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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Hindu & The Indian express

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Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India, has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy ?

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 16
- (c) Article 19
- (d) Article 21

2021

'Right to Privacy' is protected under which Article of the Constitution of India?

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 19
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article 29

2024

10. डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 के संदर्भ तथा प्रमुख विशेषताओं का वर्णन कीजिए।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

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

(Answer in 150 words) 10

2024

Central government notifies key parts of Digital Personal Data Protection Act

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Union government notified large parts of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 on Friday, addressing the need for a law to protect the data privacy of Indian citizens.

The DPDP Rules, 2025 are also 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 August 2023 in Parliament, requires firms to safeguard the digital data of Indian citizens, with exemptions for the "State

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**

and its instrumentalities", and prescribes penalties for firms that breach these obligations.

Meanwhile, transparen-

cy activists have said the law weakens the Right to Information Act, 2005 by removing the obligation of government bodies to pro-

vide "personal information" if the public interest outweighs a public official's right to privacy.

That amendment is in force from Friday. However, "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.

That same month, the Consent Manager framework, which allows firms to exercise data removal and amendment rights on behalf of "data principals" (users), will also come into force.

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Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023

**The Hindu, Page 1GS-2: Right to Privacy
GS-3: Data Protection**

1. Context

- Union Government notified key operational parts of the DPDP Act, 2023 along with DPDP Rules, 2025.
- Moves India towards implementing the Supreme Court's 2017 *K.S. Puttaswamy* judgment (privacy = fundamental right).
- Data Fiduciaries get time till Nov 2026 to meet full compliance such as appointing a Data Protection Officer.
- Consent Manager framework for users (Data Principals) also coming into force.

2. Essential Features of the DPDP Act, 2023

A. Consent & Lawful Processing

- Clear, informed, specific consent; easy withdrawal.
- Processing must be for legitimate and stated purpose only.
- Data minimisation: collect only what is needed.

B. Rights of Individuals (Data Principals)

- Right to access their stored data.
- Right to correction and erasure.
- Right to grievance redressal.

C. Duties of Platforms (Data Fiduciaries)

- Adopt security safeguards to avoid breaches.
- Report breaches to both users and the Data Protection Board.
- Significant Data Fiduciaries (large platforms) must:
 - Appoint Data Protection Officer
 - Conduct data audits
 - Undertake risk and impact assessments

D. Exemptions: Wide exemptions for State and its instrumentalities for

- national security
- public order
- law enforcement
- Relaxations for research, archiving, statistical purposes, and small entities.

E. Data Protection Board

- Independent adjudicatory body for disputes.
- Can impose penalties up to ₹250 crore for non-compliance.

F. Cross-Border Data Transfer

- Allowed only to countries notified by the Central Government.

3) Issues & Criticism (w.r.t RTI Act):

A. Expansion of "Personal Information" More RTI Denials

- RTI: Section 8(1)(j)
- DPDP widens what counts as personal information, making it easier for departments to reject RTI queries.

The RTI test of "larger public interest" overriding privacy becomes weaker.

Flexible inflation targeting, a good balance

The present Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework in India as a mandate for monetary policy to manage inflation at 4% (+/-) 2% is ending in March 2026 and is under review. In this regard the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought out a well-researched discussion paper, and has several questions for which views have been sought. Here, this article addresses three questions: headline versus core (excluding food), acceptable level of inflation, and inflation band.

Controlling inflation

Before responding to these questions, it is pertinent to highlight that inflation control by itself is an important objective of monetary policy. High inflation, above a tolerable level, is a regressive consumption tax that affects poorer households more disproportionately than the rich and households whose incomes are hedged. Indeed, high and volatile inflation hurts savings and misdirects investments. The issue of acceptable level of inflation came up first before the Chakravarty Committee which was of the opinion that "...the acceptable rise in prices is 4 per cent (reflecting changes in relative prices necessary to attract resources to growth sectors)...." The reasoning given is somewhat opaque.

