



21 February 2025

National and International News

Majorana 1	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft has unveiled Majorana 1, its first quantum computing chip, designed to make quantum computing more stable, faster, and practical. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quantum computing chip developed by Microsoft to enhance the stability and reliability of quantum processors. • Uses Majorana particles, a type of exotic quantum state, to minimize computational errors. • Developed By: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Microsoft, with validation from DARPA (U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency). ○ A finalist in DARPA's US2QC program, which aims to build the first large-scale quantum computer. • Significance of Majorana 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhanced Stability: Reduces computational errors, a major challenge in quantum computing. ○ Faster Problem-Solving: Capable of handling complex calculations exponentially faster than classical computers. ○ Revolutionizing Industries: Can accelerate drug discovery, optimize energy grids, and develop self-repairing materials. ○ Breakthrough in Quantum Research: Paves the way for practical quantum computing applications in AI, cybersecurity, and materials science. ○ Global Leadership in Quantum Computing: Strengthens Microsoft's position in the global quantum race, competing with tech giants like Google and IBM.
Ayushman Bharat Yojana	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that the Cabinet had decided in its first meeting to implement the Ayushman Bharat Yojana and address the 14 pending Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the world's largest health assurance scheme. • Year of Launch – 2018 as recommended by the National Health Policy, 2017 • Ministry - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) • Aim – To achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) which encompasses promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative care. • Funding – Centrally Sponsored Scheme (expenditure incurred in premium payment will be shared between Central and State)



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	<p>governments)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage - Targets over 10 crore families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) based on SECC (Socio-Economic Caste Census) • Implementing Agency – National Health Authority (NHA) • Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) – It was launched in 2021 to provide Unique Digital Health IDs (UHID) for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms, and citizens access health records electronically when required. <p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)
<p>PM internship scheme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) has reopened for applications with the launch of Round 2 of its pilot phase. • Following over 6 lakh applications in Round 1, Round 2 now offers more than 1 lakh internship opportunities in top companies across 730+ districts in India. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Internship Scheme is an initiative launched by the Indian government, designed to provide valuable internship opportunities for the youth of India. • It aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world experience by offering internships across the top 500 companies. • The pilot phase targets 1.25 lakh youth, with a five-year goal to facilitate internships for one crore young individuals. • Under this scheme, interns will be provided a monthly financial assistance of Rs 5,000 for 12 months and a one-time grant of Rs 6,000. • Eligibility Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candidates aged between 21 and 24 years and who are not engaged in full-time employment. ○ Internships are available to those who have passed class 10 or higher. ○ Individuals from families with government jobs are excluded. ○ It is not open to post-graduates. ○ A candidate who graduated from premier institutes such as IIT, IIM, or IISER, and those who have CA, or CMA qualification would not be eligible to apply for this internship. ○ Anyone from a household that includes a person who earned an income of Rs.8 lakh or more in 2023-24, will not be eligible.
<p>IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) stated that they must ensure "age-based classification of content" in accordance with the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media) guidelines.



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	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rules were notified by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. • The Rules provide the due diligence to be followed by an intermediary (including social media intermediary) while discharging its duties, Grievance Redressal Mechanism and Digital Media Code of Ethics. • Due Diligence by Intermediaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intermediaries must publish their rules, privacy policy, and user agreement on their website or mobile app. ○ They must modify content categories users cannot upload or share. ○ They should inform users about any changes to these rules, privacy policies, or agreements at least once a year. • Grievance Redressal Mechanism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The intermediary must display the Grievance Officer's name and contact details prominently. ○ A mechanism must be provided for users to file complaints about violations. ○ The Grievance Officer must acknowledge complaints within 24 hours and resolve them within 15 days. • Additional Due Diligence for Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SSMIs are defined as platforms enabling online interactions between users. ○ Intermediaries with registered users above a certain threshold are classified as SSMIs. ○ SSMIs must appoint a Chief Compliance Officer for ensuring compliance with the Act. ○ They must designate a contact person for 24×7 coordination with law enforcement. • Identifying the First Originator of Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SSMIs providing messaging services (like WhatsApp) must identify the first originator of information within India. ○ Ensuring Online Safety and Dignity of Users: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intermediaries must remove content exposing private areas, nudity, sexual acts, or impersonation (including morphed images) within 24 hours of receiving a complaint. ○ Complaints can be filed by the affected individual or by someone on their behalf. • Oversight Mechanism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall formulate an oversight mechanism. ○ It shall publish a charter for self-regulating bodies, including Codes of Practices. It shall establish an Inter-Departmental Committee for hearing grievances.
<p>Digital Data Personal Protection</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability rights activists in Delhi are forming a coalition to have a key



