October 31, 2026

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MeitY: India's data, platform, cyber security and electronics rules

MeitY, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, made India's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, administers the IT Rules for online intermediaries and runs the electronics manufacturing incentives. CERT-In, the national cyber incident agency, and the Online Gaming Authority work under it. Most DPDP duties start about May 13, 2027.

ON OCTOBER 31, 2026, India's data protection law is only partly in force: the Data Protection Board exists, but most DPDP duties start about May 13, 2027. The IT Rules' shorter time limits and synthetic content rules have applied since February 20, 2026, the Online Gaming Act since May 1, 2026.

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

October 31, 2026



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Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology · October 31, 2026

MeitY, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, made India's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, administers the IT Rules for online intermediaries and runs the electronics manufacturing incentives. CERT-In, the national cyber incident agency, and the Online Gaming Authority work under it. Most DPDP duties start about May 13, 2027.

Where do MeitY's rules stand on October 31, 2026?

On October 31, 2026, India's data protection law is only partly in force: the Data Protection Board exists, but most DPDP duties start about May 13, 2027. The IT Rules' shorter time limits and synthetic content rules have applied since February 20, 2026, the Online Gaming Act since May 1, 2026.

> As of October 31, 2026
>
> We read the official texts on October 31, 2026: the DPDP Act and Rules, the Information Technology Act (IT Act) and IT Rules, CERT-In's directions, the gaming law, the schemes, the AI guidelines and sixteen Parliament answers.

Changes since October 2025:

- October 22, 2025: limits on who may send takedown intimations, from November 15 (G.S.R. 775(E)).
- November 5, 2025: the India AI Governance Guidelines (Lok Sabha answer).
- November 13, 2025: the DPDP Act's three start steps (G.S.R. 843(E)) and the DPDP Rules (G.S.R. 846(E)).
- February 10, 2026: synthetic content rules and shorter takedown and grievance limits, from February 20 (G.S.R. 120(E)).
- March 30, 2026: a draft making MeitY's advisories part of due diligence, revised on April 21 (revised draft).
- April 22, 2026: May 1, 2026 set as the start of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (S.O. 1994(E)), and its rules (G.S.R. 303(E)).
- April 25, 2026: a warning to virtual private network (VPN) providers and other intermediaries about blocked betting platforms (advisory).
- May 6, 2026: a call for the Data Protection Board's Chairperson and four Members (circular).
- July 2026: MeitY's call for cloud empanelment (call).

- July 29, 2026: the Online Gaming Authority told platforms, banks and ad agencies to stop enabling online money games (advisory).
- August 21, 2026: the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme, with a ₹62,500 crore budget (notification).
- August 31, 2026: Semicon 2.0, a six-pillar chip scheme (notification).
- September 29, 2026: Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) support narrowed for rare earth magnets (Clarification-3).
- October 5, 2026: two wordings fixed in the DPDP Act (S.O. 5458(E)).
- October 6, 2026: the phone scheme's Target Segment 1 opened to applications from October 15 (guidelines).
- October 12, 2026: CERT-In became an attached office of MeitY (order).
- October 29, 2026: a draft data framework for AI training (DEPA draft).

Dates ahead, DPDP ones counted from the Gazette of November 13, 2025:

- About November 13, 2026, one year on: Consent Managers may register, and DPDP rule 4 starts (G.S.R. 843(E), para (b); DPDP Rules, rule 1(3)).
- April 30, 2027: the ECMS window for supply chain and capital equipment closes (ECMS portal).
- About May 13, 2027, eighteen months on: most DPDP duties and all penalties start, and IT Act section 43A goes (G.S.R. 843(E)).

The government's Lok Sabha answer of August 12, 2026 named no appointee to the Board (Unstarred Question 3960).

Every MeitY question we've collected, answered from official texts →

MeitY's latest notices, summarized →

The MeitY tracker →

What is MeitY?

MeitY, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, is the ministry that administers India's IT Rules, 2021 for online intermediaries and made the DPDP Rules, 2025. It also runs electronics manufacturing schemes, empanels cloud services for government buyers and designates the officer for blocking requests under the IT Act.

