

5. EU's Data Strategy

Prelims Syllabus: Science & Technology - Information Technology

Mains Syllabus: GS-III Science and Technology - developments and their Applications and effects in everyday life Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of Technology and developing New Technology.

Why in News?

- The European Commission has released a 'European strategy for data to ensure the human-centric development of Artificial Intelligence' and a white paper on Artificial Intelligence.

Highlights:

- The new documents present a timeline for various projects, legislative frameworks, and initiatives by the European Union, and represent its recognition that it is slipping behind American and Chinese innovation.
- The strategy lays out "why the EU should act now". The blueprint hopes to strengthen Europe's local technology market by creating a "data single market" by 2030 to allow the free flow of data within the EU.
- To aid a "data-agile economy", the Commission hopes to implement an enabling legislative framework for the governance of common European data spaces by the latter half of the year.
- Between 2021 and 2027, the Commission will invest in a High Impact Project to jump-start data infrastructure. Several other initiatives are laid out, including a cloud services marketplace.

Reason for the Policy:

- The EU has the potential to be successful in the data-agile economy. It has the technology, the know-how and a highly skilled workforce. However, competitors such as China and the US are already innovating quickly and projecting their concepts of data access and use across the globe.
- With American and Chinese companies taking the lead on technological innovation, Europe is keen to up its own competitiveness.

Indian Context:

- The Economic Survey of 2018 envisioned a similar use of non-personal data. Just as the EU's strategy discusses "data for public good", the chapter titled "Data 'Of the People, By

the People, For the People” advocated that the government step in to sectors that private players ignore, marking the first time India’s Economic Survey has isolated “data” as a strategic focus.

- Other data integration efforts have been announced or implemented by NITI Aayog (the National Data & Analytics Platform), the Smart Cities Mission (India Urban Data Exchange), and the Ministry of Rural Development (DISHA dashboard).
- In 2018, the National Informatics Centre worked with PwC and other vendors to create a Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics aimed at providing data analysis help to Government Departments.

