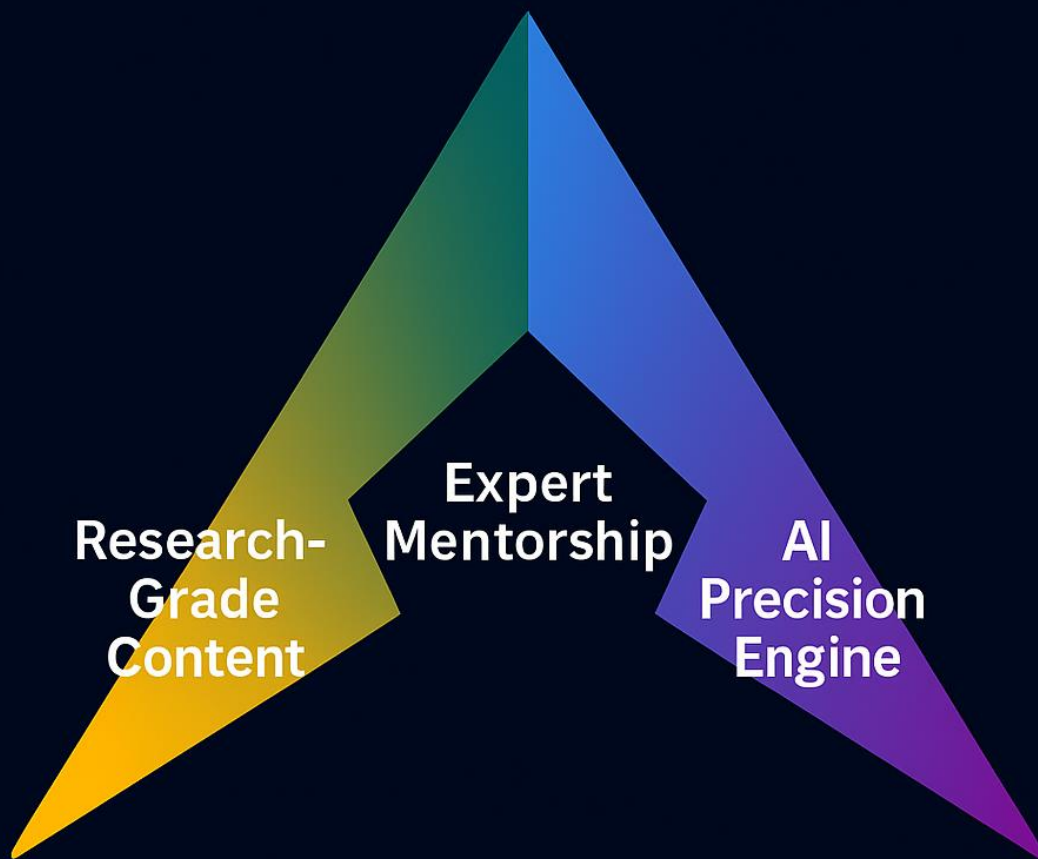


PrepAlpine

The Next-Generation UPSC Institution

Where Research Meets Mentorship & Precision



Preparation Meets Precision

A Next-Generation Learning Institution

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PrepAlpine — Where Research-Grade Content Meets Mentorship, and AI Makes It Personal

PrepAlpine is India's next-generation UPSC institution — built by educationists, retired bureaucrats, IITians, and experienced educators, and powered by a 500+-member technology firm specialising in AI-driven education infrastructure.

We're not another coaching platform — we're a complete preparation ecosystem that unites:

- **Research-Grade Content:**

Every content is crafted and reviewed by civil servants, educators, and scholars, and follows UPSC's Intro–Body–Conclusion format. Content is built from official reports, verified data, and visual pedagogy — flowcharts, frameworks, maps, and comparative tables.

- **Two-Tier Mentorship:**

Interview-qualified mentors and Subject-Matter Experts provide structured strategy, accountability, doubt-solving, and exam-aligned depth — bridging the gap between preparation and performance.

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Developed with our 500+-member AI & EdTech partner firm, the PrepAlpine AI system integrates Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), adaptive MCQ engines, AI-based answer evaluation, and intelligent revision tracking. It continuously identifies each learner's strengths, weaknesses, and learning patterns — ensuring preparation evolves dynamically with every step.

This fusion of research-grade content + expert mentorship + enterprise-grade AI technology has created a credible, scalable, and aspirant-first platform.

Every PrepAlpine module is built not just to inform, but to transform — converting effort into precision and hard work into predictable progress.

We're reimagining UPSC preparation as a research-led, mentor-guided, AI-personalised journey that adapts to every aspirant.

