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1. No IT system, including Aadhaar, can claim to be 100% safe



No IT systems across the world can claim to be safe, including Aadhaar, due to rise in complexity of cyber-attacks, Indian arm of London Stock Exchange listed security software maker Sophos today said.

"No CIO today can say with hand on his heart that his systems are 100 per cent vulnerability free," Sophos Managing Director - sales for India and Saarc, Sunil Sharma said at the sidelines of launch of the report on 'The State of Endpoint Security'. When asked his view on Aadhaar, which claims to be completely safe and secure, he said "in terms of vulnerabilities, no one can claim that his system is 100 per cent safe". The survey of Sophos, covering 2,700 IT decision makers including 300 in India, revealed that more than 70 per cent surveyed do not have anti-exploit technology, which means these businesses are easy prey for data breaches and complex threats like WannaCry. As per the survey, despite the intensity and magnitude of attacks, Indian businesses are still not prepared to defend itself against determined attackers.

Globally, more than 70 per cent of IT professionals surveyed were unable to identify the correct definition of anti-exploit technology, despite how critical it is for modern attack prevention, the report said. Globally, as per the survey, healthcare sector was most impacted by ransomware with 76 per cent of entities in the segment admitted having been hit by the malicious software.

2. India's Silicon Valley faces man-made water crisis



Every day more than 1,000 water tankers rumble past Nagraj's small plywood store in Bangalore, throwing up clouds of dust as they rush their valuable cargo to homes and offices in India's drought-stricken tech hub.

Gleaming new apartment blocks are still springing up all over the city known as India's Silicon Valley, even though there is nowhere near enough mains water to supply those already living and working there. Many rely entirely on supplies shipped in by tankers filled from giant borewells that have caused groundwater levels to plummet, sparking predictions Bangalore could be the first Indian city to run out of water. "There is a severe scarcity of water here," said Nagraj, 30, who moved to the suburban neighbourhood of Panathur a decade ago and has seen it transformed by rampant construction. "The future will be very difficult. It is impossible to imagine how they will find water, how they will live. Even if we dig 1,500 feet (450 metres) down, we are not getting water." Panathur lies next to Bangalore's biggest lake, Bellandur, which provides a poignant reminder that things weren't always like this.

Once known as India's garden city for its lush green parks, Bangalore was built around a series of lakes created to form rainwater reservoirs and prevent the precious resource from draining away. Many of those that remain are heavily polluted. Bellandur has become so toxic it spontaneously catches fire and emits clouds of white froth so large authorities have had to build barriers to keep it from spilling onto the road.

3. Indians losing sleep over technology



Indians are missing on a good sleep due to distractions by technology but would also not mind prioritising exercise over a deep slumber, shows a survey.

According to a global survey by Philips, 32 per cent Indian adults report technology as a major sleep distractor while 19 per cent see overlapping of work hours with normal sleep time (shift work sleep disorder) as a key barrier to sleep.

It said 66 per cent of Indians feel exercise is the top factor impacting health and well-being more than sleep. The survey noted that 45 per cent Indians take up meditation to initiate and maintain good sleep while 24 per cent adults opt for specialised bedding. The survey found that although sleep disorder awareness is rising globally, good sleep is still not a priority for Indians. "Indians report technology as a major sleep distractor; prioritise exercise over sleep," the survey said.

Globally, insomnia afflicted 26 per cent and snoring kept awake 21 per cent of the respondents. Worrying (58 per cent) and technology distractions (26 per cent) were other major impediments to good sleep. Most popular interventions for a good sleep include soothing music, which was used by 36 per cent, followed by institution of a set bedtime/wake-up schedule by 32 per cent, among others.

