



## Amazon food delivery to shut down in India

In an official announcement last Friday, the global e-commerce platform Amazon stated that they will shut down their food delivery business in India on December 29, 2022. Launched in May 2020, the service called 'Amazon Food' was first made available in Bengaluru.

'Amazon Food' was discontinued as per the company's recent approach to restructuring their Indian market. Last month, Amazon announced that they will also be shutting down Amazon Academy, an online learning platform launched last year by Amazon for Indian high-school students.

In the recent announcement, Amazon stated that despite the closure of Amazon Food, they will remain focused on providing their "growing customer base the best online shopping experience with the largest selection of products at great value and convenience."

According to a report by TechCrunch on the matter, Amazon thus far has invested over \$6.5 billion in the Indian market. In an analysis by the brokerage firm Sanford C. Bernstein, in 2021, Amazon had a gross merchandise value of about \$20 billion in India.

## Mobile devices at the centre of new types of cybercrimes: Report

Cybersecurity platform Sophos recently published its 2023 Threat Report, where it described how the cyber threat landscape has reached a new level of commercialisation and convenience for would-be attackers, with nearly all barriers to entry for committing cybercrime removed through the expansion of cybercrime-as-a-service. The report also addresses how ransomware remains one



of the greatest cybercrime threats to organisations with operators innovating their extortion tactics, as well as how demand for stolen credentials continues to grow.

As the cybercrime infrastructure has expanded, ransomware has remained highly popular and profitable. Over the past year, ransomware operators have worked on expanding their potential attack service by targeting platforms other than Windows while also adopting new languages like Rust and Go to avoid detection. Some groups, most notably Lockbit 3.0, have been diversifying their operations and creating more "innovative" ways to extort victims.

## Over 100,000 rural govt infrastructure finally gets broadband connectivity

1,09,244 rural government infrastructures have recently been provided with broadband connectivity, as per the initiative of the national project called Info-Sarker Phase-3. Launched in 2017 by Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) and the ICT Division of Bangladesh, the project officially named 'Development of National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government Phase-III' aims to provide high-speed internet services to marginal rural areas in Bangladesh.

As part of the Info-Sharker Phase-3 project, over 100,000 village-level government institutions will be receiving a proper broadband connection to ensure better services from educational institutions, health



complexes, land offices and other government offices. The project aims to boost the employment rate in Bangladesh, while also increasing the network capacity of union digital centres (UDCs). As per the project's goal, better internet connection in rural areas will allow rural offices, schools and government offices to achieve higher growth in the coming years.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

## Where the work goes

Short-term work, better known as gigs, has become the norm for Bangladeshis from all walks of life. However, there's a side to the gig economy that we aren't quite keen on. Check out our Cover Story this week to find out what kind of entrepreneurial challenges we are facing in the local gig business model.

In Shift, we have an informative guide to engine mounts. Check out our take on the ongoing football frenzy - in Bytes, we talk about an AI predicting this year's World Cup winners. In Tech Tips, we explain how the VAR technology, which has decided many important game-defining decisions so far, actually works.

See you next weekend. Until then.

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## Bangladesh asked for information on 1,171 users from Facebook: Meta

Facebook has been asked for information on 1,171 users this year by the government of Bangladesh, according to the Transparency Report published by Meta for the first half (January to June) of 2022. According to the half-yearly transparency report of the Facebook-parent Meta, the government sent 659 requests for the data to Facebook over the 6-month period.

49 of these fell under the heading of "emergency disclosures," while 610 were made in response to the legal process. In response, Facebook answered the government's request for data on 66.01% of the accounts.



Bangladesh has sought more information from Facebook this year than before, according to the Transparency report. From July through December of 2021, the government sent 525 requests. Facebook responded by giving the authorities 66.86% of the information.

## Over 3.8m Bangladeshi WhatsApp users' data stolen: Report

According to a report by research-based online publication Cybernews, the phone numbers of 487 million WhatsApp users have been stolen and sold on a "well-known" hacker forum which includes information of 3.8 million Bangladeshi users.

According to the report, the stolen database contains the phone numbers of over 32 million US customers and over 11.5 million UK subscribers. However, it appears that the breach most heavily impacted Egyptian users, with approximately 45 million people possibly at risk. With over two billion monthly active users worldwide, WhatsApp may have experienced one of, if not the largest data breaches in its history.

