

Shaping India's Data Governance Regime

Why in news?

To use India's G20 presidency to promote international cooperation in data governance there by resolving the issues concerning data governance

- **Data governance:** Data governance is managing data usage, data security, data availability, and data integrity.
- **Data sovereignty:** The term "data sovereignty" refers to the principle that a country has the right to control the collection, storage, and use of data within its borders and also to the informational self-determination of citizens over their data.

How significant is data governance?

- Increases the transparency, accountability and inclusive in nature.
- Helps in protecting the privacy of individuals.
- Helps in policy framing especially in inclusion and exclusion error management of policies.
- Creates employment opportunities.
- Helps in targeted delivery of schemes.

What are the recent efforts taken by government?

Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA)

- It was launched by the *NITI Aayog in 2020*.
- DEPA is a *consent management tool*.
- DEPA has the potential to improve data protection and privacy for citizens by giving them greater control over the use and sharing of their personal information.
- DEPA could help to build trust in digital technologies and data governance.

India Data Management Office (IDMO)

- IDMO is expected to *oversee and coordinate* the implementation of India's digital strategies and data governance framework
- It will ensure that data governance efforts are aligned with the country's values and priorities.
- IDMO will frame, manage and periodically review and revise the *National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP)*.
- It is be set up under *the Digital India Corporation("DIC")* under *Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)*.

What are the issues related to DEPA?

- **Issues with DEPA** - If the consent management tool (DEPA) is not properly implemented or managed, there is a risk that personal information could be *misused or misappropriated*.
- Implementation of DEPA may be *inconsistent across different sectors* and jurisdictions, which could undermine its effectiveness and create confusion among citizens.

Gopalakrishnan committee recommended the identification of certain “high-value datasets”, which could be shared for the purpose of encouraging innovation and ensuring national security.

What is the need of the hour?

- India must respect and *protect the fundamental right to privacy* with a *robust data protection law*, and balance the interests of all stakeholders, including governments, businesses, and citizens for the goal of sustainable development
- To ensure that data is collected, stored, and used in a responsible, secure and accountable manner — so that a resilient data governance regime can be accomplished
- In order to realize the potential benefits of DEPA and minimize the risks, it is important that the tool is implemented in a transparent, consistent, and secure manner.
- This will require *close collaboration* between the government, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders.
- *Opening of data “silos”* to capture the potential wealth of data sharing between governmental offices, corporations and citizens.

References

1. [The Hindu | A Chance for India to shape Data governance regime](#)
2. [MEITY | National Data Governance Framework policy](#)

