

A grinning face with smiling eyes represents lightheartedness and exuberance. It shows joy, excitement, agitation or embarrassment.

Swastika Kainth, AIS Vasundhara 6, V D



Imaging: Shubham Shukla, GT Network

What's hAPPening?

Privacy Or Safety - What Is More Important



Induja Tyagi, GT Network

The past few months have seen as many as 17 mob lynchings in the country. The latest addition being five nomadic tribals who were lynched in Dhule, Maharashtra, on the suspicion of being child lifters. Many of these lynchings were a direct bearing of rumours that were sparked on the instant messaging service – WhatsApp. The government has asked the messaging service to look into the problem and look for ways to stop the spread of rumours. However, for an encrypted service like WhatsApp, is controlling the flow of information even feasible? The debate of privacy vs safety rages on.

Accountability – A must

“WhatsApp has slowly moved on from being just a messaging service to a media platform. With over 200 million users in a month, it is perhaps one of the biggest media platforms in the country. Considering its extensive use, some kind of accountability is a must. Maybe WhatsApp needs to develop a mechanism wherein such messages can be reported or it can work on a method to search for key words.”

Rakshit Bansal, Semester V
ASET, AUUP

Fun facts

- WhatsApp is the world's largest messaging platform.
- The app is available in around 40 languages.
- It adds over one million users every single day.
- Around 65 billion text messages are exchanged on WhatsApp on a daily basis.
- The app is banned in countries like China and Iran because of the circulation of derogatory messages via the platform.

Whose fault is it, anyway?

“It is ironical that they can blame technology, which is actually run by people. I would disagree with anyone who says that the problem would disappear if it was not for WhatsApp. Even if the rumour was spread on WhatsApp, the point is that people actually got together to indulge in a violent crime. If people think that they can get away with crimes like these then is it the fault of a messaging app or law and order as a whole?”

Urvashi Bhardwaj, Alumnus,
AIESR, AUUP

Privacy- What is that?

“WhatsApp is a communicative catalyst at most and nothing else.

The government's instructions to monitor the chats of users shall go directly against WhatsApp's recently introduced chat encryption. Indirectly, it is the citizens whose right to privacy is being violated. We need solutions without compromising the privacy of the millions of daily users.”

Amit Rath, Alumnus
AIESR, AUUP

Curbing the menace

“I think WhatsApp has decided to take an approach which minimises fake news to lessen conflicts with the Indian govt. In its recent reply to the govt., WhatsApp has made clear its motive to assist the govt. in any way possible with active participation to curb this issue. The newly released features including forward tagging and flagging suspicious news shall go a long way to put an end to the troubles that it created in the first place.”

Nidhi Jain, Semester V
AIPS, AUUP

Do we have a role to play?

“As a community, we should refrain from mindlessly forwarding whatever we receive on social media. Awareness is a tool of social change and we should make it a point to use it for the benefit of the community.”

Nandini Sukhija
AIS MV, XII G

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