The RBI has been focusing on inflation management all along, and more explicitly since the dismantling of automatic monetisation in 1994 that gave functional autonomy to the RBI in conducting monetary policy. In 2016, India adopted the FIT framework that also gave, in a broad sense, institutional autonomy. Since 2016,



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Deriving acceptable rates of inflation that are consistent with growth prospects and macro conditions is worth undertaking

India's inflation is range-bound, by and large, despite facing multiple shocks. This is an achievement for a framework that is still evolving.

What to target

An issue that keeps recurring is the issue of what to target – headline or core inflation. If the overall objective of inflation control is to promote savings and investments and to protect the poor from shocks, then headline inflation should be the appropriate target. The assumption that 'food inflation' is only the result of supply shocks is not necessarily true. As some episodes in the past have shown, 'food inflation' in an environment of expansionary monetary policy will be much higher than in an environment of contractionary monetary policy.

There is also a mistaken conclusion that the behaviour of individual prices adds up to the increase in general price level (and, hence, inflation). As Milton Friedman famously said to an Indian audience in Mumbai in 1963, "If the Government is committed to a full employment policy, it may in response thereto expand the money supply by printing more money for Government expenditures or for other purposes. In that case, it is true that the upward push in wages produced inflation, not because it was necessarily inflationary but because it happened to be the mechanism which forced an increase in the stock of money."

Without an expansion in overall liquidity or money supply, the general price level cannot rise. The present debate in India between headline versus core inflation appears to miss the distinction between changes in relative prices and general price level. When there is no change in aggregate demand, food inflation results only in changes in relative prices. The general price level is not affected. However, Indian data show second round impacts of food inflation on core inflation through upward pressure on wages and other channels. This could lead to a change in the general price level, if the aggregate demand is allowed to expand, as Friedman warned. In such a situation, the scope of monetary policy must include 'food inflation'.

Acceptable level of inflation

Some studies, using Phillips Curve, have argued that there is a trade-off between growth and inflation. Empirically, the Phillips Curve argument did not stand the test of time. As Friedman and others argued, there is only a short-run trade-off, at best, and in the long run,

with the expectations built-in, there will be no trade-off.

However, even in the short-run, low levels of inflation may even facilitate growth. But beyond a level, high inflation does hurt growth and this is how the concept of threshold inflation emerged. This may be noted in the graph where annual data for both inflation and growth since the 1991 period (excluding the COVID-19 year) is presented. A simple quadratic line between the two variables gives a non-linear relationship. The point of inflection is estimated at 3.98, suggesting that acceptable inflation for India could be about 4%.

Ideally, as the monetary policy is largely forward looking and the present review of FIT is to suggest the framework for the next five years, up to 2030-31, deriving acceptable rates of inflation consistent with growth prospects and macro conditions is worth undertaking. A preliminary simulation exercise in this direction does suggest inflation of below 4% as the acceptable rate. While this needs some robustness checks, especially about what the fiscal and external pressures could be in the next five years, this suggests that there is a very limited case for arguing for a higher inflation target above 4%.

On inflation band

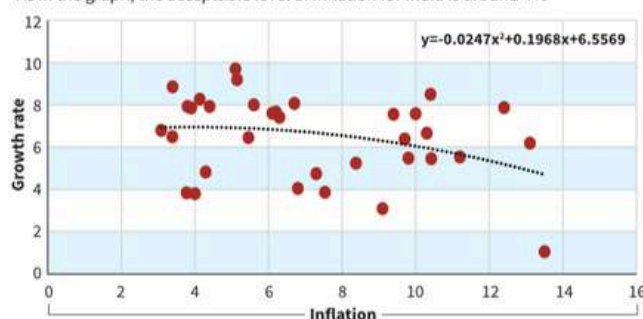
The present limit of +/-2% has delivered enough flexibility for the monetary authorities to navigate. But what is not prescribed is how long the central bank can stay closer to the upper limit. In fact, staying close to the upper limit will defeat the spirit of the framework. The graph also suggests that beyond 6% inflation, the growth rate declines sharply.

