Polity & Governance · GS - III

Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - III	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

DPDP Act 2023, digital economy, personal data, consent, Data Principal, Data Fiduciary, rights, obligations, Data Protection Board, penalties

Model Answer

Introduction

The rapid expansion of India's digital economy and concerns regarding privacy, data misuse and cyber risks created the need for a comprehensive personal-data protection framework. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 seeks to regulate processing of digital personal data while enabling legitimate data use.

Body

1. Context

The Act emerged against the background of increasing digitalisation, growing volumes of personal data and the constitutional recognition of privacy as a fundamental right.

2. Salient Features

- Applies to processing of digital personal data in India, subject to specified conditions.
- Introduces **Data Principals**, whose personal data is processed, and **Data Fiduciaries**, who determine the purpose and means of processing.
- Establishes obligations relating to lawful processing, notice and consent.

- Provides rights to individuals, including access to information, correction and erasure, grievance redressal and nomination.
- Provides additional obligations for **Significant Data Fiduciaries**.
- Establishes the **Data Protection Board of India** for enforcement and adjudication.
- Provides financial penalties for specified breaches.
- Allows certain exemptions for specified legitimate purposes and circumstances.

Conclusion

The Act represents an important step towards establishing a formal data-governance framework for India's digital economy. Its effectiveness will ultimately depend on transparent enforcement, strong institutional capacity, meaningful individual rights and appropriate safeguards against misuse of personal data.

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