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Data Protection Law in the United States

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The U.S. government is bringing a law which could **allow people to see or prohibit the use of their data by tech firms.**

- This will be the **first of its kind data protection law in the US** at the national level.
- The new law will **control the ability of the largest technology companies to collect and make money off people's personal data.** Companies would need permission to release such information.

Necessity for Such Law

- The need for such a law was felt due to and other information technology (IT) giants.
- In the US, the **IT industry has been lightly regulated and has resisted closer oversight** as a threat to its culture of free-wheeling innovation.
- Support for privacy law is part of a **broader effort by regulators and lawmakers to lessen the domination of companies like Facebook, Google, and Amazon.**
- Recently, the US state of California also enacted data privacy law. The law allows **California citizens to see the personal data being collected on them and where it's being distributed and to forbid the sale of it.**

With some exceptions, consumers could also request that their personal information be deleted entirely.

'GAFA' tax plan

- France parliament has approved a **new tax on digital giants such as Facebook and Apple.**
- The legislation, called as "GAFA" after Google, Amazon, Facebook, and Apple, comes amid **rising public outrage at the minimal tax paid by some of the world's richest firms.**

India and Data Privacy

- Recently, **India has also enforced Data Localisation norms for Payment firms.**
- To address the issue of the protection of data the government of India has formed the **BN Srikrishna Committee** and has also brought Data Protection Bill 2018.

Highlights of which are:

- all personal data to which the law applies must have at least one serving copy stored in India
- personal data critical to national interest must be stored and processed only in India
- the Centre will have the power to exempt transfers on the basis of strategic or practical considerations.