

- 22 Recently released Draft data protection bill needs improvement.
2 Do u agree? Comment.

The government recently released the draft Digital Data Protection Bill as it was previously withdrawn by the government. Though the bill is fair in many respects further improvements can be done.

Need for the bill

① Increase in the internet users in India more than 250 million internet users are there in the country. Strong data protection regime is crucial.

② Right to privacy ~~was~~ now as a fundamental right after Kesavananda Bharati judgement.

③ To uphold digital sovereignty of the country to serve the national interests.

Highlights of the bill

① Narrows down the scope of data protection to personal data protection.

leaving out non-personal data.

② Data Protection Board is proposed in the place of data protection authority

③ Increased penalty of ₹ 500 crore in case of data breaches

④ Proposed consent managers for the users to interact with data administrators.

Improvements needed

① Data Protection Board is appointed by the central government giving a greater say for the centre in appointments. Instead a collegium of judicial members, experts and members from electronics ministry can be appointed member.

② Government agencies are exempted can cause fears of mass surveillance.

③ No separate provisions for Right to be forgotten

④ Expected data protection framework for financial sector can improve the move towards cashless economy.

The gaps can be sealed quickly to present the data protection bill which brings balance between individuals and the state.