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Ethics in Computer Science

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India bans PUBG and over 100 additional Chinese apps

Amid border tensions between India and China, India's IT Ministry banned 118 apps that were "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defense of India, security of state and public order" including highly popular apps TikTok and PUBG Mobile, for which India is the largest international market.ⁱ

The ministry has stated that these apps steal and surreptitiously transmit users' data "in an unauthorized manner to servers which have locations outside of India."

Software Law and Freedom Centre, a New Delhi-based digital advocacy group has raised concerns about the lack of a data protection law and a comprehensive cybersecurity policy, and have called for transparency in the the decisions banning specific apps and websites.

"Boycott China" has been trending on Twitter in India as tensions rise between the two nations after a military clash in the Himalayas left 20 Indian soldiers dead, the first violent confrontation between the two nuclear powers in 45 years.

This also comes off the heels of a new law requiring Chinese investors to receive government approval before writing checks to Indian firms, significantly reducing Chinese presence in Indian startups.

[\(https://techcrunch.com/2020/09/02/india-bans-pubg-and-over-100-additional-chinese-apps/\)](https://techcrunch.com/2020/09/02/india-bans-pubg-and-over-100-additional-chinese-apps/)

One Indian teenager feels that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slowly alienating the youth of the country with these bans. The teen supported the banning of TikTok because of security concerns, but is vehemently against the banning of PUBG Mobile, believing it is a move against China and not a move to protect Indian citizens. They fear the precedent being set for the government controlling Indian internet space.

[https://www.reddit.com/r/technology/comments/il75dm/india_bans_100_more_chineselinked_apps_including/g3gkfin?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3\)](https://www.reddit.com/r/technology/comments/il75dm/india_bans_100_more_chineselinked_apps_including/g3gkfin?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3)

The Indian government's proposed Personal Data Protection Bill seeks to create a legal framework for data protection in India. The bill would require companies to receive explicit consent to collect personal data and would establish a Data Protection Authority of India bureau to enforce the provisions. It is similar in many ways to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, although many critics

have raised concerns that India's bill gives the government blanket powers to access citizens' data. The bill is currently under review in the Indian parliament.

(<https://carnegieindia.org/2020/03/09/will-india-s-proposed-data-protection-law-protect-privacy-and-promote-growth-pub-81217#:~:text=In%20December%202019%2C%20the%20government,for%20data%20protection%20in%20India.&text=Union%20of%20India%20held%20that,a%20fundamental%20right%20to%20privacy.>)
