October 31, 2026

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DPDP Act timeline: what starts when, and what hasn't changed

The DPDP Act timeline comes from G.S.R. 843(E) of November 13, 2025, which brings India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act into force in three steps. Definitions and the Board started on publication. Consent Manager registration follows about November 13, 2026, and most duties and all penalties about May 13, 2027. The notifications print neither date.

THE DPDP ACT STARTS in three steps from the Gazette of November 13, 2025. Definitions and the Board came first. Consent Manager registration starts one year later, about November 13, 2026. Notices, consent, security, breach reports, children's data, rights, transfers, penalties and most of the Board's powers start eighteen months later, about May 13, 2027.

KEY FACTS

DATA PROTECTION

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

DATA RULES

Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025

IT LAW

Information Technology Act, 2000

UPDATED

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What starts when under the DPDP Act?

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The three DPDP steps

Step	Date	What starts	Instrument
1. On publication	November 13, 2025, the date the Gazette prints	Section 1(2); the definitions (section 2); the Data Protection Board (sections 18 to 26); sections 35 and 38 to 43; section 44(1) and (3). Rules 1, 2 and 17 to 21.	G.S.R. 843(E), para (a); G.S.R. 846(E), rule 1(2)
2. One year after publication	About November 13, 2026 (one year after the Gazette of November 13, 2025)	Consent Manager registration (section 6(9)) and the Board's power over a breach of a Consent Manager's registration conditions (section 27(1)(d)). Rule 4.	G.S.R. 843(E), para (b); G.S.R. 846(E), rule 1(3)
3. Eighteen months after publication	About May 13, 2027 (eighteen months after the Gazette of November 13, 2025)	Sections 3 to 5, 6(1) to (8) and (10), 7 to 17, 27 (except 27(1)(d)), 28 to 34, 36 and 37, and section 44(2), which deletes section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Rules 3, 5 to 16, 22 and 23.	G.S.R. 843(E), para (c); G.S.R. 846(E), rule 1(4)

For the other rules of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), see MeitY: India's data, platform, cyber security and electronics rules.

What is already in force under the DPDP Act?

From the Gazette of November 13, 2025, the DPDP Act's definitions and the sections setting up the Data Protection Board of India are in force. So are rules 1, 2 and 17 to 21 of the DPDP Rules, and section 44(3), which rewrites the Right to Information Act's privacy exemption to cover any information that relates to personal information.

G.S.R. 844(E) set up the Board from the same date (para 1). Rules 17 to 21 of the DPDP Rules cover its appointments, pay, meetings, digital office and staff. When the Board may inquire and fine is on DPDP Act penalties: fines, the Data Protection Board and appeals.

On August 12, 2026, the government told the Lok Sabha that the Chairperson and Member posts were advertised in the Employment News on June 6, 2026 (unstarred question 3960). Its answer named no appointee.

Do the dates run from November 13 or November 14, 2025?

The DPDP notifications count from Gazette publication and don't print the later dates. The Gazette issues are dated Thursday, November 13, 2025, but their IDs and signatures carry November 14. So the one-year step falls on November 13 or 14, 2026, and the eighteen-month step on May 13 or 14, 2027.

G.S.R. 843(E) and the DPDP Rules sit in Gazette issues No. 757 and 760, both dated Thursday, November 13, 2025. Their IDs, CG-DL-E-14112025-267647 and CG-DL-E-14112025-267650, carry 14112025, and both were digitally signed on November 14, 2025.

The government's press backgrounder of November 17, 2025 says the Rules were notified on November 14, 2025. Its Lok Sabha answers of August 12, 2026 say November 13 (unstarred questions 3943, answer (ii), and 3960).

This page counts from the printed date, November 13, 2025. Planning to that earlier date covers both readings.

Has the 18-month window been cut to 12 months?

No. Among the documents read to October 31, 2026, none cuts the DPDP Act's eighteen months to twelve. On August 12, 2026, the government still told the Lok Sabha that the Act and Rules phase in over eighteen months. The only 2026 change to the Act, S.O. 5458(E), fixed two wordings and left the dates alone.

The government's answer to unstarred question 3943 lists three phases: the Board, Consent Managers within one year, and the duties of Data Fiduciaries within eighteen months (answer (ii)).

Which DPDP Act timeline claims are wrong?

Five claims you may read don't match the notifications. The DPDP Rules didn't all start on November 13, 2025, and no notification read sets a soft enforcement period ending in November 2026. Significant Data Fiduciary duties, children's data rules and most other duties start eighteen months after the Gazette, about May 13, 2027.

