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Cyberspace vulnerable to ransomware

Chandrasoodeshwar

Ransomware exposes critical infrastructure weaknesses, disrupting municipal operations, including schools and vital community services. The threat focuses on infiltrating operational technologies via administrative systems, making protection an urgent necessity says Bryson Bort, CEO of Scythe, a Computer and Network Security Company.

A webinar was held on the topic, "Defending Critical Infrastructure Against Cyber Threats" on Thursday exploring cyber threat types, resource constraints, and insider threats by Senhasegura, a global provider of Privileged Access Management (PAM).

While speaking about the important threats of cyberspace, Bort says that ransomware is a prevalent and impactful threat, particularly affecting critical infrastructure like municipal operations and schools. The common factor involves attacking administrative systems to gain access to operational technologies.

"Critical infrastructure includes vital sectors necessary for society, like water, finance, and energy, regulated by the government. Prioritizing protection is crucial, especially for less-equipped sectors. Industrial control systems over 20 years old are also considered critical infrastructure," said Bort.

There is one ransomware aspect focused on obvious monetisation, which has connections to the military and intelligence units of a particular country. They are not merely independent gangs. The second part involves true nation-state intelligence and military motives, added Bort.

No to ticking religion & caste option from now

Kavya S

In a society where caste, class and religion are deeply rooted, passing a verdict of providing a 'no caste and no religion' option in birth certificates is a transformative move, said Sandhya Raju, the Director of Centre for Constitutional Law, Research and Advocacy. Telangana High Court on Aug 2, directed the state government to allow citizens to choose the option of 'no caste and no religion' in their birth certificate, under section 25 of the constitution. The high court passed this verdict based on the plea filed by a couple belonging to different religions who didn't believe in the concept of religion and wanted to raise their son based on the same belief.

"When these specifications are used for identification purposes, people are facing a lot of discrimination. When the authorities ask for



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certificates for education or for any other purpose there is a negative kind of approach, when they see what caste/religion you belong to. People feel it and they undergo a lot of discrimination. So, with

this verdict, you don't need to be recognised based on your caste/religion," said Raju. Talking to the Beacon about the importance of such a verdict in every other state of India, Raju opined that

people don't want to express their caste or religion. Due to the progressive mindset of parents, they have either not decided or do not wish to decide which religion their children should belong

to, leaving the decision for the children to make at a later stage of life. "States like Telangana, Tamil Nadu and even northern parts of India are still deeply rooted in the ideologies of caste, class and religion. In such a situation the high court passing this verdict saying caste and religion is not important is a radical and most significant change." Raju mentioned that the court has relied on Sections 21 and 25 of the Constitution to support this verdict. Section 21 of the constitution speaks about the protection of life and personal liberty wherein no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to a procedure established by law. Section 25 of the constitution speaks about the freedom and right of an individual to conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of any religion.

'Breast cancer is less likely in women who breastfeed'

Aasline Dsouza

World Breastfeeding Week is observed from August 1 to 7 every year. This week-long campaign raises awareness of the importance of breastfeeding for the well-being of the mother and her child. This year, with the theme, 'Let's make breastfeeding at work, work', the WHO and UNICEF emphasise the need for greater breastfeeding support across all workplaces to sustain and improve progress on breastfeeding rates globally. Breastfeeding has long-term benefits for both mothers and babies. Breast milk is the most



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complete form of nutrition for a newborn, providing all the necessary nutrients and antibodies to protect the baby from infections. "...breast milk provides immunity to the newborns by supplying immunoglobulins or antibodies in the form of colostrum, which is thick

yellow milk produced right after delivery. It protects the child from many other infections which can occur due to the provision of an external milk supply. Studies have shown that the occurrence of breast cancer is less likely in women who breastfeed, whereas it is seen high in the nulliparous

woman," said Dr Supriya BG, general physician at St. John's Hospital, Bengaluru. One of the most common myths revolving around breastfeeding is that colostrum is bad for the baby and should be thrown away. "Mothers who do not breastfeed for one or two days believe that colostrum is bad for the baby. Instead, they give honey and cow's milk, which is not healthy and makes the newborns prone to infection. But as the child is born, we have to encourage breastfeeding as the colostrum is essential to build the child's immunity," she said.

Love may require parental consent

Anjela Patrick

The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel, has stated that if a system requiring parental approval for love marriages is constitutionally possible, his government will investigate it. In response, lawyers have offered their vantage points on the potential effects of the plan. Addressing an event organised by Sardar Patel Group, an organisation representing the Patidar community in Mehsana, the CM said that state Health Minister Rushikesh Patel suggested he order commission research into the instances of females eloping for marriage in order to establish a system where parental approval is required for marriage. Speaking to The Beacon about what could be the potential repercussions if the proposal is approved, Tejas Sakhani, Lawyer, and advocate of court marriage in Ahmedabad, Gujarat said, "Every coin has two sides. On one hand, the Indian Constitution allows girls after they turn 18 years old to choose their partners. But, in many cases, children are being manipulated and used by their parents as their property. This law can encourage such practices. In contrast, girls sometimes get pushed to be married before the legal age or are sold for money. In such instances, this plan can save them."

Celebrating Int'l Students Day at SJU

Meghana S

Campus: International students enrolling in Indian universities or colleges are a testament to the high esteem these institutions hold globally. Their presence significantly impacts the perceived quality and reputation of the university, making them a valuable part of the university community, according to Dr Fr Richard Rego, Director of International Affairs at St Joseph's University, Bengaluru. The Federation of International Student Associations- Bengaluru (FISA-B) and St Joseph's University is

organising International Students Day on Aug 6 at St Joseph's University. Speaking about the significance of the upcoming event, Rego said that it is mostly to gain exposure. "Nowadays, the world is becoming like a global village where people want to meet and learn from others all around the world. This goes for Indian students wanting to make friends with students from other countries, and the other way around too," he said. Rego explained that FISA-B represents a collective of international foreign students

dispersed throughout the entire state.

"Whenever you find yourself in a new location, our aim is to establish connections, regardless of the number of close friendships you may already have," he said. "They are happy. But nothing like finding students from their own country, their own continent, their own life colour, their own taste. It gives them a certain sense of belonging, a sense of community, and a sense of connectedness. So that is what we are trying to bring," he added.

Tension remains high in Haryana

Kaustub

Police personnel continue to remain deployed in parts of Gurugram in the aftermath of violence that broke out earlier this week. Tension remains high in Haryana after six people were killed in communal clashes that erupted in Nuh over an attempt to stop a Vishwa Hindu Parishad procession, reported CNBC TV 18.

Three days after the Nuh clash and subsequent mob violence in south Haryana, SP Varun Singla was transferred to Bhiwani and Narender Bijarnia was appointed as new SP in

his place. So far, at least 176 people were arrested and 78 taken into preventive detention, reported The Times of India. According to The Indian Express, among the six dead, two were home guards, Neeraj and Gursevak; Saad Mohammad, naib imam of the Gurgaon mosque; a man identified as Abhishek from Panipat who joined Monday's rally; and Shakti, owner of a store in Nuh, whose body, police said, was found Tuesday morning; Pradeep Sharma, who on Wednesday succumbed to the injuries he sustained during clashes in Nuh.