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Daily news summary**DPDP Act Compliance Challenges for Ed Tech**

UPSC Civil Services • 29 August 2026 • Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- Ed-tech platforms face high compliance operational costs under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 due to strict child data protection obligations.

WHAT IS THE DPDP ACT, 2023?

- Parent statutory framework governing processing of digital personal data in India.
- Establishes Data Protection Board of India and defines duties for Data Fiduciaries processing personal data.

KEY PROVISIONS REGULATING MINORS' DATA

- **Section 9** mandates Data Fiduciaries to obtain verifiable consent from a parent or legal guardian before processing data of children (below 18 years).
- Prohibits tracking, behavioral monitoring, or targeted advertising directed at children.
- **Before:** Digital platforms processed student telemetry and learning analytics under standard terms of service without age-gated verification.
- **After:** Mandatory identity and age-verification systems must be built into onboard workflows.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Protects minors' privacy rights but increases technical and financial overhead for digital learning platforms handling student data.

KEY TERMS

- **Data Fiduciary:** Entity or individual that determines the purpose and means of processing personal data under the DPDP Act.
- **Verifiable Parental Consent:** Mechanism requiring positive identification and consent from a legal guardian prior to processing a child's personal data.

PAPERS

GS2, GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **DPDP Act, 2023** defines a child as an individual who has not completed 18 years of age.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Balancing data privacy enforcement with compliance overheads for startups and digital services.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** - Governs data privacy obligations and child consent protocols in India.
- **Child Age Definition:** Below 18 years - Specific threshold defined under **Section 9** of the DPDP Act for requiring parental consent.

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