



## Open Data Week

**For Prelims:** Open Data and its advantages.

**For Mains:** Use of open data in urban planning.

### Why in News

Recently, the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has announced the initiation of the **Open Data Week** to encourage the adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.

- It is being conducted during the third week of January, i.e., **from 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022.**
- The idea is to provide a platform that offers ample opportunities on how to continue creating and promoting the use of data that **addresses complex urban issues**, such as the ongoing [Covid-19 pandemic](#).

### Key Points

- **About Open Data:**
  - Open data is data that can be **freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone** - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share alike. It can be understood under three broad categories:
    - **Availability and Access:** It is easily available at a minimal cost. It should also be available in a usable form.
    - **Re-use and Redistribution:** It is made available without any restriction on re-use and redistribution.
    - **Universal Participation:** Anyone and everyone can access and/or re-use it. There should be no discrimination against a person or group based on any criteria.
- **Advantages of Open Data in Urban Planning:**
  - **Transparency:** Greater transparency and integrity of the public sector. It enhances the possibility to **track public money flows and market insights.**
  - **Multi-dimensional Correlation:** It illuminates the **current and historical trends**, which can be correlated with information on **social, political, and environmental climates.**
  - **Action-Oriented Approach:** It provides the ability to **recognize, respond to, or even predict changes in real-time.**
    - Estimates of the impact of different types of change through modeling and simulation, and the ability to test those predictions with a **high accuracy** depending on the amount of data available.
    - Increased productivity via the streamlining of processes and services, by allowing

the **easy identification of inefficient or ineffective practices.**

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Reduction of **environmental impact** by simplifying the identification of its sources, and by aiding in the compliance of existing projects, services and infrastructure with environmental regulations.
- **Tailored solutions:** Allowing similar problems to be addressed across different legal frameworks and different demographics.
- **Democratization of Data:** It will allow information to be accessible to the average end-user.
  - It describes a methodological framework of values and actions that benefit and minimize any harm to the public or the typical user.

## Way Forward

- **Leveraging Contactless Infrastructure:** The building blocks for a scalable model to harvest mass data of Indians rapidly expand their digital footprint—especially in the aftermath of Covid-19.
  - India can leverage the contactless behaviour that is already in place.
  - [Aadhaar](#) provided the idea of a unique identity to over 1 billion people in India.
  - Inter-operable payments mechanism, such as the [Unified Payments Interface](#), or UPI, to give a new definition to financial transactions.
- **Consent to Use Personal Data:** There is a need for a legal architecture that provides data privacy protection and thereby propels governance towards **data democracy.**
  - In this context, the recommendations of [Justice BN Srikrishna](#) constituted for data privacy are hugely significant.
  - Such a law is very critical in defining the digital future of India, one in which the individual will be the centre.

[Source: PIB](#)

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