TECH TALK

A GNLU Centre for Law and Technology Initiative

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1. INDIA PROPOSES TO REPLACE ITS TWO-DECADES-OLD IT LAW:

India is proposing to replace its two-decades-old IT law in an effort to seek broader accountability from tech firms, reassess the scope of safe harbor protection, enhance oversight of new technologies, and serve all connected users in the South Asian market. The Ministry of State and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, stated that Indian laws need to handle the complexity and rapid expansion of intermediaries, adapt to market trends and technological disruptions, align with international jurisprudence, and meet global standards for quality service and product delivery. The bill is expected to be finalized by the end of this month, with the aim of including everyone within the ambit of the Digital India Act and establishing a specialized adjudicatory mechanism for online and criminal offenses.

Read more.



2. INTEL CO-FOUNDER GORDON MOORE, AUTHOR OF MOORE'S LAW, DIES AT 94

Gordon Moore, the co-founder of Intel and author of Moore's Law, passed away at the age of 94. Moore played a pivotal role in the semiconductor industry, and his observation in 1965, known as Moore's Law, predicted the continuous increase in computing power over time. He co-launched Intel in 1968 and contributed to the widespread adoption of Intel processors in personal computers worldwide. Moore's philanthropic endeavors included significant donations to his alma mater, the California Institute of Technology, and support for projects such as the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).



3. NCLAT UPHOLDS PENALTY ON GOOGLE; SETS ASIDE CERTAIN DIRECTIONS ISSUED BY CCI'

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) upheld the ₹1,337 crore fine imposed on Google by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) while setting aside certain directions issued by the CCI. The NCLAT affirmed that the CCI investigation followed principles of natural justice. However, the court quashed non-monetary directives that would have required Google to allow the uninstallation of its pre-installed apps on Android devices, as well as directives related to app store distribution and access to Google's play services Application Programming Interface (APIs). The CCI had fined Google for anti-competitive practices in the Android mobile device ecosystem, and Google appealed the decision to the NCLAT and subsequently to the Supreme Court.



4. META TO END NEWS ACCESS FOR CANADIANS IF ONLINE NEWS ACT BECOMES LAW

Meta Platforms Inc, the parent company of Facebook, announced that it would terminate news content availability for Canadians on its platforms if the country's Online News Act passes in its current form. The Online News Act, also known as House of Commons bill C-18, proposes regulations that would require platforms like Meta and Google to negotiate commercial deals and pay news publishers for their content. Meta's decision to suspend news access in Canada is driven by concerns over the sustainability and workability of a legislative framework that mandates payment for links or content not posted by Meta and not essential to the majority of users. This follows Google's testing of limited news censorship as a potential response to the bill. The Canadian news media industry has been advocating for more regulation of tech companies to address financial losses and the dominance of advertising by tech giants.



5. AMAZON SUED FOR NOT TELLING NEW YORK STORE CUSTOMERS ABOUT TRACKING BIOMETRICS

Amazon is facing a lawsuit alleging that the company did not inform its New York City customers about the use of biometric tracking technology, which captures body shapes, sizes, and palm prints. The lawsuit claims that Amazon failed to comply with New York's 2021 law, which requires businesses to post signs if they track customers' biometric information, including facial scans or fingerprints. Amazon's Go stores, launched in 2018, utilize this technology to enable customers to enter, shop, and leave without traditional checkouts. The lawsuit further states that Amazon only recently started displaying signs about biometric recognition technology, more than a year after the disclosure law came into effect. Amazon clarified that its stores do not employ facial recognition technology and disputed the characterization of the tracking technology used as biometric