It also depends on how we navigate the fiscal policy going forward. If we look back at the history of inflation in India, a major cause of high inflation in the 1970s and 1980s is the monetisation of fiscal deficit. That is why one major element in the reform process in the early 1990s was to abolish the system of issuing ad hoc treasury bills, which had the effect of an automatic monetisation of deficit. This was followed up later by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. A natural follower of this is FIT. FRBM provisions and FIT must go together. Slipping on any one of the two frameworks will have consequences on the other, thus, risking overall macroeconomic stability.

The views expressed are personal

Relationship between inflation and growth

As in the graph, the acceptable level of inflation for India is around 4%



1. Context

India is preparing the 2026-31 inflation-targeting framework, bringing three key questions into focus:

1. Should RBI base policy mainly on headline or core inflation?
2. Is 4% still the right inflation target for India?
3. How much flexibility should the next framework allow to handle supply shocks and growth needs?

2. Inflation Targeting Framework (ITF)

- India follows a Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) system under the RBI Act (amended in 2016).
- Current target: 4 plus minus 2 (i.e., 2% to 6%).
- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decides policy to keep inflation near this level.
- FIT gives RBI autonomy, but also flexibility to respond to growth concerns and supply shocks.
- The framework is revised every five years, hence the upcoming 2026-31 review.

Summary/Arguments

- India's current inflation-targeting system has been effective but now requires updates.
- Headline inflation should guide policy because food-fuel fluctuations directly impact households.
- A 4% inflation target remains appropriate for India's long-term economic structure.
- The upcoming 2026-31 framework must be flexible and practical, not rigid.
- RBI should have room to manage repeated supply shocks while still supporting growth.
- Maintaining credibility and stability should remain central to the revised framework.

4. One-Line Definitions

Headline inflation: Total inflation including food and fuel. Core

inflation: Inflation excluding food and fuel.

Gujarat's Ambaji marble gets GI tag for its quality

Abhinav Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Marble from Ambaji, Gujarat's prominent pilgrimage site and Shaktipeeth, has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its high-quality white stone, an official said on Friday.

The Geographical Indications Registry under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has granted the tag in the name of the Ambaji Marbles Quarry and Factory Association in Banaskantha district.

A GI tag recognises products that possess unique qualities or characteristics linked to their geographical origin.

Banaskantha District Collector Mihir Patel said that the Centre's approval marks a proud moment for the region. "The Government of India has granted the prestigious GI tag to the pure white marble sourced from the sacred land of Ambaji. Along with its spiritual significance, Ambaji Shaktipeeth has now



Gujarat's Ambaji white marble officially given the GI tag during the Tribal Business Conclave in New Delhi. X/@COLLECTORBK

earned a distinguished place on the global map of the marble industry," he said.

Used in religious sites

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel also welcomed the development on X, saying the recognition was a matter of "joy and pride for Gujarat". He noted that Ambaji marble, known for its shine and beauty, has long been used in construction of religious sites.

Ambaji-based marble industrialist Kiranbhai Trivedi said the recognition reflects the stone's exceptional quality. He

noted that Ambaji's marble mines date back 1,200-1,500 years, around the time the Dilwara Jain Temple in Mount Abu was constructed.

The enduring beauty of the temple, he said, is proof of the marble's remarkable durability. "In comparison, even the stones of the Taj Mahal show ageing, but Ambaji marble has never lost its purity," he remarked.

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, he said.

Context

Ambaji marble from Gujarat has been awarded a GI tag for its high-quality white stone and long-standing use in temple architecture.

Who Gives GI Tag?

- Geographical Indications Registry,
- Under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry,
- As per the GI Act, 1999.

