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Media information

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New Indian law will encourage outsourcing

India's new data protection law, which came into force in February 2009, is already beginning to show its effectiveness, an international privacy conference heard today (July 7 2009).

Pavan Duggal, an Indian legal expert, told the annual international Privacy Laws & Business conference in Cambridge that the act, known as the Information Technology Amendment Act 2008, was starting to 'flex its muscles.'

He added: "The new law will encourage more outsourcing of high end operations to India. The legal regime now in place in India to deal with data protection will increase confidence. Effective civil and criminal remedies provided for under the act enhance the comfort factor of corporate organizations which can resort to these remedies."

The new law means that companies outsourcing work to India must ensure that their service providers comply with the requirements of the Act. Companies who set up, or who have dedicated outsourcing units, must also ensure that these units comply with the amended Act.

Breach of the Act is now a crime punishable by a fine of INR 50 million and imprisonment.

Mr Duggal said: "For companies doing business in and with India the new law is a breath of fresh air. How the law is implemented will determine its efficacy."

Ends

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Notes to editors

1. Privacy Laws & Business 22nd Annual International Conference: Privacy as a business risk for top management: Compliance in the credit crunch, 6-8 July 2009, St. John's College, Cambridge. To see the full programme please visit <http://www.privacylaws.com/annualconference>
2. Privacy Laws & Business provides an independent international privacy laws information service. Clients include many of the world's largest companies and specialist lawyers in almost 50 countries. In the United Kingdom, the company provides services to help its private and public sector clients comply with both the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act. The company's website is www.privacylaws.com

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