Data Embassies

February 15, 2023

In news– The Union budget 2023-24 has proposed to facilitate setting up of data embassies.

About data embassy-

- A data embassy is **a solution implemented by nation-states to ensure a country's digital continuity with particular respect to critical databases.**
- It **consists of a set of servers that store one country's data** and are under that country's jurisdiction while being located in another country.
- **Data embassies create a new approach to securing data by leveraging diplomatic agreements bolstered by cloud technology solutions.**
- According to a Google Cloud blog post, small countries around the world are turning to the concept of data embassies because they are in need of sovereign and resilient infrastructure.
- Cloud computing is being quickly embraced by businesses for its speed, scale, and financial advantages. Governments are doing the same.
- In 2015, Microsoft and Estonia, one of the world's most mature countries in digital administration, partnered on the virtual data embassy research project.
- Luxembourg, Monaco and some other nations have adopted the data embassy model.

WHAT ARE DATA EMBASSIES?

▶ **A data embassy enables a country to host a backup of its most critical data and services** in data centres abroad, from where it can be recovered in extreme disaster scenarios

▶ **They have diplomatic immunity: Data embassies enjoy diplomatic immunity from local laws,** on the principles of The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations that grants diplomatic agents safe passage and freedom of travel in a foreign land and protection from local lawsuits and prosecution

▶ **Estonia was the 1st country to establish** a data embassy in Luxembourg in 2017

▶ **The Kingdom of Bahrain introduced a legislation in 2018 that says data on the cloud should be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction** of the data principal's domicile country