

Personal Data Protection Bill 2019

❖ Context

- The **Joint Committee of Parliament** on the Personal Data Protection Bill has tabled its report in **both Houses**.
- The JCP, which was **formed in December 2019** to deliberate on issues surrounding personal data protection, **expanded its mandate to include discussions on non-personal data**, thereby changing the mandate of the Bill from **personal data protection to broader data protection**.

❖ Key Recommendation

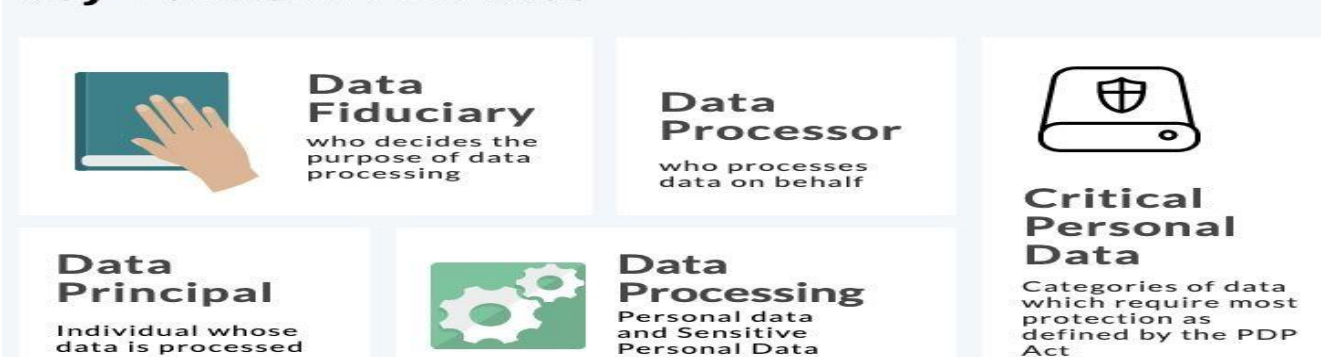
- **Non-Personal:** The nature of the Bill itself is for **inclusion of non-personal data** within the larger umbrella. All issues under the new legislation will be dealt with by a **single Data Protection Authority (DPA)** instead of separate ones for personal and non-personal.
- **Transition Period:** To ensure that all such data aggregators get ample time to comply with the rules under the new Bill, the JCP suggested that up to **24 months be given from the date of notification of the Act**.
- **Social Media Liability:** Social media platforms that do not act as intermediaries should be **treated as publishers**, and therefore be held liable for the content they host.
- **Penalty:** A fine of **up to Rs 15 crore** or **4% of the total global turnover** of the firm for data breaches, and a **jail term of up to 3 years** if de-identified data is re-identified.
- **Timely Alert:** In case of any data breach, the data aggregator **must notify the DPA within 72 hours** of becoming aware of it.

❖ About Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019

- The genesis of this Bill lies in the report prepared by a Committee of Experts headed by **Justice B.N. Srikrishna**.
- The committee was constituted by the government in the course of hearings before the Supreme Court in the **right to privacy case (Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India)**.
- The Bill trifurcates data as follows:
 - **Personal data:** Data from which an individual can be identified like name, address etc..
 - **Sensitive personal data (SPD):** Some types of personal data like as financial, health, sexual orientation, **biometric**, genetic, transgender status, caste, religious belief, and more.
 - **Critical personal data:** Anything that the **government at any time can deem critical**, such as military or national security data.

- It **removes the requirement of data mirroring** (in case of personal data). Only individual consent for data transfer abroad is required.
- It seeks sensitive **personal data to be stored only in India**. It **can be processed abroad only under certain conditions** which need to have approval of a Data Protection Agency (DPA).
- **Critical personal data must be stored and processed in India.**
- The bill also **requires fiduciaries to provide the government any non-personal data when demanded**.
- Social Media Companies are **mandated to develop their own verification mechanism**.
- An independent regulator **Data Protection Agency (DPA)** will oversee assessments and audits and definition making.
- Each company will have a **Data Protection Officer (DPO)** who will liaison with the DPA for auditing, grievance redressal, recording maintenance and more.
- **The right to be forgotten:** This right allows an individual to remove consent for data collection and disclosure.

Key Terms in PDP Act



Biological Diversity Act, 2002

❖ Context

- Environmentalists have **expressed concern over amendments to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002** on the grounds that it **prioritises intellectual property and commercial trade** at the expense of the Act's key aim of conserving biological resources.