PrepAlpine — From Aspirant to Authority. Lead the State, Not the Struggle.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 15.11.2025

GS Paper II: Current Affairs

1. Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025: India's First Functional Privacy Framework

a. Introduction

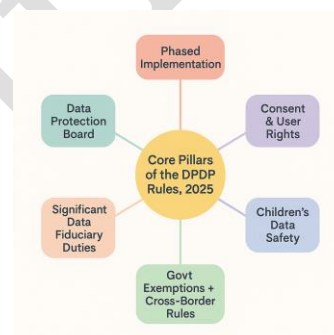
India's notification of the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 marks a significant step in building a modern privacy regime. These rules operationalise the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and represent the largest expansion of citizens' informational rights since the Supreme Court recognised privacy as a fundamental right in the Puttaswamy judgment of 2017.

Implementation will be gradual. Many duties become fully enforceable only after twelve to eighteen months, giving governments and private organisations time to put proper data-governance systems in place.

b. Evolution of the Privacy Question in India

i. India's Changing Digital Landscape

- Over the last two decades, India's digital footprint expanded rapidly, supported by smartphones, cheap data and large-scale digital platforms.
- The Information Technology Act, 2000 offered only narrow protections and was never designed to address today's challenges such as massive data breaches, behavioural profiling, targeted advertising or commercial exploitation of personal information.



ii. Constitutional Foundations

- In 2017, the Supreme Court held that privacy is an intrinsic part of Article 21.
- This placed a constitutional obligation on the State to build a rights-based data protection regime.
- The DPDP Act, 2023 was the legislative response, and the 2025 Rules supply the machinery for its real-world implementation.

c. Key Areas Addressed by the DPDP Rules, 2025

i. Implementation Timelines

- Compliance will unfold in phases.
- Smaller firms receive up to eighteen months to build consent dashboards, breach-reporting systems and audit mechanisms.
- The aim is to avoid sudden compliance burdens and ensure smooth, realistic adaptation.

ii. Data Protection Board of India

- The Board acts as the main regulatory authority.
- It monitors compliance, adjudicates disputes and handles breach notifications.
- With four initial members in New Delhi, its future effectiveness depends on technical capacity, staffing and functional independence.

iii. Consent and User Autonomy

- Personal data can be processed only with clear, specific and freely given consent.
- Individuals can withdraw consent easily at any time.

- The objective is to make consent meaningful, not a mere formality.

iv. Protection of Children's Data

- Parental consent must be verifiable.
- Platforms cannot use behavioural tracking or targeted advertising for children.
- This aligns with global norms that recognise children as a particularly vulnerable group online.

v. Obligations for Significant Data Fiduciaries

- Large or high-risk data-handling entities face stricter responsibilities.
- They must appoint a Data Protection Officer, conduct periodic audits and prepare risk-assessment reports.
- These enhanced obligations reflect their greater influence over the digital ecosystem.

vi. Response to Data Breaches

- Breaches must be reported promptly to both the Data Protection Board and the affected individuals.
- Notifications must explain what happened, the likely consequences and the steps taken to remedy the incident.
- Penalties for non-notification can reach two hundred and fifty crore rupees, indicating the seriousness of breach transparency.

vii. Government Exemptions and Cross-Border Transfers

- Exemptions exist for national security, public order and election-related functions. Critics argue that these grounds are broad and may dilute privacy protection.
- Cross-border transfers will be cleared case by case by a government committee. This avoids extreme localisation but may lead to uncertainty.
- The rules also narrow personal-information disclosures under the Right to Information Act, raising concerns over reduced transparency.

d. Interpreting the Framework: Significance and Challenges

i. Why the Framework Matters

- It modernises India's data-governance approach and improves user autonomy.
- Protections for children, accountability norms and stronger consent mechanisms bring India closer to global privacy standards.
- The regime can enhance public trust in digital services and strengthen India's position as a major digital economy.

ii. Core Challenges and Structural Gaps

- Government exemptions may not always satisfy the proportionality doctrine established in Puttaswamy.
- The Data Protection Board's independence remains uncertain because appointment powers lie with the executive.
- Important user rights, such as data portability and the right to be forgotten, are not fully articulated.
- Cross-border data transfer norms depend heavily on discretionary case-by-case approvals.
- Narrowing RTI access may affect transparency in public administration.

e. The Road Ahead

i. Narrowing Government Exemptions

- Better-defined limits on exemptions will protect the core of the fundamental right to privacy.

ii. Strengthening the Data Protection Board

- Ensuring functional independence and recruiting technical experts will be essential for credible enforcement.

iii. Stable Rules for Cross-Border Data Flows

- Transparent and predictable norms will support both business confidence and international cooperation.

iv. Safeguarding Transparency

- RTI-compatible standards should be maintained to balance privacy with democratic accountability.

v. Embedding Privacy-by-Design

- Organisations should adopt data minimisation, strong encryption and regular privacy-impact assessments.
- These practices make compliance organic, not reactive.

vi. Expanding Digital Literacy

- Citizens need clear guidance on using consent tools and exercising data rights.
- Public-facing digital literacy campaigns will be vital.