What MeitY runs, and where to read more

Subject	What MeitY does	Our guide
Personal data	Made the DPDP Rules	DPDP Act
DPDP dates	Set the start steps	DPDP Act timeline
Penalties	Set up the Board	DPDP Act penalties
Data abroad	Transfers restricted only by notification	Cross-border data transfer
Breach reports	CERT-In takes incident reports	Data breach reporting
Cyber security	CERT-In issues directions	CERT-In directions
Platforms	Administers the IT Rules	IT Rules 2021
AI content	Added the synthetic content rules	AI-generated content rules
AI policy	Its committee drafted the guidelines	AI governance in India
Online gaming	Its Authority rules on games	Online Gaming Act
Electronics	Runs incentive schemes	Electronics schemes
Chips	Runs Semicon 2.0	Semicon 2.0
Government cloud	Empanels cloud services	Cloud empanelment
Foreign companies	Holds them to India's laws	Foreign companies
Electronics registration	Sets the Standard Mark rule	MeitY tracker

Five bodies MeitY runs or set up:

- **CERT-In**, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team, an attached office since October 12, 2026 (MeitY order).
- **The Data Protection Board of India**, set up by G.S.R. 844(E); from about May 13, 2027, section 28(1) of the DPDP Act has it act as an independent body.

- **The Online Gaming Authority of India**, chaired by a MeitY Additional Secretary (Online Gaming Rules, rule 3; S.O. 1992(E)).
- **The India Semiconductor Mission**, Semicon 2.0's nodal agency (Semicon 2.0, para 6.1; guidelines, para 2.19).
- **The Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate**, which audits cloud services before MeitY empanels them (cloud call, sections 2 and 4).

Entities incorporated outside India, or with foreign owners, must follow India's laws when they offer digital services in India, the government says (Rajya Sabha, July 24, 2026). It calls the IT Act technology-neutral, AI included (Lok Sabha, July 29, 2026).

What is the DPDP Act, and whom does it cover?

The DPDP Act, India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, is the law on digital personal data processed in India. It also covers processing abroad linked to offering goods or services in India, but not personal or domestic use, or data made public by the person or under a legal duty.

The Act received assent on August 11, 2023. A Data Fiduciary decides why and how personal data is processed (section 2(i)).

From about May 13, 2027, a Data Fiduciary must:

- Get consent after a notice, or rely on a legitimate use the Act lists (sections 4(1) and 5(1)).
- Take reasonable security safeguards, including at its processors (section 8(5)).
- Tell the Board and each affected person about a breach (section 8(6)).
- Erase data once consent is withdrawn or the purpose is served, unless a law says to keep it (section 8(7)).
- Publish a contact for questions and run a grievance system (sections 8(9) and 8(10)).
- Get a parent's verifiable consent for a child, anyone under 18, and not track or target ads at children, unless exempt (sections 2(f) and 9).

DPDP Act: what it asks of a business →

India's digital laws for foreign companies →

When do the DPDP duties start?

The DPDP Act starts in three steps under G.S.R. 843(E) of November 13, 2025. Definitions and the Data Protection Board came first. Consent Manager registration follows about November 13, 2026, and most duties and all penalties about May 13, 2027. Neither G.S.R. 843(E) nor the DPDP Rules print those dates: each counts from the Gazette.

Three steps

Step	When	What starts	Source
First step	November 13, 2025, on publication	Definitions, the Board, sections 35 and 38 to 43, parts of 44; Rules 1, 2 and 17 to 21	G.S.R. 843(E), para (a); G.S.R. 846(E), rule 1
Second step	About November 13, 2026, a year after the Gazette	Consent Manager registration; rule 4	Para (b); rule 1(3)
Third step	About May 13, 2027, eighteen months after	Notices, consent, duties, children's data, Significant Data Fiduciaries, rights, transfers, penalties; the other rules	Para (c); rule 1(4)

None of the documents read to October 31, 2026 shortens the eighteen months. The only 2026 change to the Act, S.O. 5458(E) of October 5, fixed two wordings. On August 12, 2026, the government still described an eighteen-month transition (Lok Sabha question 3943).

DPDP Act timeline →

What are the DPDP penalties, and is the Board working?

DPDP penalties go up to ₹250 crore, for failing to take reasonable security safeguards. The Data Protection Board imposes them after a hearing, from about May 13, 2027. MeitY set up the Board on November 13, 2025; the government's answer of August 12, 2026 named no appointee.

