## 1. Vision and policy intent

**Digital India** is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog’s **Strategy for New India** includes the vision of “data led governance and policy making” with all policy interventions and decision-making based on evidence and real-time data. This requires:

- Collecting data for new measurable parameters using latest technologies;
- Improving efficiencies in processes related to existing data collection by government departments and agencies;
- Expanding warehousing facilities for storing and integrating data;
- Making data available for industry practitioners, academicians, researchers, etc., wherever feasible; and
- Integrating data analysis and interactive data visualization into all policy formulation.

**Aspirational Districts and Blocks programme**, a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog, relies on real-time data collection for ranking indicators to foster competition, accountability and providing targeted support.

## 2. Data Management: policies, rules & institutions

The **National Statistical Commission** was constituted with effect from 12th July 2006 with a mandate to evolve policies, priorities and standards in statistical matters. The **National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP)** includes provisions for the collection of economic, social, demographic, scientific and environmental data. The **Central Statistical Office** (CSO) is the statistical arm of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Its functions include:

- Acting as the nodal agency for planned development of the statistical system.
- Coordinating the statistical work in respect of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and State Statistical Bureaus (SSBs).
- Advising the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India on statistical methodology and on statistical analysis of data.
- Compiling and releasing official statistics.
- Organizing and conducting periodic all-India Economic Censuses and large scale all-India sample surveys.
- Evaluation of sampling design in respect of surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisations and other Central Ministries and Departments.
- Liaison with international statistical organizations.

## 3. Data custodians and data stewardship

The **Collection of Statistics Act 2008** is the principal legislation for the collection of economic, social, demographic, scientific and environmental data. The **Central Statistical Office** (CSO) is the statistical arm of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Its functions include:

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- Organizing and conducting periodic all-India Economic Censuses and large scale all-India sample surveys.
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- Liaison with international statistical organizations.

## 4. Data sharing, accessibility and integration

The **National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)** streamlines data dissemination and provides access to standardized published government data sets from across India’s extensive administrative landscape in a user-centric manner. NDAP allows users to easily search, merge, visualize, and download datasets.

To implement the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), an **Open Government Data (OGD) Platform** has been developed by the National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. The Open Government Data platform provides open access by proactive release of the data available with various ministries/ departments/ organizations of Government of India. All datasets/resources including metadata published on the Open Government Data portal (data.gov.in) are licensed under the Government Open Data License - India which can be accessed here.

## 5. Data sharing, risks & mitigation

The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** received presidential assent in August 2023. Once effective, it will be the governing law on personal data protection in the country. The **Collection of Statistics Act 2008** is the principal legislation for the collection of economic, social, demographic, scientific and environmental data. Chapter III (Sections 9 to 14) of the Act deal with disclosure of information: “No person shall be permitted to see any information or records... who is not engaged in the collection of statistics under this Act.”

The Act also includes provisions for the release of information for bona fide research or statistical purposes. **Draft National Data Governance Policy**

Under this policy, the India Data Management Office will set and publish data anonymization standards and rules to ensure information privacy.

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Disclaimer: This profile was produced by ESCAP to illustrate differing data governance arrangements and practices and reflects the situation from when it was compiled. Refer to the country’s own website for the latest information.