

Technology Law Analysis

November 12, 2019

PRIVACY LAW DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA – WRAPPING UP 2019

From what was expected to be a prospectively chaotic year in terms of privacy law developments, has turned out to be a rather mellow year thus far. The introduction of the revamped general privacy and data protection law in India continues to loom but there appears to be some time until it is introduced. This update brings to you privacy and data protection related developments in India during the past 11 months, which may be of interest to organizations doing or looking to do business in India.

1. New privacy and data protection law lurking

Indian Parliament is likely to consider the *Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018* that is set to revamp the existing framework in India, in the upcoming Winter Session commencing from 18th November. The proposed law was publicly released last year and appears GDPR-inspired on various fronts. The proposed law may have a considerable impact on MNCs operating in India, whether with or without a physical presence, due to its data localization requirements and cross-border data transfer restrictions.

Our [paper](#) provides details of the proposed law, how it compares to the GDPR, specific industry implications and tax considerations. Our Technology and Privacy law team had also hosted a [webinar](#) to discuss the development and our analysis.

2. Clarifications on data localization in the payments industry

The Reserve Bank of India (apex bank in the country) had in April last year issued a data localization [directive](#), mandating all authorized payment system operators and banks to store payment systems data only in India. This led to various ambiguities in the requirements as well as industry pushback on the strict requirements imposed, especially by global payment companies. Our write ups on this are accessible [here](#) and [here](#). The RBI also issued the much awaited [clarifications](#) on the said directive. One of the major clarifications being that where processing of a payment transaction happens overseas, then the payment systems data (including end-to-end transaction details) for the said transaction could also be stored abroad, but only for a limited period i.e. for the duration of processing the transaction.

We have analyzed the implications of the clarificatory press release [here](#).

Dedicated committee to look into governance of non-personal data

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) had in September released an [office memorandum](#) which constitutes a new Committee of Experts, chaired by Shri. Kris Gopalakrishnan (Co-Founder, Infosys). The MEITY had taken cue from the Committee that framed the draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018,

- i. study various issues relating to non-personal data; and
- ii. make specific suggestions for consideration of the Central Government on non-personal data.

The report and recommendations of the Committee is currently awaited.

Interesting and exciting times lie ahead. As one can see, data is no longer looked at as an intangible commodity but rather as an asset on which further value can be derived. Both consumers, organizations and now the Government see value in data, its usage and security. Also, as sectoral and industry-wide regulation evolves, business models will have to keep up. One must wait and watch whether 2019 has a twist in the tail, but certainly buckle up for 2020.

– Aaron Kamath, Huzefa Tavawalla & Gowree Gokhale
You can direct your queries or comments to the authors

DISCLAIMER

The contents of this hotline should not be construed as legal opinion. View detailed disclaimer.

This Hotline provides general information existing at the time of preparation. The Hotline is intended as a news update and Nishith Desai Associates neither assumes nor accepts any responsibility for any loss arising to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of any material contained in this Hotline. It is recommended that professional advice be taken based on the specific facts and circumstances. This Hotline does not substitute the need to refer to the original pronouncements.

This is not a Spam mail. You have received this mail because you have either requested for it or someone must have suggested your name. Since India has no anti-spamming law, we refer to the US directive, which states that a mail cannot be considered Spam if it contains the sender's contact information, which this mail does. In case this mail doesn't concern you, please unsubscribe from mailing list.

Research Papers

Mergers & Acquisitions

July 11, 2025

New Age of Franchising

June 20, 2025

Life Sciences 2025

June 11, 2025

Research Articles

2025 Watchlist: Life Sciences Sector India

April 04, 2025

Re-Evaluating Press Note 3 Of 2020: Should India's Land Borders Still Define Foreign Investment Boundaries?

February 04, 2025

INDIA 2025: The Emerging Powerhouse for Private Equity and M&A Deals

January 15, 2025

Audio

CCI's Deal Value Test

February 22, 2025

Securities Market Regulator's Continued Quest Against "Unfiltered" Financial Advice

December 18, 2024

Digital Lending - Part 1 - What's New with NBFC P2Ps

November 19, 2024

NDA Connect

Connect with us at events, conferences and seminars.

NDA Hotline

Click here to view Hotline archives.

Video

Nishith Desai Unplugged - Law, AI & the Future

August 20, 2025

Webinar : Designing Innovative Share Swap and Deferred

**Consideration Structures for PE and
M&A Deals**

July 15, 2025

**Webinar: Blended Finance
Structures to Scale up Climate
Smart Agriculture**

July 03, 2025