

'FB's Free Basics against Net Neutrality'

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At a time when Net Neutrality and Free Basics have become the talk of the town, Net Neutrality activists claim that Free Basics would deny a large majority of Indians access to internet thus going against the core idea of Net Neutrality.

In a panel discussion on Net Neutrality v/s Free Basics organised by Mysore University Information and Library Science Alumni Network (MILAN) at SDMIMD on Monday, panelists came out against Free Basics, asking the telecom regulator to realise the "agenda" of Free Basics in the inter-



Panelists at the discussion on Net Neutrality versus Free Basics on Monday.

est of protecting the citizens' rights to use their own public utility, the internet.

They argued that through Free Basics, the Facebook was trying to become a controlling authority by defining what content to access and its sources. "Internet is a public service and a ba-

sic requirement. Facebook is just trying to become a controlling authority by misleading people with the word free," Kalpesh Mehta, founder, Starsoft India, who was one of the panelists, said.

Chairman and Managing Director of Informatics Pvt Ltd, N.V. Satyanarayana

stressed on the manipulation of public service by Facebook with the concept of Free Basics. He said with Free Basics, there would be a fear of monopoly of the internet besides giving little freedom to Indians on how they can use their own public utility which is the internet, he added.

On the Net Neutrality he said: "though it is imperative but impossible. It is a Herculean task to make internet neutral," he said.

Director, Centre for Training in Advanced Technology, NIE, Dr Sudheer Sosale explained the gross effects of Free Basics.

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