

SC to Examine DPDP Act Impact on RTI and Press Freedom

The Supreme Court agreed to examine the legal conflict between the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 and the Right to Information Act, 2005.

A judicial review to harmonise individual data privacy rights with public transparency and investigative journalism.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** agreed to examine if the **DPDP Act, 2023** cripples the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.
- The court highlighted the need to harmonise both **central legislations** to balance **privacy** and transparency.
- The Bench will assess whether classifying all data as **personal data** restricts **investigative journalism**.
- The petition examines whether the DPDP Act's **restrictive provisions** implicitly override earlier **transparency laws**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The Right to Information (RTI) Act was enacted on **June 15, 2005**, and came into force on **October 12, 2005**.

Tamil Nadu was among the earliest Indian states to pass its own Right to Information Act in **1997**.

The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act was enacted by the Indian Parliament in **August 2023**.

The Supreme Court declared the Right to Privacy as a Fundamental Right under **Article 21** in the **Puttaswamy judgement** of **2017**.

Freedom of the Press and Right to Information are derived from **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Indian Constitution.

Justice **B.N. Srikrishna Committee** was constituted in **2017** to draft the data protection framework for India.

The first Chief Information Commissioner of India was **Wajahat Habibullah**, appointed in **2005**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

RTI Act came into force on Oct 12, 2005; Right to Privacy declared fundamental under Art 21 in 2017.

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for Group 1, 2, 2A Unit 5 (Polity - RTI, DPDP Act, Fundamental Rights, Article 19 & 21).

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