

GS-II- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

1. What does Data Localization mean? India has to walk on the tight rope to ensure that data localization is not data protectionism. Comment.

Why this question:

- ✚ The recent furore over data localization in social and print media over the claim that the provisions in Draft Personal Data Protection Bill are being watered down.

Demand of the question:

- ✚ First give the explanation of data localisation.
- ✚ Then write the need of data localisation and mention the policies where data localisation is mandated.
- ✚ Explain data protectionism and then write why Indian data localisation is not data protectionism.
- ✚ Also list out key issues that arise out due to localisation and measures to address it.

Directive word:

- ✚ When you are asked to comment, you have to pick main points and give your 'opinion' on them based on evidences or arguments stemming from your wide reading. Your opinion may be for or against, but you must back your argument with evidences.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

- ✚ Write the definition of data localisation and write why it has gained hype recent days.

Body:

- ✚ Give a worldwide perspective of data localisation and write its various forms in those countries.
- ✚ Write the need of data localisation in India and its benefits.
- ✚ Write various policies and recommendations backing it.
- ✚ Quote key features of the Data protection bill and write its shortcomings.
- ✚ Write the various features that gets impacted due to data localisation.

- ✚ Give suggestions (like adequacy test, conditional transfer, restrictions on critical info...) to make sure that the idea of data localisation doesn't extend to data protectionism.

Conclusion:

- ✚ Conclude with way ahead by quoting suitable safeguards that makes sure that localisation measures doesn't end up as protectionism.

