

NEWS TODAY

DRAFT OF DATA EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION ARCHITECTURE (DEPA) RELEASED BY NITI AAYOG

• DEPA is a **new Indian model of data governance** - one that is evolving, and targets individual empowerment, economic recovery and growth, and a competitive data democracy.

• DEPA seeks to **shift personal data management from current organisation-centric data sharing system to an individual centric approach** that promotes user control on data sharing for empowerment.

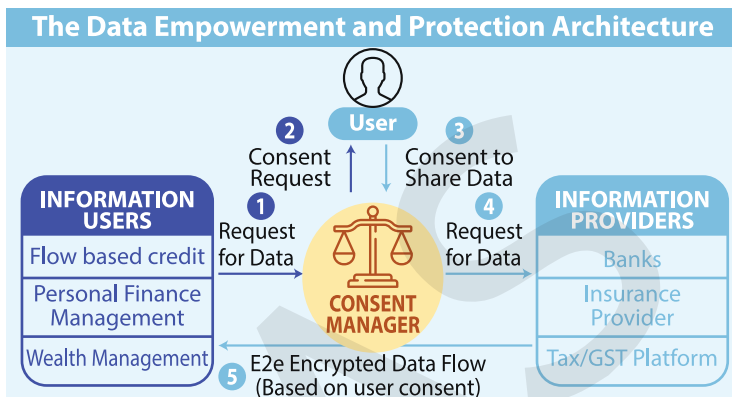
> It seeks to do this by operationalising an evolvable regulatory, institutional, and technology design for secure data sharing (see infographic).

• DEPA aims to be a **joint public-private effort for a new and improved data governance approach**.

> A private consent manager institution will ensure **that individuals can provide consent for every piece of data shared securely**.

• **Guiding principles of DEPA:** rights to user to manage data, informed consent of user, accountability of institutions holding data, ease in accessibility and affordability etc.

• DEPA is going live in the financial sector in 2020 under the joint leadership of the Ministry of Finance, RBI, PFRDA, IRDAI, and SEBI. Based on the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 and the planned Data Protection Authority, DEPA is on the road to be applied in other sectors - eg. health and telecom sector.



ASI DECLARES SITE AND REMAINS AT BAGHPAT, UTTAR PRADESH TO BE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

• Archaeological site and remains means any area which contains or is, reasonably believed to **contain ruins or relics of historical or archaeological importance**, which have been in **existence for not less than one hundred years**.

• **National importance** tag puts sites on world tourism map, and ensure them regular fund for conservation, preservation and maintenance by ASI on priority basis.

• Treasures unearthed from Baghpat site include three chariots, legged coffins, shields, sword and helmets which point towards a warrior class that may have existed around 2,000 BCE.

> Discovery of a horse chariot would **challenge historians who support Aryan invasion theory**.

➤ Theory claim that horses were brought in by invading Aryan army around 1500 to 1000 BCE.

➤ Chariots pulled by **horses had given Aryans edge over Dravidians** to conquer North Indian plains.

> Other supporting evidence is **domesticated horse bones found at Surkotda**, mature Harappan site.

• ASI, under Ministry of Culture, is premier **organization for archaeological researches and protection of cultural heritage of nation**.

TOP OTT (OVER-THE-TOP) PLAYERS PICK OMBUDSMAN MODEL FOR COMPLAINTS

• 15 OTT major players have agreed to implement a **universal self-regulation code** overseen by an ombudsman to address complaints related to content.

• **Key features of framework:**

> Each **platform will set up a consumer complaints department** and advisory panel to deal with complaints and appeals.

> **Transparent, structured grievance redressal** mechanism for reporting noncompliance with guidelines.

> Includes **framework for age classification and content description**.

• Code was drafted after government **asked OTT media services to regulate themselves**.

> Out of five different media -**print, radio, TV, films and OTT**-only **OTT is unregulated** while others have certain kinds of regulatory practices.

> Also, content released on **OTT platforms don't require certification from Central Board of Film Certification**.

• OTT refers to **film and television content provided via a high-speed Internet connection** rather than a cable or satellite provider.

> OTT video streaming market in India is set **to touch \$5 billion by 2023**.

• I&B ministry along with the Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology will organise a meeting with stakeholders to discuss regulating and certifying online content.

RAJYA SABHA (RS) CHAIRMAN CALLS FOR 2-YEAR FIXED TENURE FOR HOUSE PANELS

• Due to the pandemic **significant amount of the tenure of Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSCs)** was lost due to the pandemic.

• **Thus, two options are being looked at:** one, to extend the term of the panels for a year, and second, to form new committees with a fixed tenure of two years.