Penalty ceilings

Breach	Up to	Source
Failing to take reasonable security safeguards	₹250 crore	DPDP Act, Schedule, item 1
Failing to report a breach to the Board or to people	₹200 crore	Schedule, item 2
Breaking the children's data duties	₹200 crore	Schedule, item 3
Breaking the Significant Data Fiduciary duties	₹150 crore	Schedule, item 4
Any other breach of the Act or the Rules	₹50 crore	Schedule, item 7

The Board penalizes only a significant breach, weighing factors such as its gravity and length (section 33). Appeals go to the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal within 60 days (section 29(2)).

The Board's size reads two ways. G.S.R. 845(E) says four members, and the Act counts the Chairperson as a Member (section 2(q)); MeitY's call and its Lok Sabha answer list a Chairperson and four Members.

DPDP Act penalties →

Can personal data leave India?

Yes, personal data can leave India. From about May 13, 2027, the DPDP Act lets the government restrict transfers to a country by notification, and none was among the documents read to October 31, 2026. Stricter Indian laws on transfers still apply, and a few rules keep particular data in India.

From about May 13, 2027, rule 15 also binds a Data Fiduciary to any government order on making data available to a foreign State.

Three rules keep data in India:

- **Significant Data Fiduciaries:** data the government specifies on a committee's recommendation, from the eighteen-month step (rule 13(4)). None had been notified among the documents read to October 31, 2026.
- **CERT-In logs:** of all ICT (information and communication technology) systems, a rolling 180 days, within Indian jurisdiction (CERT-In directions, direction (iv)).

- **Government cloud:** empaneled services keep all data, processing and backups in India (cloud call, section 5.2.4(k), items 37 to 39).

Cross-border data transfer →

What must you report after a data breach?

After a data breach in India, report it to CERT-In within 6 hours of noticing it. From about May 13, 2027, any personal data breach goes to each affected person and the Data Protection Board without delay, with a full Board report within 72 hours. The DPDP Act adds to other laws, so plan for both.

Who must hear about a breach, and when

Report	To whom	Deadline	In force	Source
Cyber incident, data breaches included	CERT-In	6 hours from noticing or learning of it	Since 2022	CERT-In directions, direction (ii)
Personal data breach	The Data Protection Board	Without delay; full report in 72 hours, unless the Board allows longer	From about May 13, 2027	DPDP Rules, rule 7(2)
Breach notice	Each affected person	Without delay, in plain words	From about May 13, 2027	Rule 7(1)

Not reporting to CERT-In risks up to a year in prison, a fine of up to ₹1 crore, or both (IT Act, section 70B(7)). Not telling the Board or people risks a penalty of up to ₹200 crore (DPDP Act, Schedule, item 2).

Data breach reporting in India →

What does the IT Act cover?

The IT Act, the Information Technology Act, 2000, covers online intermediaries and their safe harbor, the government's powers to intercept and block information, protected systems and CERT-In's directions. It applies to offenses abroad, by anyone, involving a computer, computer system or network in India.

The IT Act sections companies meet most

Section	What it does	Penalty or effect	Source
Section 43A	Compensation for negligent security of sensitive personal data	Deleted about May 13, 2027	2008 amendment; DPDP Act, section 44(2)
Section 66A	Deleted from November 30, 2023	Not in force	Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, serial 32; S.O. 4745(E)
Section 69	Interception and decryption orders	Up to 7 years in prison and a fine for not helping	2008 amendment
Section 69A	Blocking orders	Up to 7 years in prison and a fine for an intermediary that fails	2008 amendment
Section 70	Protected systems	Eight airport systems, October 22, 2026 (S.O. 5771(E))	2008 amendment
Section 70B(6) and (7)	CERT-In's directions	Up to 1 year in prison, a fine of up to ₹1 crore, or both	2008 amendment; Jan Vishwas Act, 2023
Section 72A	Disclosure in breach of a lawful contract	A penalty of up to ₹25 lakh	Jan Vishwas Act, 2023
Section 75	Offenses abroad involving a computer in India	Any nationality	IT Act, 2000
Section 79	Safe harbor for third-party content	Lost for taking part, slow removal after notice, or failing the IT Rules	2008 amendment; IT Rules, rule 7

Blocking requests go through an officer MeitY designates (S.O. 4769(E)). The blocking procedure rules were not among the documents read to October 31, 2026.