Claims and what the notifications say

What you may read	What the documents say	Source
The DPDP Rules came into force on November 13, 2025.	Only rules 1, 2 and 17 to 21 did. Rule 4 starts about November 13, 2026, and the rest about May 13, 2027.	G.S.R. 846(E), rule 1(2) to (4)
The DPDP Act is enforced from November 13, 2026, after a soft enforcement period.	The one-year step starts only Consent Manager registration and a related Board power; most duties and all penalties start about May 13, 2027. No notification read sets a soft enforcement period.	G.S.R. 843(E), paras (b) and (c)
Significant Data Fiduciaries must comply by May 13, 2026, or by November 13, 2026.	Section 10 and rule 13 start about May 13, 2027. They bind only a Data Fiduciary the government notifies as significant.	G.S.R. 843(E), para (c); G.S.R. 846(E), rule 13(1)
The DPDP Rules, notified in November 2025, put the whole Act into operation.	Most of the Act's duties start about May 13, 2027.	G.S.R. 843(E), para (c)

The children's data duties already apply.	Section 9 on children's data starts about May 13, 2027.	G.S.R. 843(E), para (c)

What happens to IT Act section 43A until then?

Section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 stays in force until the eighteen-month step, about May 13, 2027, when section 44(2) of the DPDP Act deletes it. Until then, a company, firm, sole proprietor or other business handling sensitive personal data must pay compensation if it's negligent in maintaining reasonable security practices and causes wrongful loss or gain.

Section 44(2)(c) of the DPDP Act also removes section 87(2)(ob), the IT Act's power to make rules under section 43A. The Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 inserted both. The 2011 security practices rules, named in rule 3(1)(i) of the IT Rules, 2021, are outside this page.

Two official texts still cite section 43A: the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) FAQ of May 2022, at Q25, and MeitY's July 2026 cloud empanelment call, under legal compliance requirements, item 1. Both will cite a deleted section after about May 13, 2027.

What did the October 2026 order change?

The Digital Personal Data Protection (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2026, S.O. 5458(E) of October 5, 2026, fixed two wordings in the DPDP Act and left the dates alone. It changed section 9(1), on consent for a child or a person with disability, and section 10(2)(c)(ii), on a Significant Data Fiduciary's audits.

- **Section 9(1)** now reads "child or of a person with disability" (S.O. 5458(E), para 2(i)): a parent's verifiable consent for a child's personal data, and a lawful guardian's for a person with disability.
- **Section 10(2)(c)(ii)** now says "data audit" where it said "audit" (para 2(ii)), so both audit duties in section 10(2) refer to a data audit.

The order, made under section 43(1) of the DPDP Act, took effect on Gazette publication (para 1(2)). Sections 9 and 10 still start about May 13, 2027 (G.S.R. 843(E), para (c)).

How IndusDesk helps you plan for the DPDP dates

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Frequently asked questions

Who can register as a Consent Manager, and from when?

A Consent Manager must be a company incorporated in India, with a net worth of at least ₹2 crore, among other conditions (DPDP Rules, First Schedule, Part A, items 1 and 4). Rule 4, under which it applies to the Board, starts one year after the Gazette, about November 13, 2026. The other conditions are on DPDP Act: what India's data protection law asks of a business.

Can the Data Protection Board hear complaints or fine companies today?

Not yet. The Board's powers to inquire into breaches and complaints and to impose penalties (section 27, except 27(1)(d), and sections 28 to 34 of the DPDP Act) start about May 13, 2027. On August 12, 2026, the government said the Board's posts were advertised on June 6, 2026, and named no appointee (unstarred question 3960).

Must you send a fresh notice to customers who consented before the Act?

Yes, once section 5 of the DPDP Act starts, about May 13, 2027. Where people consented before then, the Data Fiduciary must send them a notice as soon as reasonably practicable, and may

keep processing until they withdraw consent (section 5(2)). Section 1(2) reads a provision's "commencement of this Act" as that provision's own start.

Sources

- G.S.R. 843(E), November 13, 2025 (Gazette No. 757, CG-DL-E-14112025-267647): dates on which the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 come into force, paras (a) to (c)
- G.S.R. 846(E), November 13, 2025 (Gazette No. 760, CG-DL-E-14112025-267650): Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, rules 1, 4, 13(1) and 17 to 21, and First Schedule, Part A
- G.S.R. 844(E), November 13, 2025: establishment of the Data Protection Board of India, paras 1 and 2
- The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (Act No. 22 of 2023), August 11, 2023: sections 1(2), 2(i), 5(2), 6(7) and (9), 9(1), 10, 27, 43(1) and 44(2) and (3)
- S.O. 5458(E), October 5, 2026: Digital Personal Data Protection (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2026, paras 1 and 2 (PDF, 642 KB)
- Lok Sabha unstarred question 3943, answered August 12, 2026: implementation of rules under the DPDP Act, 2023, answer (ii)
- Lok Sabha unstarred question 3960, answered August 12, 2026: appointment of Chairperson and Members of the Data Protection Board of India
- Press Information Bureau, DPDP Rules, 2025 Notified (backgrounder), November 17, 2025
- The Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 (Act No. 10 of 2009): sections 43A and 87(2)(ob)
- IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, MeitY's text as amended to February 10, 2026: rule 3(1)(i)
- CERT-In, Frequently Asked Questions on the Cyber Security Directions of 28.04.2022 (May 2022), Q25
- MeitY, Inviting Application for Empanelment of Cloud services of Cloud Service Providers (July 2026), legal compliance requirements, item 1

IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

9th Floor, Hemkunt House, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110008, India

Read online: indusdesk.com/meity/dpdp-timeline/