



BharOS Software

Prelims: BharOS Operating System, Google and iOS, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Indigenous mobile operating system.

Mains: BharOS Operating System and its Significance.

Why in News?

Recently, an IIT Madras-incubated company has developed the BharOS.

What is BharOS?

▪ About:

- It is an **indigenous mobile operating system (OS)**, like Android or iOS. It is focused on **privacy and security**.
 - A mobile operating system is a software that is the core interface on a smartphone like **Android by Google and iOS by Apple**, which help **smartphone users interact with their device** and access its features, while ensuring safety.
- BharOS is a **contribution towards the idea of a self-reliant India or 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'** by creating a secure OS environment for India-based users.
- BharOS Services are currently being provided to organisations that have **stringent privacy and security requirements** and whose users handle sensitive information that requires confidential communications on restricted apps on mobiles.
- Such users require **access to private cloud services through private 5G networks**.

▪ Features:

- **Native Over the Air:**
 - BharOS would offer Native Over the Air (NOTA) updates, meaning that **security updates and bug fixes will be automatically installed** rather than users having to check for updates and implementing them on their own.
- **No Default Apps:**
 - **No Default Apps (NDA) setting**, means that users do not have to keep or use pre-installed apps in this mobile operating system.
 - NDA is key as many pre-installed apps that currently ship with other smartphones can slow down the device or take a toll on battery life by acting as bloatware.
 - Going with an NDA design for BharOS was intentional as **it will let users have more control over the apps on their mobile phones** based on the user's trust in the app and the kind of data they store on their phone.
- **Private App Store Services:**
 - It will use a system known as Private App Store Services (PASS), which will **examine and curate the apps that are safe** for the users.
 - Users will be able to use other apps, as long as they meet BharOS' PASS standards.

▪ Significance:

- The project aims to reduce the dependence on foreign OS in smartphones and promote the

- use of locally developed technology.
- It is a huge leap forward to create an indigenous ecosystem and a self-reliant future.
 - It aspires to put India on par with those few countries that currently possess such capabilities.

How BharOS is Different from Google Android?

- BharOS is based on **Android Open-Source Project (AOSP)** and is somewhat similar to Google Android. However, it does not **come preloaded with Google services like in regular Google Android phones**. So BharOS users are free to download only those apps that they like or prefer rather than being forced.
- Android phone with stock OS usually have Chrome set up as default browser. BharOS makers are looking to partner with DuckDuck Go for its default browser.
 - DuckDuck Go is a **privacy-focused browser with several privacy-centric features** like anonymous browsing mode and Privacy Grade.

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