Intended Purpose vs Risks	
Intended Purpose	Potential Risks
• National security • Public order • Election integrity • Faster governance functions	• Overbroad exemptions • Reduced privacy safeguards • Weak proportionality compliance • Lower transparency

Conclusion

The Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 mark a defining moment in India's digital journey. They create a structured, enforceable pathway for protecting personal information in an increasingly data-driven economy. While concerns persist—particularly regarding government exemptions, institutional independence and cross-border data-flow certainty—the framework forms a strong foundation for a rights-respecting digital future. Ultimately, the rules signal India's transition into a society where privacy, accountability and user trust become core public values rather than optional safeguards.

GS Paper III: Environment

2. The Belem Action Plan for Health and Climate Adaptation

a. Introduction

The Belem Action Plan marks the most comprehensive global initiative to connect public health systems with climate adaptation. Announced at the thirtieth Conference of the Parties in Brazil, it aims to prepare countries for the intensifying health impacts of climate change. Its fundamental goal is to ensure that hospitals, disease-surveillance networks and public health institutions can withstand and respond to climate-induced hazards such as extreme heat, flooding, wildfires and disease outbreaks.

b. Rationale and Context

Climate change now affects human health more directly than ever before. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns and more frequent extreme weather events have pushed health systems to their limits.

i. Escalating Health Risks

- **Heat-Related Mortality:** Extreme heat events now cause large numbers of preventable deaths across continents.
- **Air-Quality Degradation:** Wildfire smoke has triggered widespread respiratory illnesses in several regions.
- **Vector-Borne Diseases:** Warmer climates have expanded the spread of diseases such as dengue, malaria and chikungunya.
- **Disruption of Health Services:** Floods, storms and droughts routinely damage infrastructure and interrupt essential medical services.
- **Mental Health Burden:** Repeated climate disasters have increased stress, anxiety and trauma in vulnerable communities.

ii. Limited Climate-Health Preparedness

- Most health systems still lack climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Public health budgets rarely include climate-linked adaptation priorities.
- Climate data and health surveillance remain weak in several developing countries.

c. Main Features of the Belem Action Plan

i. A Clear and Comprehensive Objective

- Build health systems capable of absorbing climate shocks.
- Reduce the environmental footprint of the health sector through sustainable practices.

ii. A Broad Global Coalition

- More than eighty countries and major international bodies have endorsed the initiative.
- The plan reflects a shift in global climate diplomacy by placing human health at the centre.

iii. Funding Commitments

- A group of thirty-five philanthropic organisations has committed three hundred million dollars.
- Funds will support research, early warning systems and national climate-health action plans.

iv. Scientific Foundations

- Findings from the Lancet Countdown estimate that heat alone causes nearly half a million deaths annually.
- Wildfire smoke exposure results in over one hundred thousand deaths each year.
- Combined losses from floods, storms, water-borne diseases and climate stress already reach millions globally.

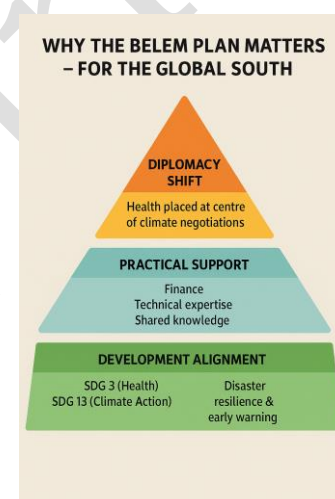
d. The Global Adaptation Finance Gap

i. Scale of Required Resources

- Developing countries are estimated to need between three hundred and ten to three hundred and sixty-five billion dollars annually by the early 2030s.
- Present global adaptation finance is only around forty billion dollars a year.

ii. Health Sector's Limited Share

- Only a small portion of existing climate finance reaches health-related programmes.
- Many countries lack the fiscal space to fund resilient health infrastructure.



e. India's Experience and Vulnerabilities

i. Rising Climate Hazards

- Increasing intensity and duration of heatwaves.
- More frequent urban flooding due to extreme rainfall events.
- Strengthening cyclones in both the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.
- Prolonged drought cycles in several regions.
- Expansion of vector-borne diseases linked to temperature and humidity changes.

ii. India's Financial Assessment

- India estimates a requirement of six hundred and forty-three billion dollars for adaptation by 2030.
- Domestic adaptation spending has risen from under four per cent to more than five and a half per cent of GDP over recent years.

