

CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC CSE 2026



**DAILY CURRENT
AFFAIRS NOTES**

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Central government notifies key parts of Digital Personal Data Protection Act

- The Union government notified large parts of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, addressing the need for a law to protect the data privacy of Indian citizens.
- The DPDP Rules, 2025 are a significant step forward in compliance with the Supreme Court's 2017 K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India judgment affirming the right to privacy.
- The law, passed in 2023 in Parliament, requires firms to safeguard the digital data of Indian citizens, with exemptions for the "State and its instrumentalities", and prescribes penalties for firms that breach these obligations.
- Transparency activists have said the law weakens the Right to Information Act, 2005 by removing the obligation of government bodies to provide "personal information" if the public interest outweighs a public official's right to privacy.
- Data fiduciaries, who collect and use personal data, will have until November 2026 to comply with some provisions, such as putting out the details of their designated Data Protection Officer.

Closer to compliance

With key parts of the DPDP Act now notified, the government edges closer to enforcing the 2017 Supreme Court privacy judgment and strengthening protections for Indians' personal data



Aug. 2017: The Supreme Court rules that privacy is a fundamental right

July 2018: Retd. Justice B.N. Srikrishna-led committee submits its

report and a draft data protection Bill

Dec. 2022: A fresh draft Bill prepared by the IT Ministry

Aug. 2023: Parliament passes the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

Jan. 2025: Draft rules to enforce the Act are put out for public consultation

Naidu aims for 50 lakh jobs, \$500-bn investment in A.P.

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister expressed confidence that the government would attract \$500 billion in investments in three years and generate employment for 50 lakh youth.
- He announced that the process of opening escrow accounts for the disbursal of industrial incentives would begin soon. He said the government was ready to extend sovereign guarantees wherever required by industries.
- He was delivering the keynote address at the CII Partnership Summit-2025 in Visakhapatnam.
- He said the State government had adopted 'Speed of Doing Business' as a catalyst for investment growth, and efforts were under way to develop electronics, aerospace, space, semiconductor and defence corridors.

Flexible inflation targeting, a good balance

- The present Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework in India (4% (+/-) 2%) is ending in March 2026 and is under review. The RBI has released a discussion paper seeking views on key issues.

Importance of Controlling Inflation

- Inflation control is an important objective of monetary policy. High inflation, above a tolerable level, is a regressive consumption tax that affects poorer households more disproportionately.
- High and volatile inflation hurts savings and misdirects investments.
- Since dismantling automatic monetisation (1994), RBI gained functional autonomy in monetary policy. In 2016, India adopted the FIT framework, giving institutional autonomy.

What to Target: Headline or Core Inflation

- If the objective is to promote savings, investments and protect the poor, headline inflation should be targeted.
- The assumption that 'food inflation' is only due to supply shocks is not necessarily true. Past episodes show food inflation under expansionary monetary policy rises more than under contractionary conditions.
- When aggregate demand does not change, food inflation only causes relative price changes.
- Indian data show second-round effects of food inflation on core inflation (wages, other channels). Monetary policy must include 'food inflation' if aggregate demand expands.

Acceptable Level of Inflation

- Phillips Curve studies argued growth-inflation trade-off, but empirically it did not hold.

- Only a **short-run trade-off** exists; in the **long run**, none, once expectations adjust.
- Low inflation may **facilitate growth** in short run, but **high inflation hurts growth** → **threshold inflation** concept.

On Inflation Band

- Present band (+/-) **2%** has delivered enough **flexibility**. Data show that **beyond 6% inflation, growth rate declines sharply**. Future outcomes depend on **fiscal policy navigation**.
- Historically, high inflation (1970s–80s) resulted from **monetisation of fiscal deficit**.
- **Reforms**: Abolition of **ad hoc treasury bills** (automatic monetisation), Introduction of **FRBM Act** to enforce fiscal discipline.

Gujarat's Ambaji marble gets GI tag for its quality

- **Marble from Ambaji**, Gujarat's prominent pilgrimage site and **Shaktipeeth**, has been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** for its **high-quality white stone**.
- The **Geographical Indications Registry** under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has granted the tag.
- A **GI tag** recognises products that possess **unique qualities or characteristics** linked to their **geographical origin**.
- **Ambaji's marble mines** date back **1,200–1,500 years**, around the time the **Dilwara Jain Temple** in Mount Abu **was constructed**.
- Known for its **strength** and **high calcium content**, the marble has also been used in **temple construction** in the **U.S., New Zealand and England**.

India, Canada cement ties on trade, critical minerals, investment

- India and Canada **agreed to bolster long-term supply chain partnerships in critical minerals and expand investment and trade opportunities**, the two countries said in a joint statement.
- It **agreed to encourage long-term supply chain partnerships in critical minerals and clean energy collaboration essential for energy transition, and new-age industrial expansion**".
- They also agreed to identify and expand investment and trading opportunities in **aerospace and dual-use capabilities partnerships**.