

## POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

### DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT 2023

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

**News:** "What do draft data protection rules state?"

#### Draft Rules:

- **Data Localisation Mandate:** rules propose the creation of a government-appointed committee to define which classes of data cannot be exported from India.
- **Rule 22:** empowers the Union gov., through the designated authorised person, to demand "any" information from a data fiduciary or intermediary (entities processing personal data) in the interest of India's sovereignty, integrity, or national security.

#### Definitions

- **Personal data:** is defined as any data about an individual who is identifiable by or in relation to such data.
- **Processing:** has been defined as wholly or partially automated operation or set of operations performed on digital personal data. It includes collection, storage, use, and sharing.
- **Data fiduciaries:** The entity determining the purpose and means of processing.
- **Data Principal:** An individual whose data is being processed (data owner).
- **Data Localisation:** refers to measures that restrict the flow of data within a jurisdiction's borders.

#### Applicability of the Act

- **Applies to the processing of digital personal data** *within India* where such data is:
  - Collected online, or collected offline and is digitised.
  - It will also apply to the processing of personal data *outside India* if it is for offering goods or services in India.

#### Consent

- **Personal data may be processed** *only for a lawful purpose after obtaining the consent* of the individual. A *notice must be given before seeking consent*, with details about the personal data to be collected and the purpose of processing.
  - **Consent may be withdrawn at any point in time.**
- **Consent will not be required for 'legitimate uses'** including:
  - Specified purpose for which data has been provided by an individual voluntarily.
  - Provision of benefit or service by the government,
  - Medical emergency & Employment.
  - **For individuals below 18 years of age**, consent will be provided by the parent or the legal guardian.

#### Rights and duties of data principal (Data Owner)

- Obtain information about processing.
- Seek correction and erasure of personal data.
- **Nominate another person** to exercise rights in the event of death or incapacity.
- Grievance redressal.
- **Data principals will have certain duties. They must not:**
  - Register a false or frivolous complaint.
  - Furnish any false particulars or impersonate another person in specified cases.
  - Violation of duties will be punishable with a penalty of up to Rs 10,000.

P.T.O

#### Obligations of Data fiduciaries

- Make reasonable efforts to ensure the **accuracy and completeness of data**.
- **Build reasonable security safeguards** to prevent a data breach.
- **Inform the Data Protection Board of India** and affected persons in the event of a breach.
- **Erase personal data as soon as the purpose has been met** and retention is not necessary for legal purposes (storage limitation).
- **In case of government entities**, storage limitation and the right of the data principal to erasure **will not apply**.

#### Exemptions

- Rights of the data principal and obligations of data fiduciaries (except data security) **will not apply in specified cases**. These include:
  - Prevention and investigation of offences.
  - Enforcement of legal rights or claims.
  - **The central government may, by notification, exempt certain activities from the application of the Act**. These include:
    - Processing by govt entities in the **interest of the security of the State and public order, and Research, archiving, or statistical purposes**.

#### Data Protection Board of India

- The **Central govt.** will establish the Data Protection Board of India.
- Chairperson is selected based on recommendations of search and selection committee **chaired by cabinet secretary**.
- **Key functions of the Board include:**
  - Monitoring compliance and **imposing penalties**.
  - **Directing data fiduciaries** to take necessary measures in the event of a data breach.
  - Hearing **grievances** made by affected persons.
  - **Board members** will be **appointed for two years and will be eligible for re-appointment**.
  - The Central govt. will prescribe details such as the number of members of the Board and the selection process.
  - **Appeals against the decisions of the Board** will lie with **Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)**.

#### Transfer of personal data outside India

- The Act **allows transfer of personal data outside India, except to countries restricted by the Central govt.** through notification.

#### Penalties

- Penalties will be **imposed by the Board** after conducting an inquiry.
- Rs 200 crore for **non-fulfilment of obligations for children**.
- Rs 250 crore for failure to take **security measures** to prevent data breaches.

#### Key Issues:

- **Violations of Right to Privacy (Art.21):**
  - Processing Data **in the name of National Security** may lead to retention of Data beyond necessary.
  - **Against Puttaswamy Judgement 2017:** infringement by govt. must be reasonable.

P.T.O



## • Right to Equality issues:

- Differential treatment for Private and Government agencies. Eg. Treatment of consent and Storage Limitations.
- **Against PUCL 1996 Judgement & Srikrishna committee recommendations:** SC mandated various safeguards including. (i) establishing necessity, (ii) purpose limitation, and (iii) storage limitation.

## • Data Protection Board:

- Central government to determine appointments and composition.
- The shorter term with scope for re-appointment may affect the independent functioning of the Board.