❖ Key Highlights

Face to Face Centres

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20 December, 2021

- **Heavy “Compliance Burden:-** The amended Bill was drafted in response to **complaints by traditional Indian medicine practitioners, seed sector, and industry and researchers** that the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which was enacted for conservation of biological diversity and ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources with indigenous and local communities, imposed a heavy “compliance burden” and made it hard to conduct collaborative research and investments and simplify patent application processes.
- It proposes to “**widen the scope of levying access and benefit sharing with local communities** and for further conservation of biological resources.”
- The Bill seeks to **exempt registered AYUSH medical practitioners and people** accessing codified traditional knowledge, among others, from giving **prior intimation to State biodiversity boards** for accessing biological resources for certain purposes.
- It also **allows for foreign investment in research in biodiversity** which requires the **approval from the National Biodiversity Authority**.
- It proposes to **decriminalise some provisions in the chain of biological resources** so that it could show the conformity with India’s ratification of **Nagoya Protocol**.

❖ Bio-Diversity Act 2002

- **Regulation** of access to biological resources of the country
- **Conservation and sustainability** of biological diversity
- **Protecting the knowledge of local communities** regarding biodiversity
- **Secure sharing of benefits** with local people
- **Protection and rehabilitation of threatened species**
- Any offence under this Act is **non-bailable and cognizable**.
- The act provide a **three-tier structure to regulate the access to biological resources**:
 - **The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**
 - **The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)**
 - **The Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)** (at local level)

❖ Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol on **Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization** to the Convention on Biological Diversity, also known as the **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**

- It is a **2010 supplementary agreement to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- When an Indian or foreign company or individual accesses biological resources such as medicinal plants and associated knowledge, it has to take **prior consent from the national biodiversity board**.
- The board can impose a **royalty/fee/conditions** so that the company shares the monetary benefit from commercial utilisation of these resources with local people who are conserving biodiversity in the region.
- **Ratified by 97 parties (among them 96 is UN members)**
- **India signed the Nagoya Protocol in 2011 and ratified it in October 2012 (at COP 11)**

Card Tokenization

❖ Context

- Industries and bankers have raised concern that RBI’s push towards card tokenization may hit companies, e-commerce firms, food delivery firms while increasing the use of cash.
- RBI in March 2020 had issued guidelines that the merchants would not be allowed to save card information on their websites
- RBI in Sep 21 gave companies time till 31.12.2021 to comply with the regulations and offered tokenization as option

❖ Key Highlights

- Tokenization is a process by which card details are replaced by a unique code or token, generated by an algorithm, allowing online purchases to go through without exposing card details, in a bid to improve data security.
- The RBI has ordered all companies in India to purge saved credit and debit card data from their systems from January 1.

How does payment tokenization work?



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National Clean Air Programme

❖ Context

- The **National Apex Committee** of NCAP conducted its first meeting under the **chairmanship of Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- Since different cities have different set of factors contributing to air pollution in that region, it had been discussed to focus on **airshed management**

❖ Key Highlights

- NCAP scheme was **launched in 2019**
- Objective is to reduce PM air pollution by **20-30% by 2024**, taking 2017 as base year
- Being implemented in 132 cities, non-conforming to **National ambient air quality standards (NAAQS)** consecutively for 5 years
- Out of 132 cities, 124 are 34 MN plus cities/urban agglomerations identified by 15th Finance commission
- 8 other 1 MN plus cities are also covered under 15th Finance commission performance based grant
- NCAP focuses on preparation and implementation of national level action plans, state level action plan and city level action plans of 132 cities
- **PRANA** - A National portal for monitoring the progress, providing information related to the scheme and regulating air pollution in non-attainment cities has also been launched by the Ministry recently.

❖ Airshed

- Airshed consists of a **geographical unit of air** having **common flow** with respect to dispersion of emissions due to **topography** and **meteorological constraints**
- **Airshed management** planning is a **collaborative approach** to air quality management usually involving a variety of stakeholders that includes the public, industry and local governments.
- The airshed management planning approach recognizes that poor air quality can often be the result of the cumulative impact of a multitude of activities and emission sources (regulated and unregulated), and this is often exacerbated by topographical and meteorological conditions that do not allow dispersion of pollutants.

Nord Stream 2

❖ Context

- Germany has warned that it won't open the Nord Stream if Russia invades Ukraine.

❖ Key Highlights

- The \$ 12 BN Baltic Sea pipeline connecting Russia with Germany is set to double supplies of cheap natural gas from Russia to Germany needed to help it transition from coal and nuclear energy.
- Nord Stream 2 was completed in September but is waiting for approval of German authorities. The pipeline would then also have to be approved by the European Commission.

❖ Countries bordering Baltic Sea

- Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Russia



News in Between the Lines



Competition Commission of India

❖ Context

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has withdrawn approval for Amazon's investment in **Future Coupons Private Ltd.** that was granted in 2019.
- The CCI said it has concluded that **Amazon "misled" the regulator** about its intentions regarding its investment in FCPL.