4. How Indian-origin billionaire plans to beat Tesla



British billionaire Sanjeev Gupta has revealed plans to build the world's biggest lithium ion battery in South Australia. South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill said that the battery would benefit the broader community, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We know that more renewable energy means cheaper power, and that's why we have increased our renewable energy target to 75 per cent and introduced a new renewable storage target of 25 per cent," Weatherill told reporters in Adelaide. The planned 120 megawatts (MW)/140-megawatt hours (MWh) storage capacity of Gupta's Liberty House is larger than that of the current record holder, built by Elon Musk's Tesla in South Australia in 2017, which has a cap of 100MW/129MWh. The battery will power solar farm to be built at the site of a former steelworks near Adelaide which Gupta's Liberty House bought in 2017. Gupta secured a nearly \$8 million loan from the South Australian government through its Renewable Technology Fund for the project which is expected to create 100 construction jobs.

The announcement of Gupta's project came on the final day of campaigning ahead of Saturday's state election, a campaign where renewable energy has been a key issue. Funds for the project were committed by Weatherill's government prior to the government going into a caretaker period, meaning the project will go ahead regardless of Saturday's result.

5. India's 5G, IoT ambitions to ride on core networks, enabling ecosystem



India's aspiration to take a leading role in 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) will ride on its ability to build core networks for new-age technologies and an enabling industry ecosystem, DoT Secretary Aruna Sundararajan said.

Terming the next-generation technologies like IoT critical, Sundararajan said the government's endeavour is to provide an "enabling" policy for growth of the industry and not to impose a "heavy regulatory framework". "I agree India has more at stake in IoT and 5G than any other country because we need to leapfrog to meet the aspirations of the young demography and democracy," Sundararajan said addressing a summit on IoT organised by CII here. Technologies like IoT are set to change the way machines and humans communicate, she said adding it will usher new capabilities and genre of services both globally and domestically.

Every sector including healthcare, agriculture, consumer retail, smart energy and transport will have to rethink their business models with the advent of these new technologies, she pointed out. Outlining India's ambitions to position itself as not just as a consumer but a leader in 5G and IoT, Sundararajan said telecom service providers have already started rolling out pilots for 5G. Indian companies as also start-ups have already begun working on IoT applications in areas such as agriculture, healthcare, industrial automation, retail and others, she said urging players to come together as an ecosystem to push India's 5G blueprint.

6. Google Assistant will now be available in Hindi



Internet search giant Google has announced the launch of Google Assistant in Hindi. As per Google, the Assistant in Hindi is rolling out to handsets running on Android version 6.0 (Marshmallow) and above. Also, it will be soon coming to Android 5.0 Lollipop, iPhones as well as Android Oreo (Go edition) devices.

During 2017, Google launched the Assistant in Hindi the instant-messaging platform Allo. The Google Assistant basically lets you have a conversation with Google for your day-to-day activities such as telling you about your day, find the fastest route to work, or set an alarm for the next, all of this, now in Hindi.

“The Google Assistant is truly Indian, it’s your helpful dost that speaks our language and understands the things you care about, from finding biryani recipes, to pulling up the latest cricket score, or finding directions to the nearest ATM. In order to make it even more useful to Indians over time, developers and businesses can now build Actions for the Hindi Assistant through the developer platform Actions on Google. Once an action is built, you can just say “Ok Google, talk to” and access the service or content straight through your Google Assistant.”

7. Volkswagen to expand production of electric vehicles worldwide



Auto major Volkswagen Group announced that 16 of its locations around the globe will produce battery-powered electric vehicles by the end of 2022. The group currently produces electric vehicles at three locations, and in two years' time, a further nine group plants are scheduled to be equipped for this purpose.

To ensure adequate battery capacity for the massive expansion of environmental-friendly electric mobility, partnerships with battery manufacturers in Europe and China have already been agreed. The contracts, already awarded, have a total volume of around EUR 20 billion. A supplier decision for North America will be taken shortly. "Over the last few months, we have pulled out all the stops to implement Roadmap E with the necessary speed and determination. When Roadmap E was launched last fall, Volkswagen announced plans to build up to three million electric vehicles annually by 2025 and market 80 new electric Group models. This year, another nine new vehicles, three of which will be purely electric-powered, will be added to the Group's electric portfolio of eight e-cars and plug-in hybrids.