About Ambaji Marble

- **Origin:** Ambaji, Banaskantha, Gujarat.
- **Qualities:** White, durable, high calcium, long-lasting shine.
- **Heritage use:** 1,200–1,500 years, including Dilwara Jain Temple.
- **Modern use:** Temples in the U.S., New Zealand, England.



Birsa Munda birth anniversary: PM to address Gujarat event

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Dediapada in Gujarat's tribal-dominated Narmada district on Saturday to address a public gathering marking the birth anniversary of tribal icon Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Ahead of the event, the PM will inspect the under-construction bullet train station in Surat at around 10 a.m. to review progress on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR). The 47-kilometre Surat-Bilimora section is near to completion.

Tribal welfare projects

Mr. Modi will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for development projects worth over ₹9,700 crore in Narmada district, with a focus on tribal welfare, infrastructure, health, education and heritage, the Prime Minister's Office said.

On Friday, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi and State Tribal Development Minister Naresh Patel reviewed preparations at the Dediapada venue. Mr. Sanghavi said that before addressing the gathering, the PM will offer prayers at the temple of Pandori Mata, the clan deity of the tribal community, at Devmogra village in Sagbara taluka, 23 km from Dediapada.

Mr. Modi will take part in the 'grih pravesh' of 100,000 houses built under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JAGUA), an official statement said. "The PM will inaugurate 42 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), worth around ₹1,900 crore, dedicated to tribal students; 228 multi-purpose centres to act as hubs for community-led activities and flag off 250 buses for 14 tribal districts of Gujarat, it added.

Context

PM will address Birsa Munda birth anniversary event in Gujarat and launch major tribal welfare initiatives including PM-JANMAN, DA-JAGUA, EMRS expansion, community centres, and bus services.

Key Schemes

1. Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

- **Year: 2023**
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Tribal Affairs**
- **Aim: Holistic development of PVTGs – housing, education, health, water, livelihood, road connectivity.**

2. Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JAGUA)

- **Year: 2023 (State-supported initiative in tribal districts; aligned with Tribal Affairs programs)**
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Tribal Affairs + State Tribal Development Dept.**
- **Aim: Improve village infrastructure and welfare in tribal-dominated areas**

3. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- **Year: 1997 (restructured and expanded under Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 2018)**
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Tribal Affairs**
- **Aim: Provide quality residential schooling for tribal children (Class 6-12)**

4. Multi-Purpose Community Centres (Tribal Areas)

- **Year: Implemented under ongoing tribal welfare programs (State + MoTA), major expansion 2023-24**
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Tribal Affairs / State Tribal Development Dept.**
- **Aim: Act as community hubs for welfare activities, meetings, youth program**



'Iran seizes oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz'

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran seized a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker as it travelled through the narrow Strait of Hormuz on Friday, a U.S. official said, turning the ship into Iranian territorial waters in the first-such interdiction in months in the strategic waterway.

Iran did not immediately acknowledge the seizure, though it comes as Tehran has been increasingly warning it can strike back after facing a 12-day war in June with Israel that saw the U.S. strike Iranian nuclear sites.

The ship, the *Talara*, was travelling from Ajman, UAE, onward to Singapore when Iranian forces intercepted it, said the official.

Context

Iran intercepted a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker while it was passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a strategically vital maritime chokepoint for global oil transport. This incident adds to rising tensions in the region.

Strait of Hormuz

- **Connects:** Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman
- **Located between** Iran and Oman (Musandam exclave)
- **One of the world's most critical oil chokepoints**
- **About 20% of global petroleum and large volumes of LNG pass through it**
- **Narrowest width:** ~39 km
- **Strategic significance:** Any disruption affects global energy prices and maritime security





GLOBAL

How 27th Amendment seals Pak Army's stranglehold over state



EXPERT EXPLAINS
by BASHIR ALI ABBAS

THE 27th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan was signed into law on Thursday, bringing sweeping changes to the country's civil-military and inter-services setup, and its federal character. Key changes include the establishment of the Chief of Defence Forces office, which will always be held by the Army Chief who will effectively also command the Pak Navy and Air Force; complete legal immunity to five-star rank officers even after demitting office; and the supersession of the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) through a new Federal Constitutional Court. The Amendment represents three crucial aspects.