iii. Ongoing National Efforts

- The National Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health aims to integrate climate considerations into health policy.
- Several states have begun preparing climate-health vulnerability assessments.



f. Significance of the Belem Plan

i. A Global Shift in Climate Diplomacy

- It is the first coordinated international attempt to prioritise public health in climate negotiations.
- It aligns climate adaptation with the broader goals of health protection and sustainable development.

ii. Practical Support for Developing Countries

- Offers financial, technical and scientific assistance for health adaptation.
- Encourages shared best practices and cooperative research.

g. Persisting Challenges

i. Slow and Uncertain Financing

- Global climate pledges often take years to convert into active disbursement.
- Funds are frequently tied to complex approval mechanisms.

ii. Institutional and Capacity Constraints

- Several countries lack trained public health personnel and climate specialists.
- Coordination between health, environment and disaster-management agencies remains weak.

iii. Overstretched Health Systems

- Many developing nations already face shortages of hospitals, specialists and equipment.
- Climate-health planning remains aspirational in several regions.

h. Way Forward

i. Strengthening Infrastructure and Preparedness

- Climate-resilient design standards for hospitals and clinics.
- Expansion of heatwave, flood, cyclone and disease early-warning systems.
- Improved emergency response and logistics networks.

ii. Enhancing Adaptation Finance

- Increase global adaptation flows, especially for vulnerable countries.
- Create simplified and accessible funding channels.

iii. Sustainable Health Care Models

- Adoption of solar energy and energy-efficient buildings.
- Reduction of emissions and waste from health facilities.

iv. Modernising Surveillance and Localised Planning

- Upgrading public health surveillance for climate-linked diseases.
- Preparing district-level climate-health action plans.

Conclusion

The Belem Action Plan represents a turning point in global climate governance because it places human health at the centre of adaptation strategies. Its importance lies in recognising that resilient health systems are essential for resilient societies. If its commitments—financial, institutional and scientific—are implemented effectively, the plan can help bridge long-standing adaptation gaps and offer vulnerable populations a measure of security in an era of increasing climatic instability.

Reader's Note — About This Current Affairs Compilation

Dear Aspirant,

This document is part of the PrepAlpine Current Affairs Series — designed to bring clarity, structure, and precision to your daily UPSC learning.

While every effort has been made to balance depth with brevity, please keep the following in mind:

1. Orientation & Purpose

This compilation is curated primarily from the UPSC Mains perspective — with emphasis on conceptual clarity, analytical depth, and interlinkages across GS papers.

However, the PrepAlpine team is simultaneously developing a dedicated Prelims-focused Current Affairs Series, designed for:

- factual coverage
- data recall
- Prelims-style MCQs
- objective pattern analysis

This Prelims Edition will be released separately as a standalone publication.

2. Content Length

Some sections may feel shorter or longer depending on topic relevance and news density. To fit your personal preference, you may freely resize or summarize sections using any LLM tool (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) at your convenience.

3. Format Flexibility

The formatting combines:

- paragraphs
- lists
- tables
- visual cues

—all optimised for retention.

If you prefer a specific style (lists → paras, paras → tables, etc.), feel free to convert using any free LLM.

4. Monthly Current Affairs Release

The complete Monthly Current Affairs Module will be released soon, optimized to a compact 100–150 pages — comprehensive yet concise, exam-ready, and revision-efficient.

5. Join the PrepAlpine Discord Community

Be part of India's Smartest UPSC Peer Ecosystem → <https://discord.gg/ycrDpXxv>

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- **Peer-to-Peer Discussions**
Subject-wise channels for GS papers, Ethics, Economics, Polity, Geography, Environment, and Optional subjects.

- **Focused Study Circles**

Deep-dive groups for Optionals (PSIR, Sociology, Geography, Anthropology, etc.) and critical GS themes.

- **Insight Threads**

Collaborative micro-notes, doubt resolutions, PYQ-linked discussions, and peer-reviewed clarity.

- **Community Sessions**

Weekly “Open Mic” sharing sessions where learners discuss strategies, mistakes, breakthroughs, and lessons from their UPSC journey.

- **An Evolving Learning Culture**

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“From Isolation to Interaction — Learn the UPSC Way, the Smart Way.”

6. Suggest Topics for Coverage

If you feel any important theme is missing or under-covered, simply post it in the “Suggestions” channel on our Discord server.

Our content team regularly reviews inputs and includes relevant suggestions in upcoming Monthly Current Affairs Modules.

Beyond daily updates, the PrepAlpine Discord functions as a complete UPSC learning ecosystem — offering free peer mentorship, structured discussions, practice threads, AI-powered micro-learning tools, and a community of serious aspirants working together.

Together, these resources embody the PrepAlpine vision:

Better Content. Smarter Mentorship. Intelligent Preparation.

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