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Competition Commission of India (CCI)



❖ About CCI

- The Commission was established in 2003 as a statutory authority although it became fully functional only by 2009.
- The CCI acts as the competition regulator in India.
- It aims at establishing a competitive environment in the Indian economy through proactive engagement with all the stakeholders, the government, and international jurisdiction.
- The objectives of the Commission are:
 - To prevent practices that harm the competition.
 - To promote and sustain competition in markets.
 - To protect the interests of consumers. To ensure freedom of trade.
- **Composition: A Chairperson and 6 Members** appointed by the Central Government.
- The Competition Act, 2007, was enacted after amending Competition Act, 2002, which led to the establishment of the CCI and the Competition Appellate Tribunal (which was replaced with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in 2017).

Ramna Kali Temple



❖ Context

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the reconstructed Ramna Kali temple in Ramna, a part of the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka.

❖ Key Highlights

- The temple dedicated to the Goddess Kali, is believed to have been built during the Mughal period which is around 400 year old.
- It is difficult to identify exactly who built it.
- The temple gained prominence in the early 20th century when the renowned saint Ma Anandamayi built her ashram in its precincts.
- The temple was destroyed by Pakistani forces during their Operation Searchlight in March 1971.
- After Bangladesh threw off Pakistan's yoke, a small temple was set up at the site for people to offer prayers.
- A reconstruction of the complex was announced in 2017, when then External Affairs Minister, the late Sushma Swaraj, inaugurated 15 development projects in Baridhara, Dhaka.

Agni-P Missile



❖ Context

- New generation nuclear capable ballistic missile AgniP was successfully tested from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is land off the coast of Odisha by DRDO.

➤ Key Highlights

- This is the second test of the missile. The first test took place in June.
- The 'Agni P' is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.
- Canisterisation of missiles reduces the time required to launch the missile while improving the storage and ease of handling.
- Range:- 2000 KM

Shot in the arm

► Agni-P's range of 1,000–2,000 km is too short to reach targets in China's mainland, but can cover all of Pakistan's territory

► Being a canisterised missile, it can be transported easily and fired at very short notice

► It will replace the Prithvi, Agni-1 and Agni-2 missiles in India's arsenal that were built two decades ago with tech now considered obsolete

► It will enter service as a two-stage, solid propellant missile. Both stages will have composite rocket motors and guidance systems with electro-mechanical actuators

► Agni-P and Agni-5 originate from the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme launched by then DRDO chief Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in the early 1980s

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‘Prashasan Gaon ki Aur’



❖ Context

- DARPG (M/o Personnel, Public grievances & Pensions) is celebrating **Good Governance week** from 20-25 Dec, 2021 as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav in collaboration with MEA, DPIIT & Ministry of Panchayati Raj & Rural Development

❖ Key Highlights

- The theme of Good Governance week is **‘Prashasan ki aur’** - a nationwide campaign for redressal of public grievances and improving service delivery in all districts, States & UTs
- District Collectors will visit Tehsil/Panchayat Samiti Headquarters to provide timely grievance redressal
- The campaign is expected to create a national movement for good governance and future generations

CADS-500



❖ Context

- ADRDE (Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment, Agra), and R&D lab of DRDO, conducted successful flight demonstration of a controlled aerial delivery system of 500 kg capacity

❖ Key Highlights

- The system performance was demonstrated at Dropzone, Malpura, Tonk Dist, from an altitude of 5000 m.
- The system was **paradropped** from AN32 aircraft and then steered autonomously with its onboard electronics unit to **predesignated landing point** by making use of maneuverable capabilities of **Ram Air Parachute**
- It uses GPS for the coordinates, altitude and heading sensors for the heading information during the flight

MORMUGAO



❖ Context

- Indian navy's **second indigeous destroyer** of **Project 15B class** begins sea trials on the occasion of **Goa Liberation Day**.
- The Indian navy played a pivotal role in Goa's liberation. Thus, the ship's name has been dedicated to Goa

❖ Key Highlights

- Project - 15 (Bravo) aka **Visakhapatnam class destroyer**, a class of guided missile destroyer being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd under Make in India.
- It is the largest ever destroyer being built in India
- The first vessel, **INS Visakhapatnam**, was commissioned in Nov, 2021

Manohari Gold Tea



❖ Context

- A rare variety of Assam tea called **Manohari Gold Tea** set a record, as it was auctioned at a record price of Rs **99,999/ kg**. this was **33%** higher than the price last year when it was sold for Rs **75,000/kg**.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Manohari Gold Tea** is produced by **Manohari Tea Estate**. It is produced in **upper Dibrugarh district of Assam**. **Golden Butterfly Tea** is a rare variety of handmade Assam tea, produced by **Dikom Tea Estate of Rossell Tea Industries**.
- **about:** Many types of **antioxidants** are found in this tea. Apart from this, they contain **bioactive compounds** that help in controlling the effects of **ageing and obesity**.
- Its colour is light beige and the leaves are plucked along with the buds. only soft golden tops go into making this **exceptionally rare and special tea**. It has an **extremely mellow and sweet caramel flavour**.

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