



drishti

G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting

 drishtias.com/printpdf/g20-digital-economy-ministers-meeting

Why in News

Recently, a **virtual meeting of G20 Digital Economy Ministers** was hosted by **Saudi Arabia** in which Indian Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology represented India.

Saudi Arabia is holding the presidency of currently.

Key Points

- **Few major initiatives taken by India to tackle Covid-19 were highlighted:**
 - Early **lockdowns** which helped in curbing the spread of the virus as well as preparing for the upcoming challenges effectively.
 - **Digital innovations for managing Covid-19:**
Initiatives like **Aarogya Setu mobile app****Covid-19 Quarantine Alert System** (geofencing system for monitoring quarantined patients) and **Covid-19 Savdhan** (bulk messaging systems).
 - **Digital innovations for helping people in general:**
Direct Benefit Transfers and **digital payments** ensured that even the weakest in the society was provided various financial relief during the lockdown.

- **India Emphasised Upon:**

- Emerging technologies like **Artificial Intelligence** should be **leveraged for inclusive growth and development** especially in healthcare and education.
- In the wake of a **pandemic** like **Covid-19**, there is a need for **building a resilient global supply chain.**

India's potential as an attractive destination for investment

closely integrated with global supply chains was also brought into focus.

- All **digital platforms need to be accountable and sensitive** towards concerns related to defence and data privacy of citizens of sovereign countries.

The comments follow the **Indian government's move to ban 59**

Chinese applications citing a threat to national security and sovereignty.

- **India's Step for Data Protection:**

India is soon going to put in place a robust **personal data protection law (Personal Data Protection Bill 2019)** which will not only address the data privacy-related concerns of citizens but also ensure availability of data for innovation and economic development.

Way Forward

- The digital economy must go hand in hand with the data economy because data is an important component to accelerate the digital economy.
- There is a need to acknowledge who has sovereignty over data. Data must belong to the sovereign nation concerned, to protect the privacy of its people, to protect digital concerns for its people.
- Digital platforms having a presence in many countries must become trustworthy, safe and secure.
- Digital platforms anywhere in the world should be responsive and accountable towards the sovereign concerns of countries including defence, privacy and security of citizens.

Source: PIB