- **The Bill allows transfer of personal data outside India,** except to countries notified by the central govt. This mechanism may not ensure adequate evaluation of data protection standards in the countries where transfer of personal data is allowed.

- **No provision for Inter-portability of data & Right to be Forgotten.**

- **Absence of time limit for reporting** like Eg. Within 72 hours.

22 JAN 2025

## GS I

SYLLABUS: URBANISATION PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES.

### SMART CITIES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

**News:** "What is the status of the Smart Cities Mission?"

## Components of a Smart City:

- **Smart Governance:** E-Governance and transparency.
- **Smart Infrastructure:** Integrated utilities like smart water, electricity, and waste management systems.
- **Smart Mobility:** Intelligent traffic management and eco-friendly transportation.
- **Smart Economy:** Promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital platforms.
- **Smart Environment:** Focus on green spaces, renewable energy, and sustainable urban ecosystems.

## Smart City Mission:

- Launched in 2015 as the new lighthouses of urbanisation by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).**
- **A centrally sponsored program** aimed at transforming **100 selected cities** across India.
- **At city level:** A **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** created for the purpose implements the mission under Companies Act.
- Focused on **Area Based Development (ABD).**
- Initiative is based on **Internet of Things (IoT).**

## Progress of Smart City Mission:

- As of 2024, **over 8,000 projects worth ₹1.6 lakh crore** have been initiated, with **more than 90% completed across 100 cities.** Seventeen cities have achieved 100% project completion.
- **Achievements:**
  - **Integrated Command and Control Centres:** in Bhopal, Pune, Nagpur to monitor services such as traffic control, safety, and disaster management in real-time.
  - **Public Safety and Security:** Over 80,000 CCTV surveillance cameras have been installed in 100 Smart Cities, aiding in crime monitoring.

P.T.O

- **Water Supply:** almost 10,000 km of the water supply system are being monitored through SCADA, reducing non-revenue water and leakages.
- **Education:** ~8,000 smart classrooms and 40 digital libraries have been developed. By 2024, there was 22% rise in enrolment after smart classroom initiative.
- **Health:** ~200 e-health centers and clinics have been developed, and health ATMs also have been installed.
- **Waste Management & Cleanliness:** Indore, consistently ranks highest in the Swachh Survekshan cleanliness rankings due to smart waste segregation, door-to-door collection, and real-time monitoring of waste vehicles.
- **Urban Mobility Solutions:** Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Pune (Maharashtra) have invested in Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS), e-bus fleets, and bicycle sharing etc.

## Implementation challenges:

- **Bypassing Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as nodal implementing agency:**
  - Many ULBs face **low tax bases and high debt**, limiting their ability to raise capital.
  - Many smaller **ULBs lack the technical expertise** to manage large-scale infrastructure and tech-driven projects — **NITI Aayog 2021.**
- **Delayed fund disbursement by central and state govts** as noted by Parliamentary Standing Committee (2022–23).
- **Conflicts in Coordination:** Eg. Urban local bodies and special purpose vehicles created for the implementation of mission.
- **Technology gaps:** ICT Infrastructure in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities struggle with stable internet connectivity and robust IT architecture.
- **Digital divide:** Residents' limited familiarity with e-governance tools can undermine the effectiveness of online services and citizen apps.
- **Land Acquisition conflicts:** Greenfield development and large-scale ABD require significant land parcels.
- **Operation & Maintenance Costs:** High-tech solutions (e.g., sensors, advanced CCTV) demand continuous funding for upgrades and maintenance.

22 JAN 2025

## PYQs: CSE (M).

**GS I 2016:** With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme'.



## GS II

SYLLABUS: REGIONAL AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA.

### INDUS WATER TREATY

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

**News:** "Competent" to judge Indus Water Treaty dispute, says World Bank Neutral Expert."

"IWT is a 'one bright spot' in a very depressing world picture" — U.S. President D.D. Eisenhower."

#### About Indus Water Treaty:

- **Signed:** September 19, 1960 by India & Pakistan, **brokered by World Bank**.
- **Purpose:** to share waters of the Indus River system between India and Pakistan.
- **IWT becomes vital for Pakistan:** the water flowing into Pakistan helps to irrigate about 1,10,000 sq.kms and supports its agriculture belt in Punjab Sindh.

#### About Indus River system:

- **Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.**
- **Treaty covers all the 6 rivers.**
- **Indus and Sutlej** origin in Tibet, rest in India.
- **Except Ravi**, all the rivers flow into Pakistan.