IT Rules 2021 →

CERT-In directions →

What do the IT Rules require of platforms?

The IT Rules, 2021 set the due diligence an intermediary follows to keep its section 79 safe harbor. They require a Grievance Officer and fixed time limits for takedowns and complaints, with more for the largest social media platforms. An intermediary that fails them loses the shield.

Time limits since February 20, 2026

What	Limit	Was	Rule
Removal on a court order or an authorized officer's reasoned intimation	3 hours	36 hours	IT Rules, rule 3(1)(d); G.S.R. 120(E)
Resolving a grievance	7 days	15 days	Rule 3(2)(a)(i)
Resolving a request to remove content rule 3(1)(b) lists, except ownership, IP and general-law claims	36 hours	72 hours	Rule 3(2)(a)(i), first proviso
Removing intimate images or morphed impersonation, on complaint	2 hours	24 hours	Rule 3(2)(b)

A social media intermediary with more than 50 lakh registered users in India is a significant one (S.O. 942(E)). It needs a Chief Compliance Officer, a round-the-clock law enforcement contact and a Resident Grievance Officer, all living in India (rule 4(1)).

MeitY's April 2026 draft would add following its advisories and directions to that due diligence. Its start date is blank: it's a proposal, not law.

IT Rules 2021: due diligence and time limits →

Draft IT Rules would make MeitY advisories part of due diligence →

What are the rules for AI-generated content?

India's rules for AI-generated content are in the IT Rules, which since February 20, 2026 regulate synthetically generated information: audio, images or video made or altered by computer to look

real. Platforms that let users make or share it must stop unlawful synthetic content and label the rest.

- **What counts:** content that could pass for a real person or event; text on its own doesn't, MeitY's FAQ says (Q8).
- **Unlawful content:** reasonable technical measures to stop it (rule 3(3)(a)(i)).
- **Labels:** a prominent visible label, or a spoken disclosure at the start of audio, plus permanent metadata or another provenance mechanism, where technically feasible (rule 3(3)(a)(ii)).
- **The largest platforms:** users declare synthetic content, and the platform checks the declaration with technical measures and labels what it confirms (rule 4(1A)).

AI-generated content rules in India →

What do CERT-In's directions require?

CERT-In's directions of April 28, 2022 bind service providers, intermediaries, data centers, companies and other businesses, and government bodies. They must report listed cyber incidents within 6 hours, sync their clocks and keep 180 days of logs in India. Some providers also keep customer records. Individual citizens are not covered.

- **Report within 6 hours:** 20 kinds of incident, from data breaches to attacks on cloud and AI systems (directions, direction (ii)).
- **Sync clocks:** with the time servers of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) or the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), or servers traceable to them (direction (i)).
- **Keep logs:** a rolling 180 days, within Indian jurisdiction, given with an incident report or on order (direction (iv)).
- **Keep customer records:** data centers and cloud, VPN and virtual private server providers keep validated customer details for five years after a customer's registration is canceled or withdrawn, or longer if a law requires (direction (v)).
- **Name a Point of Contact:** a provider serving users in India must, even with no office there, CERT-In's FAQ says (Q29).

Not following a direction can bring up to a year in prison, a fine of up to ₹1 crore since November 30, 2023, or both (Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, serial 32(I)). CERT-In's 2022 FAQ still says ₹1 lakh; CERT-In says the FAQ is not a legal document.

CERT-In directions →

Power sector cyber security rules bind vendors from April 2027 →

What does India's online gaming law ban?

The Online Gaming Act bans online money games: games played by paying fees or staking money in the hope of winning money, whether of skill, chance or both. In force since May 1, 2026, it bans offering, advertising and handling payments for them, in India or from outside India.

What the Act bans, and the penalty

Act	Penalty	Section
Offering an online money game	Up to 3 years in prison, a fine of up to ₹1 crore, or both	Act, sections 5 and 9(1)
Advertising one	Up to 2 years in prison, a fine of up to ₹50 lakh, or both	Sections 6 and 9(2)
Processing its payments	Up to 3 years in prison, a fine of up to ₹1 crore, or both	Sections 7 and 9(3)
Offering or payments, again	3 to 5 years in prison and a fine of ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore	Section 9(4)

The Act promotes e-sports and social games (sections 3 and 4). The Online Gaming Authority rules on or registers games only in set cases (Online Gaming Rules, rules 8 and 12).