1. Army further consolidates power

The Pak Army's domestic popularity touched new lows, especially during and after the removal of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2022. Since then, under the leadership of Asim Munir, it has banked on two catalysts to strengthen its position. The first was internal. In recent years, there has been a sharp rise in militant and terrorist attacks in the country with over 2,300 attacks since early 2021. This includes the resurgence of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Baloch militancy. After the Jafar Express hijacking in March, Munir questioned the state's internal weakness: "How long will we continue to sacrifice countless lives in the style of a soft state?", he said, promising to remove all institutional scaffolding that limited the military's power by citing security concerns. The second catalyst was external. Provoking a bilateral crisis with India in April/May of 2025 allowed the military to rally more popular support. Munir's rapid elevation to Field Marshal (a rank ceremonially held for life) allowed the Army to focus attention towards itself, while its self-declared victory allowed for the complete consolidation of power. The new amendment creates an Army-led office that assumes command of all three services along with the country's nuclear forces.

2. 'Hybrid model' comes of age

Since Munir's elevation to Chief of Army Staff in 2022, the Army's entrenchment within institutions has increased. Munir has assumed new economic roles, like within the government's Special Investment Facilitation Council. But learning from the past periods of direct military rule, the Army has not been keen on formally taking power, instead proping up a "hybrid model". The Army has tried to maximise its power within a civilian-facing hybrid setup, with a focus on eliminating the possibility of prosecuting the Army Chief for his actions in office (given the military's institutional memory of Gen Pervez Musharraf's fate). That the Field Marshal now receives blanket immunity in testament to the fact that the Army's hybrid model has come of age.

The 27th Amendment has also ensured that the judiciary, as the last pillar of a democratic state, does not undermine the military's consolidation of power. In any case, the SCP was already bowing to the Army; now it has effectively been "abolished", said Manzoor Ali Shah, a recalcitrant judge sidelined by the establishment.

3. Army controls foreign policy

The security of the Army's predominant domestic position is vital for it to fully leverage its role for Pakistan's new relationships with its partners.

These include new regional security architectures, such as the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, which the Saudi state can leverage to build its own nascent indigenous defence capabilities in return for economic assistance. The Pakistan Army seeks to capitalise on its connections and networks with suppliers such as China and Turkey to supply third parties like Saudi Arabia.

Just as important is Pakistan's willingness to risk potential on-ground military involvement in other regions, such as in Gaza, as part of US President Donald Trump's proposed International Stabilization Force — especially in Arab states remain hesitant to do so without a UN mandate for the force.

While commitments are contingent on the military's future priorities and the regional and global geopolitics, it is evident that the Army Chief has formally cemented the pre-eminence of his office. Munir's comfort in meeting Heads of Government/State, often without Pakistan's civilian leadership, is a testament to this fact.

Bashir Ali Abbas is a Senior Research Associate at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research, New Delhi.

Context

Pakistan's 27th Constitutional Amendment formalises and expands the Army's control over the state, weakening civilian authority and judicial oversight.

Main Points:

1. Army Chief gains expanded powers

- New Chief of Defence Forces post, held by the Army Chief with authority over Army, Navy, Air Force.
- Legal immunity granted to top military officers.

2. "Hybrid Model" of Governance Becomes Formal

- Pakistan's Army, which previously exercised power informally, now gains institutionalised authority over civilian structures.
- Civilian-led government bodies must operate within military-influenced frameworks, strengthening de facto military control.

3. Supreme Court Power Weakened

- The amendment effectively undermines the independence of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.
- Ensures that the judiciary cannot meaningfully challenge or review military decisions.

4. Foreign policy controlled by Army

Military gains stronger control over Pakistan's external relations and strategic partnerships.