However, the company chief clarified that there would be no change in the production of vehicles running on conventional drive systems. Modern diesel drives were part of the solution, not part of the problem, he further said, also with regard to climate change. Furthermore, the company said sales revenue is expected to be up by as much as five per cent on the prior-year figure, while an operating return on sales between 6.5 and 7.5 per cent is anticipated.

8. Volkswagen says India not ready for electric vehicles right now



German auto major Volkswagen says India is not "really prepared" for a leap towards full electric vehicles (EVs) although the government's move to put it on the agenda is a good step. The company, which has announced plans to expand production of EVs worldwide on a massive scale with 16 locations to produce battery-powered vehicles by the end of 2022, also said India should be clear about what kind of technology it wants.

"I believe it was a good step from the government to put it (EVs) on the agenda. It is absolutely necessary for India," Volkswagen India President and Managing Director Andreas Lauermaann told when asked about the company's plans for EVs in India. He, however, added, "...but we all know that India is a not really prepared for a such a step now. Also, in terms of technology, India should be clear what kind of technology it wants." On the compatibility of the company's existing EVs with the Indian market, he said, "When we look at our EVs at the moment with the technology, it is little bit too early there (in India)."

In the Budget for 2018-19, Indian government increased custom duty on CKD (completely knocked down) imports of motor vehicles, motor cars, motor cycles from 10 per cent to 15 per cent. Further, duty on CBU (completely built units) imports of motor vehicles (trucks and buses) had been hiked from 20 per cent to 25 per cent.

9. Coca-Cola, US State Dept to use blockchain to combat forced labour

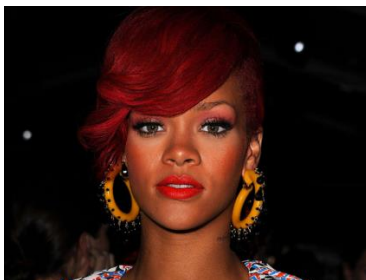


Coca-Cola Co and the U.S. State Department along with two other companies said on Friday they are launching a project using blockchain's digital ledger technology to create a secure registry for workers that will help fight the use of forced labour worldwide.

The State Department said this is the government agency's first major project on this issue using blockchain, reinforcing the technology's growing application for social causes. According to the International Labour Organization, nearly 25 million people work in forced-labour conditions worldwide, with 47 percent of them in the Asia-Pacific region. Food and beverage companies are under pressure to address the risk of forced labour in countries where they obtain sugarcane.

The study said Coca-Cola, one of 10 global companies looked at by KTC, has committed to conduct 28 country-level studies on child labour, forced labour, and land rights for its sugar supply chains by 2020. The U.S. beverage giant said it has been exploring multiple blockchain projects for more than a year.

10. How Rihanna's Instagram post crashed Snapchat's stocks



Snapchat stocks dropped by nearly 5 percent after singer Rihanna called out Snapchat for running an ad that made light of domestic violence by referencing the 2009 incident when the singers then boyfriend Chris Brown physically assaulted her. Snapchat stocks dropped on Thursday as the ad immediately received a vocal backlash on social media.

Snapchat deleted the ad on Tuesday and issued a statement and apology in an interview to the BBC, stating: "The advert was reviewed and approved in error, as it violates our advertising guidelines. We immediately removed the ad last weekend, once we became aware. We are sorry that this happened." This didn't stop Rihanna from critiquing the company's judgment. On Thursday morning, the singer took to her Instagram story, where she offered her thoughts on the matter, reports time.com.

"You spent money to animate something that would intentionally bring shame to DV victims and made a joke of it!!! This isn't about my personal feelings, because I don't have much of them but all the women, children and men that have been victims of DV in the past and especially the ones who haven't made it out yet. you let us down! Shame on you. Throw the whole app-ology away." Following Rihanna's comments on the controversy, shares of Snap Inc., the parent company of Snapchat, dropped nearly 5 percent.

This isn't the first time this year that Snap Inc. has felt the star power of a celebrity affect their holdings; in February, Snap stocks dropped over 7 percent after Reality TV star Kylie Jenner sent a dismissive tweet about Snapchat.