Online Gaming Act 2025 →

Online gaming rules take effect with the Act on May 1, 2026 →

Which electronics manufacturing schemes can you apply for?

Besides Semicon 2.0, two MeitY electronics manufacturing schemes take applications on October 31, 2026: the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme's Target Segment 1, until March 31,

2029, and ECMS for supply chain and capital equipment, until April 30, 2027. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) 2.0 scheme for IT hardware took applications only until August 30, 2023.

MeitY's schemes on October 31, 2026

Scheme	Supports	Outlay	Applications	Source
PLI 2.0 for IT hardware	Making laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, servers and ultra small form factor computers	₹16,939 crore of incentives; ends March 31, 2031	Closed; MeitY may reopen it	PLI 2.0, paras 6.2, 6.3 and 8.1; extension
ECMS	Components, their supply chain and capital equipment	₹40,000 crore after Budget 2026, the government says	Segment D until April 30, 2027	ECMS; Amendment-2; portal; Rajya Sabha, March 13, 2026
Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme	Phone makers registered in India, and Indian brands	₹62,500 crore budget	Target Segment 1 until March 31, 2029; if filed after March 31, 2027, paid only from approval	notification; guidelines, para 14.2

Electronics manufacturing schemes →

Mobile phone makers can apply for incentives from October 15 →

What does Semicon 2.0 offer?

Semicon 2.0 offers MeitY's support for chip fabs, packaging and Indian-owned chip design. Notified on August 31, 2026, it pays 40% of eligible capital cost for large silicon wafer fabs, 35% for advanced and 25% for legacy packaging. It's first open for applications for three years.

- **Silicon fabs:** 300 mm wafers, with at least 40,000 wafer starts a month and ₹20,000 crore of investment (Semicon 2.0, para 3.5.3).
- **Packaging:** at least ₹1,000 crore of capital investment (para 3.8.3).
- **Design:** companies incorporated and headquartered in India, with significant operations and staff there, owned and controlled by Indian citizens, or by Overseas Citizens of India for commercial chips (paras 3.1.3 and 3.2.3). Indian academic institutions also get the design tools and wafer runs (para 3.2.5).

The Cabinet approved ₹1.27 lakh crore on July 15, 2026, the government told the Lok Sabha on August 5, 2026 (Starred Question 246).

Semicon 2.0 →

Semicon 2.0 applications for fabs and packaging open for three years →

How does government buying treat electronics?

Central government buyers apply the Make in India procurement order of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to electronics, which MeitY counts among its measures. MeitY has put CCTV cameras under the order and requires goods bought to meet every Indian technical regulation that applies.

CCTV cameras have been under the order since June 7, 2024 (MeitY clarification, para 1). STQC, a MeitY directorate, issues their security test reports, valid for three years. Since February 4, 2026, one report serves both registration and procurement (paras 2 and 4).

Buyers may test supplies through third parties and add penalty clauses (circular of December 3, 2025, paras 2 and 3). MeitY's own preference orders for Indian electronics and cyber security products were not among the documents read to October 31, 2026.

Make in India procurement order →

GFR Rule 144(xi): land-border bidders →

How does a cloud provider get MeitY empanelment?

A cloud provider gets MeitY empanelment by applying to MeitY, which takes applications all year, and passing an STQC audit. Only an applicant incorporated in India and operating there for three

years in a row qualifies, and it or one holding company needs positive net worth in the last two financial years. Empanelment lasts five years.

1. Check that you qualify.

Incorporated in India, three consecutive years of operations there and positive net worth, yours or one holding company's, in the last two financial years (call, Annexure 6).

2. Host the service in India.

Data, processing and backups stay in India (section 5.2.4(k), items 37 to 39).

3. Apply to MeitY.

Applications are open all year (section 8).

4. Pass the STQC audit.

It comes before empanelment (section 8).

MeitY's list posted July 29, 2026 names 28 empaneled providers (MeitY list). On December 12, 2025, the government told the Rajya Sabha there were 26 (Rajya Sabha answer).