> At present tenure of PSC is one year.

• Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSCs) are **permanent and regular committees which are constituted from time to time**.

> Main **objective of the PSCs** is to secure more accountability of the Executive to the Parliament, particularly financial accountability. They also **assist the Parliament in debating the budget more effectively**.

• PSCs draw their authority from **Article 105** (on privileges of Parliament members) and **Article 118** (on Parliament's authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business).

• Parliament is **not bound by the recommendations of committees**.

On the basis of the nature of functions performed by them, **standing committees can be classified into the six categories:**

- Financial Committees
- Departmental Standing Committees- related to Ministries/Departments.
- Committees to Inquire
- Committees to Scrutinise and Control
- Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House
- House-Keeping Committees or Service Committees

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) RELEASED REVISED PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING GUIDELINES

- Revised guidelines are aimed at aligning them with emerging national priorities and bring sharper focus on inclusive development.
 - Under PSL, **RBI mandates banks to lend a certain portion of their funds to specified sectors-** agriculture, MSMEs, export credit, social infrastructure etc.
- Features of revised PSL guidelines:**
 - To address regional disparities,** higher weightage assigned to incremental priority sector credit in identified districts where priority sector credit flow is comparatively low (per capita PSL less than ₹6,000).
 - New categories added:** Loans up to **₹50 crores to start-ups**, loans to **farmers for installation of solar power plants** for solarisation of grid-connected agriculture pumps; loans for setting up Compressed BioGas plants
 - Credit limit for health infrastructure** (including those under Ayushman Bharat) has been doubled to ₹10 crore in Tier II to Tier VI centres.
 - Loans for **small and marginal farmers and weaker sections are being increased** in a phased manner.
 - Higher credit limit has been specified** for Farmers Producers Organisations /Farmers Producers Companies.
 - Loan limits for renewable energy projects have been doubled** to ₹30 crore. For individual households, limit will be ₹10 lakh per borrower.

ALSO IN NEWS

INDRA NAVY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy. It is scheduled in the Bay of Bengal from 04 to 05 September 2020. Exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between the two navies. It would involve surface and anti-aircraft drills, firing exercises, helicopter operations, seamanship evolutions etc.
Japan made India and Bangladesh part of a larger subsidy programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program is aimed at helping Japanese companies in China to relocate to other countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially it was announced for mostly South-East Asian countries including Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar. There are over 31,000 Japanese business establishments in China compared with about 5,100 in India. Japanese companies in China wants to relocate due to growing economic uncertainty in that country post Covid-19 pandemic and its worsening relations with the US and some other nations.
Anti-dumping duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has imposed anti-dumping duty on anti-bacterial drug Ciprofloxacin imported from China. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per notification, if the drug has origin in any other country but export taking place from China, then also it will attract anti-dumping duty. Anti-dumping duty is imposed when a country or a firm exports an item into the country at a price lower than the price of the product in its domestic market. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It impacts the price of the product in the importing country, hitting margins and profits of manufacturing firms.
Government revises list of mines to be auctioned for commercial mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the revised list 38 blocks would go for auction, instead of 41 mines announced earlier. Revised list includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of Dolesara, Jarekela and Jharpalam-Tangarghat (in Chhattisgarh), Withdrawal of Morga South, Fatehpur, Madanpur, Morga-II and Sayang (in Chhattisgarh). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are in ecologically sensitive zone near Hasdeo river (Tributary of Mahanadi). Earlier, Bander mine (in Maharashtra) was withdrawn from the list of 41 coal blocks as it lies in eco sensitive zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.
Assam Rifles (AR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delhi High Court has granted 12 weeks to the Union government to decide on whether to scrap or retain dual control structure for AR. AR, at present, is controlled by Defence Ministry as well as Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). AR (founded in 1835) primary role is to protect North-eastern border. Other 6 Central Armed Police Forces are: Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police, National Security Guard, Sashastra Seema Bal.
Special Frontier Force (SFF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to some reports SFF, referred to as Vikas Battalion, has been instrumental in occupying some key heights on Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in Ladakh. SFF was raised in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war. It was a covert outfit which recruited Tibetans (now it has a mixture of Tibetans and Gorkhas). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat. It is nicknamed Establishment 22. SFF units are not part of the Army but they function under operational control of the Army
Act of god or force majeure clause (FMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A force majeure clause releases a party of its obligations to a contract to an extent when events beyond their control take place and leave them unable to perform their part of the contract. Finance Ministry had issued memorandum clarifying that COVID-19 pandemic "should be considered a case of natural calamity and FMC may be invoked, wherever considered appropriate". FMC includes both naturally occurring events and events that occur due to human intervention.

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