Topic: A Visit to IIT Delhi

Topic Introduction

Net Neutrality is the Internet's guiding principle: It preserves our right to communicate freely online. This is the definition of an **open Internet**.Net Neutrality means an Internet that enables and protects free speech. It means that Internet service providers should provide us with open networks — and should not block or discriminate against any applications or content that ride over those networks. Just as your phone company shouldn't decide who you can call and what you say on that call, your ISP shouldn't be concerned with the content you view or post online. The term was coined **by Columbia University media law professor Tim Wu in 2003**, as an extension of the longstanding concept of a common carrier.

As of August 2015, there were no laws governing **net neutrality in India**, which would require that all Internet users be treated equally, without discriminating or charging differentially by user, content, site, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or mode of communication. There have already been a few violations of net neutrality principles by some Indian service providers. The debate on network neutrality in India gathered public attention after Airtel, a mobile telephony service provider in India, announced in December 2014 additional charges for making voice calls (VoIP) from its network using apps like WhatsApp, Skype, etc.

In March 2015, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a formal consultation paper on *Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top (OTT)* services, seeking comments from the public. The consultation paper was criticised for being one sided and having confusing statements.

Benefits of Net Neutrality:

1. To understand why net-neutrality is crucial to India, the first thing to grasp is that the internet is an integral part of our democracy - it is as integral and as crucial as the right to vote.

2. Net-neutrality allows hundreds of millions of ordinary people/voters to get their voice heard - the internet ensures that not only the rich and powerful are heard.

3. If we lose net neutrality, an essential aspect of democracy will be destroyed. For example, a rich person's or a big-organisation's website will be able to pay to ensure that 10 pages of their website will be downloadable in one second - but for those who can't pay, their pages will be excruciatingly slow at the rate of one page every 10 seconds.

4. Consequently, if net-neutrality is stopped in India, the voice of the rich and powerful will be 100 times more likely to be heard than the voice of the ordinary Indian.

5. A simple election analogy will make this clear: removing net-neutrality is like favouring rich candidates by ensuring that for every vote cast in favour of a rich candidate, the electronic voting machine counts 100 votes - while for every vote cast for a poorer candidate, the electronic voting machine counts one vote.

CONCEPT OF ZERO RATING:

Zero-rating (also called *toll-free data* or *sponsored data*) is the practice of mobile network operators (MNO), mobile virtual network operators (MVNO), and Internet Service Providers (ISP) not to charge end customers for data used by specific applications or internet services through their network, in limited or metered data plans.

It allows customers to use provider-selected content sources or data services like an app store, without worrying about bill shocks, which could otherwise occur if the same data was normally charged according to their data plans and volume caps. This has especially become an option to market 4G networks, but has also been used in the past for SMS or other content services.

Mark Zuckerberg's visit to IIT delhi:

Facebook is the world's most popular social network with a market capitalisation of **$250 billion**. It was founded by 20-year old Mark Zuckerberg as a student at Harvard University. Today, the 'student' is **31, is worth $35.7 billion**.

India is an important market

During the recent town hall with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **Zuckerberg changed his profile picture in support of the Digital India** initiative of the Government of India.

'Internet.org isn't anti-net neutrality'

All along people have been opposing Internet.org left, right and centre. And here was Zuckerberg advocating it as the **basic need for the next billion people**. In a brilliant pitch for the case of internet.org and its basic free service announced recently, we realised that Mark Zuckerberg's pet project internet.org was an open platform.Internet.org is a model – an open model as Zuckerberg would term it – upon which a bouquet of free services would reside. According to a statement by Zuckerberg, if any app qualifies for what is a free and essential service, it wouldn't be charged by Facebook to be a part of the free basic service. In fact, he went on to hint that anyone prioritising one data packet over the other such as charging extra for watching a YouTube or a Netflix video would be wrong.

Facebook will do newer things to grow

Zuckerberg did hint at the willingness to try out new things such as **virtual and augmented reality** to give an experience that surpasses expectations. Hopefully, **virtual and augmented tours of heritage sites** would be a reality on Facebook in the more recent future than expected.

Facebook wants to improve human life

Facebook would work with governments across the markets and would help **finding missing people**. It would **continue to help during disasters such as earthquakes**. An example was a tool similar to the Person Finder that could help find missing people. Zuckerberg also shared an interesting statistic that for every 10 people who are connected to the internet, one of them finds a better job! According to Zuckerberg, if a fisherman is on the internet, he needs to be able to sell more fish, and he should be supported in his efforts to do that. Zuckerberg believes bringing the next billion online would help him accomplish his mission of connecting people.

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http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-34641515

http://yourstory.com/2015/10/mark-zuckerberg-townhall-iit-delhi/

https://www.publicknowledge.org/issues/net-neutrality

http://gizmodo.com/mark-zuckerberg-warns-of-too-much-net-neutrality-1739159706