer Chris Daniels has sought a meeting with Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad this week.

Ministry sources told that Daniels will be in India this week, and has expressed his desire to meet top policy makers in the country, including the Minister.

Source – BusinessLine

[READ MORE](#)

Oyo's valuation set to cross \$4 billion in new round

Hotel chain Oyo is in advanced talks to raise up to \$1 billion in a deal that could usher the company into India's crowding Unicorn club with a valuation of over \$4 billion, said three people familiar with the development.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

Hyderabad-based agro startup Our Food raises \$200K in funding

Our Food Pvt Ltd, a Nasscom startup warehouse protégé, has raised a bridge round of funding of \$200,000 led by US-based venture fund 3Lines Ventures. While a chunk of the capital may go into buffing up its R&D apparatus, the Hyderabad-based agro startup will also be foraying into other markets soon.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

Alibaba may invest \$5 billion in JV with Reliance Retail

China's Alibaba Group Holding Ltd has initiated talks with Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail Ltd to form a mega Indian retail joint venture (JV), with an investment of at least \$5 billion to challenge the dominance of Flipkart and Amazon in the world's fastest-growing economy, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said. Alibaba Group has proposed to acquire a large stake in Reliance Retail to create a behemoth in the digital marketplace and also expand Alibaba's physical retail businesses in India, the people said, requesting anonymity.

Source – Mint

[READ MORE](#)

How online payments became simple with one piece of tech

Rarely do you see a technology developed in India spawning a whole ecosystem. But that's what has happened with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) digital platform, launched by the National Payments Corporation of India in 2016.

The ease and speed of money transfer it enables through mobile phones has created a bouquet of opportunities, which many entrepreneurs and startups have exploited, and which in turn has led to an explosion in growth of UPI-based payments.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

Amazon, Samara Capital in talks to acquire More

Amazon.com Inc. is in advanced talks to acquire 42-49% in Aditya Birla Retail Ltd's More supermarket chain, according to three people directly aware of the talks, as the US e-commerce giant doubles down on the grocery business in India. Amazon is joining hands with India-focused private equity firm Samara Capital for a complete buyout of More from the Aditya Birla Group for Rs. 4,200-4,400 crore, the people cited above said on condition of anonymity.

Source – Mint

[READ MORE](#)

Walmart-Flipkart deal is really big for start-ups, shoppers

Indian shoppers and the start-up ecosystem will have much to cheer about in the wake of Walmart announcing the close of its \$16-billion acquisition of Flipkart, India's largest e-commerce marketplace, just 10 days after the transaction received the go-ahead from the Competition Commission of India. With this acquisition, Walmart now holds approximately 77 percent in Flipkart, with the rest held by Binny Bansal, co-founder of Flipkart; Tencent, Tiger Global and Microsoft.

Source – BusinessLine

[READ MORE](#)

AI startup Observe.AI gets \$8 mn funding led by Nexus Venture Partners

US-based AI startup Observe.AI today said it has received USD 8 million in funding, led by Nexus Venture Partners. The series A round also saw participation from MGVC, Liquid 2 Ventures, Hack VC and existing investors - Emergent Ventures and Y Combinator, a statement said.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

MakeMyTrip posts strong Q1 2019 results

MakeMyTrip Inc, India's largest online travel operator, reported a narrower first quarter loss as it cut back on promotional expenses, along with a corresponding rise across its three major business segments.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

Patanjali's 'upgraded' Kimbho messaging app

Patanjali's instant messaging platform, Kimbho, is slated to be launched on August 27, with the company claiming it has fixed all the shortcomings of the app.

While extending his greetings on the occasion of India's 72nd Independence Day on his official Twitter account, co-founder of Patanjali Yogpeeth Haridwar, Acharya Balkrishna stated that the "Kimbho App is now ready with new and advanced features," adding that while, "there may be some shortcomings," all new improvements will be incorporated and the app will be launched on August 27.

Source – Business Standard

[READ MORE](#)

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are personal views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Bank of Baroda. Nothing contained in this publication shall constitute or be deemed to constitute an offer to sell/ purchase or as an invitation or solicitation to do so for any securities of any entity. Bank of Baroda and/ or its Affiliates and its subsidiaries make no representation as to the accuracy; completeness or reliability of any information contained herein or otherwise provided and hereby disclaim any liability with regard to the same. Bank of Baroda Group or its officers, employees, personnel, directors may be associated in a commercial or personal capacity or may have a commercial interest including as proprietary traders in or with the securities and/ or companies or issues or matters as contained in this publication and such commercial capacity or interest whether or not differing with or conflicting with this publication, shall not make or render Bank of Baroda Group liable in any manner whatsoever & Bank of Baroda Group or any of its officers, employees, personnel, directors shall not be liable for any loss, damage, liability whatsoever for any direct or indirect loss arising from the use or access of any information that may be displayed in this publication from time to time.