



सत्यमेव जयते

MINISTRY OF
**ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK POLICY (DRAFT)

MAY 2022

1. Preamble

- 1.1 Digitization of government, governance and economy is progressing at a rapid pace. India's unique platformization strategy is showing the world how public service delivery and governance can be transformed at scale through public digital platforms. These public digital platforms are empowering citizens, enhancing government-citizen engagement, driving data-driven governance, and leading to inclusive development.
- 1.2 Through world's largest public digital platforms, India is becoming the world's pre-eminent country in deploying technology for transforming people's lives, improving governance and creating vibrant innovation Eco- systems. During COVID-19 pandemic, Digital Governance played a big part in India's resilient response to the pandemic and its impact on lives, livelihoods, and the economy.
- 1.3 In the post-COVID-19 era, this digitization of government is accelerating faster. With this accelerated digitization, the volume and velocity of data generated is also increasing exponentially. This data can be used in turn to improve citizens' experience and engagement with the government and governance as a Digital Nagrik.
- 1.4 However, the Digital Government data is currently managed, stored and accessed in differing and inconsistent ways across different government entities, thus attenuating the efficacy of data-driven governance, and preventing an innovative ecosystem of data science, analytics and AI from emerging to its full potential. The power of this data must be harnessed for more effective Digital Government, public good and innovation, thus requiring a National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP).
- 1.5 Digital Government has at its core delivering better and more responsive Governance to citizens of India. This in turn depends on being able to adopt a data-driven approach towards governance, program evaluation and service delivery. Considering this, data-led governance is a cornerstone of government's Digital Government vision.
- 1.6 This Policy aims to realize the full potential of Digital Government with the aim of maximising data-led governance and catalysing data-based innovation that can transform government services and their delivery to citizens, especially in areas of social importance that include agriculture, healthcare, law and justice, education, amongst others.
- 1.7 This policy also launches non-personal data based India Datasets program and addresses the methods and rules to ensure that non-personal data and anonymized data from both Government and Private entities are safely accessible by Research and Innovation eco-system.

2. Objectives & Purpose of Policy

- 2.1 **To transform and modernize Governments data collection and management processes and systems** through standardised guidelines, rules and standards for the collection, processing, storage, access, and use of Government data – with the objective of improving governance through a whole-of-government approach towards data-led governance.
- 2.2 To enable and catalyze vibrant AI and Data led research and Start-up ecosystem, by creating a large repository of India datasets. This will be achieved by establishing guidelines, rules and standards to build and access to anonymised non personal data to ensure the growth of Indian datasets. This will be the catalyst for Artificial Intelligence and analytics ecosystem, which in turn would be kinetic enablers of India's digital economy.
- 2.3 **Objectives of the NDGFP are:**
 - (a) To accelerate Digital Governance.
 - (b) To have standardized data management and security standards across whole of Government;
 - (c) To accelerate creation of common standard based public digital platforms while ensuring privacy, safety, and trust;
 - (d) To have standard APIs and other tech standards for Whole of Government Data management and access.
 - (e) To promote transparency, accountability, and ownership in Non-personal data and Datasets access. For purposes of safety and trust, any non-personal data sharing by any entity can be only via platforms designated and authorised by IDMO.
 - (f) To build a platform that will allow Dataset requests to be received and processed.
 - (g) To build Digital Government goals and capacity, knowledge and competency in Government departments and entities.
 - (h) To set quality standards and promote expansion of India Datasets program and overall non-personal Datasets Ecosystem.
 - (i) To ensure greater citizen awareness, participation, and engagement.

3. Applicability

- 3.1 This Policy shall be applicable to all Government departments and entities and rules and standards prescribed will cover all data collected and being managed by any Government entity,
- 3.2 This policy shall be applicable to all non-personal datasets and data and platform, rules, standards governing its access and use by researchers and Start-ups.
- 3.3 State Governments shall be encouraged to adopt the provisions of the Policy and rules, standards, and protocols as applicable.

4. Data Privacy & Security

- 4.1 The NDGFP standards and rules will ensure Data security and informational privacy



5. Institutional Framework

- 5.1 An “India Data Management Office (IDMO)” shall be set up under the Digital India Corporation (“DIC”) under MeitY and shall be responsible for framing, managing and periodically reviewing and revising the Policy. The IDMO shall be responsible for developing rules, standards, and guidelines under this Policy that shall be published periodically.
- 5.2 The IDMO shall formulate all data/datasets/metadata rules, standards, and guidelines in consultation with Ministries, State Governments, and industry. The IDMO shall conduct at least 2 semi-annual consultations and report carding for this purpose with representation from State Governments and industry.
- 5.3 IDMO will design and manage the India Datasets platform that will process requests and provide access to the non-personal and/or anonymized datasets to Indian researchers and Start-ups.
- 5.4 The IDMO shall coordinate closely with line Ministries, State Governments, and other schematic programs to standardize data management by building up capacity and capabilities in each Ministry. Further it will accelerate inclusion of non-personal datasets housed with ministries and private companies into the India Datasets program
- 5.5 The IDMO shall also encourage and foster the data and AI-based Research, start-up eco-systems by working with the Digital India Start-up Hub (the erstwhile MSH).
- 5.6 Every Ministry/Department shall have Data Management Units (“DMUs”) headed by a designated CDO who shall work closely with the IDMO for ensuring implementation of the Policy.
- 5.7 The IDMO shall be staffed at DIC by a dedicated government data management and analytics unit
- 5.8 State Governments also would be encouraged to designate/appoint State- Level Data Officers and IDMO shall provide all assistance including training in this regard.