#### Provision of Treaty:

- **Water Allocation:**
  - **Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej):**
    - **India** gets right of unrestricted use over these rivers, with Pakistan receiving a limited supply.
  - **Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab):**
    - **Pakistan** gets right of unrestricted use over these rivers.
    - India can use these waters for limited purposes like irrigation, storage, power generation under specified conditions.
- **Permanent Indus Commission(PIC):**
  - With **representation from both India and Pakistan**, it was established to implement the treaty, resolve disputes, share information.
- **Dispute Resolution Mechanism:**
  - Initially resolved through **PIC**. If unresolved, the matter would be weighed by the World Bank-appointed **Neutral Expert**. If this fails too, parties can refer to **International Court of Arbitration**.
  - Under convention, both sides are expected to **meet at-least once a year** to discuss bilateral problems.

#### Can India abrogate or withdraw from the treaty:

- India can exercise sovereign right of state under **Article.64 of Vienna Convention** to withdraw from any international treaty.

#### Concerns:

- **Baglihar Dam construction on Chenab (2007):**
  - Pakistan views these projects as violations of the treaty.
  - **India's stance:** that the project is compliant with treaty and falls within the permissible uses.
- **Kishenganga (Jhelum) and Ratle (Chenab) projects issue (2016):**
  - Pakistan demanded both **Neutral Expert process and the Permanent Court of Arbitration(PCA)**. Later it withdrew from neutral expert process. Followed this, India boycotted PCA hearings.
  - This worsened the tensions over water sharing issues under IWT.
- **After Uri attack (2016)** India decided to **suspend talks** under IWT.

P.T.O

#### Current status:

- **India issued 4th notice to Pakistan** since January 2023, India called for renegotiation of IWT 1960 but received **no response from Pakistan**.
- **As of 2025, Neutral Expert (NE) appointed** under terms of the Indus Water Treaty(IWT), 1960, decided that he was "competent" to decide on differences between India and Pakistan on the design of hydroelectric projects built on the In-dus Treaty rivers. India.

22 JAN 2025

## INTERNATIONAL BODIES

PRE-CONTEXT

### WHO

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 11.

**News:** "WHO chief urges U.S. to reconsider its decision to exit."

#### About WHO:

- WHO's Constitution came into force on **7 April 1948**—observed annually as **World Health Day**.
- **Specialised agency of the United Nations (UN)** responsible for international public health.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Key focus areas:**
  - Combatting communicable and non-communicable diseases.
  - Setting international health standards.
  - Coordinating global responses to health emergencies (e.g., pandemics).
- **Membership and withdrawal:**
  - **Only sovereign states recognized by the UN** can become members of the WHO.
  - **Withdrawal of membership:** Written notice to Director-General → One-year notice period → Fulfilment of obligation.
- **Funding:**
  - Assessed contributions (membership dues from countries).
  - Voluntary contributions (from member states, philanthropic organizations, private sector, etc.).
- **Governance of WHO:**
  - **World Health Assembly (WHA):** Highest decision-making body of the WHO.
  - **Secretariat:** Headed by the Director-General, Responsible for implementing decisions taken by the WHA and Executive Board.
- **Major Campaigns:** Eradication of smallpox, polio, and campaigns against TB, malaria, etc.
- **Important Publications:** World Health Report, World Health Statistics, Global Tuberculosis Report.

22 JAN 2025



## DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

PRE-CONTEXT

### HYPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

**News:** "DRDO holds key test for hypersonic missiles."

While ancient India's arsenals boasted the formidable *Brahmastra*, today, we wield hypersonic cruise missiles—potent symbols of modern 'Shastra' that redefine battlefield dominance.

#### About Hypersonic Cruise Missile:

- Cheetah of the skies, at speeds of **at least Mach 5**.
- Ranges **greater than 1,500 km** for **all the services of the armed forces**.
- Powered by **scramjets**.
- **Almost Impossible to Predict:** Unlike ballistic missiles that follow the predictable curve, hypersonic **cruise missiles change direction faster**.
- **Low-Level Flight:** radar beams struggle to detect.
- **Versatile payload options** from conventional to nuclear payloads.
- Missile has been indigenously **developed by DRDO**.
- **Countries with Hypersonic Cruise Missiles:** **USA, Russia, China, North Korea, India.**

#### Need for India:

- **Shield against neighbours with swords drawn:** i.e Pakistan and China.
- Tackling Chinese **String of Pearls Strategy**.
- **Indigenous development:** Unlike the dependency on imported equipment during the Kargil conflict.
- It can be programmed to **hit multiple targets** with uncanny precision.
- **Pairing hypersonic missiles with India's existing fleet**, like the Mirage 2000s and Sukhoi Su-30, can overwhelm layered defenses.
- **Maritime Dominance:** The Navy's integration of hypersonic cruise missiles ensures unchallenged control of India's maritime space.

22 JAN 2025

