

Personal Data Protection Bill

August 15, 2022

In news- The Union government has recently withdrawn the Personal Data Protection Bill from Parliament to replace it with a new bill with a 'comprehensive framework' and 'contemporary digital privacy laws.

Reasons for withdrawing the bill-

- The Bill 2019 was deliberated in great detail by the Joint Committee of Parliament. **81 amendments were proposed and 12 recommendations were made towards a comprehensive legal framework** on the digital ecosystem.
- Hence, in the circumstances, **it is proposed to withdraw 'The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019' and present a new Bill that fits into the comprehensive legal framework."**
- The Bill was also seen as being too **"compliance intensive"** by startups of the country.
- According to government sources, **the revamped Bill will be much easier to comply with, especially for startups.**

About the bill-

- The PDP bill **was first introduced in Lok Sabha on December 11, 2019.**
- A data protection law for India has been in the works since 2018, when a **panel led by Justice Srikrishna, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, drew up a draft version of a Bill.**
- The bill was **referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee**, which tabled its report in Lok Sabha on December 16, 2021.
- The committee proposed a single law for dealing with both personal and non-personal datasets.
- The report was also under dispute as it suggested moving towards complete localisation of data.
- The withdrawn Bill had **proposed restrictions on the use**

of personal data without the explicit consent of citizens.

- It had also sought to provide the government with powers to give exemptions to its probe agencies from the provisions of the Act, a move that was strongly opposed by the opposition MPs who had filed their dissent notes.

Further

reading:

<https://journalsofindia.com/draft-personal-data-protection-bill-2019/>