6. Role of India Data Management Office (IDMO)

- 6.1 **Data Storage & Retention:** A comprehensive and evolving set of standards and rules would be developed and provided by IDMO, including on the cloud - to help Ministries/Departments define their data storage and retention framework.
- 6.2 **Government-to-Government Data Access:** Standard mechanism for inter-government data access shall be developed by the IDMO. All Government Ministries/ Departments shall create detailed, searchable data inventories with clear metadata and data dictionaries for government-to- government data access.
- 6.3 **India Datasets Program:** IDMO will enable and build the India Datasets program, which will consist of Non-personal and anonymized datasets from the Government entities that have collected data from Indian citizens or those in India. Private entities will be encouraged to share such data.
- 6.4 **Identification of Datasets:** The IDMO shall prescribe rules and standards including Anonymization standards for all entities (Govt and private) that deal with data that will cause every Government Ministry / Department / Organisation to identify and classify available datasets and build a vibrant, diverse and large base of datasets for research and innovation. Private companies can also create Datasets and contribute to India Datasets program
- 6.5 **Data Anonymisation:** IDMO will set and publish Data anonymization standards and rules to ensure informational privacy is maintained
- 6.6 **Data Quality & Meta-Data Standards:** IDMO shall finalise meta-data and data standards that cut across sectors. The IDMO shall oversee the publishing of and compliance to domain-specific meta-data and data quality standards by line Ministries/Departments. These standards will be finalized in consultation with ministries and CDOs
- 6.7 **Datasets access Platforms:** The IDMO shall design, operate and manage the Datasets Access platform for whole of Government. All datasets in the India Datasets program can only be accessed through this and any other IDMO designated and authorized platforms.
- 6.8 **Datasets Access and availability:** The IDMO shall notify protocols for sharing of non-personal datasets while ensuring privacy, security and trust. The IDMO will notify rules to provide data on priority/ exclusively to Indian/ India based requesting entities. The IDMO will also judge the genuineness and validity of data usage requests, for datasets other than those already made available on Open Data portal.
- 6.9 **Limits to Data Requests:** The IDMO will retain the rights to decide whether requesting entities may be allowed access to full databases/ datasets or combinations thereof, for their use cases

- 6.10 **Usage Rights:** The IDMO may ensure that data usage rights along with permissioned purposes to be with the Data Principal.
- 6.11 **Disclosure Norms:** IDMO will formulate disclosure norms for data collected/ stored/ shared and accessed over a certain threshold.
- 6.12 **Capacity & Skill Building:** The IDMO shall support holistic and comprehensive capacity building initiatives for officials in all government agencies to build data and digital literacy, knowledge, and skills. The IDMO shall also assist in setting up DMUs in Ministries and Departments to create dedicated capacity for data management.
- 6.13 **Ethical and Fair Use of Data:** The IDMO shall define the principles for ethical and fair use of data shared beyond the government ecosystem.
- 6.14 **Redressal Mechanism:** The IDMO shall institute a mechanism for citizens to request datasets, register grievances and establish responsibility of DMUs under the IDMO to respond in a timely manner, to facilitate transparent and accountable data sharing ecosystem.
- 6.15 **Policy Monitoring & Enforcement:** The IDMO will be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the NDGFP and rules and standards issued from time to time.
- 6.16 **Awareness Building:** The IDMO shall ensure adequate awareness building by sharing SOPs, FAQs, Operating Manuals and shall also ensure appropriate branding for quick adoption of the Policy.
- 6.17 **Implementation Manual:** The detailed implementation guidelines including the data sharing toolkit, operational manuals, mechanisms for data anonymization and privacy shall be brought out by the IDMO.
- 6.18 **User Charges:** The IDMO may decide to charge User charges/ Fees for its maintenance/ services.

7. Conclusion

The NDGFP is the first building block step of the Digital Government Architecture that in turn will accelerate Digital Governance to maximize data-driven governance. The NDGFP shall provide greater scope for better, more informed decision making, enhanced program/scheme evaluation and more efficient service delivery. NDGFP will also serve to catalyse the Data and AI start-up and innovation Ecosystem by helping create and access to anonymized and non-personal data sets that will in turn spur research, innovation and growth of the Indian Data and AI based research and startup Ecosystem.



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