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(DPDP) Act, 2023

provision of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, either dropped or amended.

- Section 9(1) of the Act groups children with persons with disabilities (PwDs), requiring that even for disabled adults with legal guardians, consent for using personal data must be obtained from the guardian.

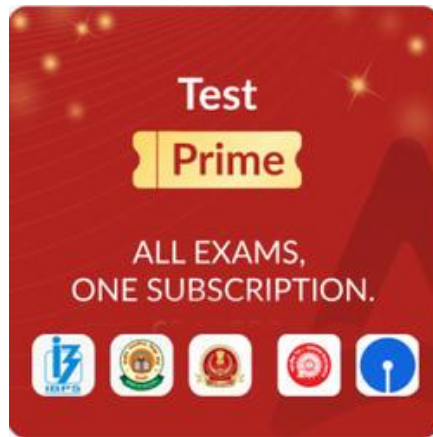
Key Points:

- The DPDP Act is a **legal framework introduced in India to safeguard the personal data of individuals and ensure that their data is shared only with their consent.**
- It regulates the processing of digital personal data and outlines various provisions to protect individuals' privacy in the digital age.
- **Applicability:**
 - It applies to the processing of digital personal data within the territory of India collected online or collected offline and later digitized.
 - It is also applicable to processing digital personal data outside the territory of India, if it involves providing goods or services to the data principals within the territory of India.
- **Evolution:**
 - The conceptual basis of the DPDP Act is the report of the Expert Committee set up under the chairmanship of Justice BN Srikrishna, which led to the introduction of the Personal Data Protection Act in 2019.
 - After several iterations and consultations, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, was introduced and subsequently passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- **Key Stakeholders:**
 - **Data Principal (DP): – the data owner.**
 - DP could be individuals or entities whose data is to be protected.
 - The DP has to give written consent to generate and process the data indicating the specific purpose of its use.
 - DP can withdraw the consent at any time or can restrict its use.
 - **Data Fiduciary– A data collecting, storing, and sharing entity.**
 - A data fiduciary also acts as a “Consent Manager” who enables a DP to give, manage, review, and withdraw consent through an accessible, transparent, and interoperable platform.
 - The Central Government may notify any Data Fiduciary or class of Data Fiduciaries as Significant Data Fiduciaries, on the basis of an assessment of relevant factors when they turn out to be systemically significant.
 - **Data Processor**–an entity processing the data on behalf of a data fiduciary.
 - Both Data fiduciary and data processor could also be



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	<p>the same in certain small entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data Protection Officer (DPO): – could be any individual appointed as DPO by a Data Fiduciary under the provisions of this Act.
<p>Public-Private Partnership (PPP)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently, the Centre has initiated consultations on leasing (privatizing) more than 10 airports under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to the World Bank, public-private partnership (PPP) is a long-term contract between a private party and a government entity, for providing a public asset or service, in which the private party bears significant risk and management responsibility, and remuneration is linked to performance. ● Public-private partnerships typically are long-term and involve large corporations on the private side. ● Some of the commonly adopted forms of PPPs include build-operate-transfer (BOT), build-lease-transfer (BLT), design-build-operate-transfer (DBFO), operate-maintain-transfer (OMT), etc.



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