MeitY cloud empanelment →

Does India regulate AI?

India regulates AI through existing laws and sector regulators, under the India AI Governance Guidelines released on November 5, 2025. The guidelines say a separate AI law isn't needed at this stage: laws on IT, data protection, consumer protection, civil and criminal law govern AI uses, amended where gaps appear.

The guidelines rest on seven principles, starting with trust (Lok Sabha, August 5, 2026). MeitY set up an AI Governance and Economic Group on April 13, 2026 (order). The government cites the 2026 synthetic content rules as its answer to deepfakes (Lok Sabha, July 29, 2026).

AI governance in India →

What do MeitY's rules mean for a foreign company?

MeitY's rules can bind a foreign company with no office in India. The DPDP Act covers processing abroad linked to offering goods or services in India, and the IT Act reaches offenses abroad involving a computer in India. But PLI 2.0 takes only companies registered in India, and cloud empanelment only applicants incorporated there.

- **Platforms:** a significant social media intermediary's three officers live in India (rule 4(1)).
- **Cyber incidents:** a Point of Contact for CERT-In, even with no office in India (FAQ, Q29).
- **Games:** the gaming law covers money games offered in India or run from outside it (section 1(2)).

India's digital laws for foreign companies →

Exporting to India: DGFT's rules →

Investing in India: DPIIT's rules →

What is the Compulsory Registration Order?

The Compulsory Registration Order is MeitY's 2021 order, S.O. 1248(E), that requires listed electronics to meet an Indian Standard and carry the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). BIS certifies and enforces it. Exports built to a foreign buyer's specification are outside it.

See the order, paras 2 and 5. Our tracker lists its products, notices and guidance.

The MeitY tracker →

MeitY's notices, summarized →

Smartphone screen protectors join compulsory registration →

MeitY FAQs treat remotely viewable cameras as CCTV cameras →

Standalone hard disk drive deadline extended to May 1, 2027 →

Do laptop and server imports need an authorization?

Yes, laptop and server imports need an authorization. Imports of laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, ultra small form factor computers and servers under HSN heading 8471 have been restricted since 2023. Importers apply in the Import Management System of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

Our DGFT guide covers it (Policy Circular No. 08/2025-26).

DGFT import authorization →

Which MeitY claims online are out of date?

Many pages about MeitY's rules repeat drafts, replaced limits or wrong dates. We checked the common claims against the official documents on October 31, 2026, from the DPDP dates to the IT Rules' time limits, CERT-In's fine and the gaming law.

Claims repeated online, and what the texts 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	G.S.R. 846(E), rule 1

The DPDP Act applies from November 13, 2026, after a soft enforcement period	That step starts only Consent Manager registration; no notification read sets a soft period	G.S.R. 843(E), para (b)
Significant Data Fiduciaries must comply by May 13, 2026, or by November 13, 2026	From about May 13, 2027, and only once notified as significant	G.S.R. 843(E), para (c); DPDP Rules, rule 13(1)
Foreign companies need a local representative under the DPDP Act	Only a Significant Data Fiduciary needs one: its Data Protection Officer represents it and is based in India	DPDP Act, section 10(2)(a)
The DPDP Act already exempts startups	It lets the government notify exemptions; none was among the documents read to October 31, 2026	DPDP Act, section 17(3)
The three-hour takedown covers any complaint, or only AI content	Any unlawful information, on a court order or an authorized officer's reasoned intimation	IT Rules, rule 3(1)(d)
Takedowns get 36 hours, grievances 15 days, intimate images 24 hours	3 hours, 7 days and 2 hours since February 20, 2026; MeitY's 2021 FAQ is out of date	G.S.R. 120(E); 2021 FAQ, Q4(e)
CERT-In's fine is ₹1 lakh	Up to ₹1 crore since November 30, 2023; CERT-In's FAQ is out of date	Jan Vishwas Act, 2023; S.O. 4745(E)
The Online Gaming Act took effect on October 1, 2025	It came into force on May 1, 2026	S.O. 1994(E)
Every online game must register	Only in set cases, such as e-sports and notified games	Online Gaming Rules, rule 12; Lok Sabha answer
A gaming registration lasts five years	Up to ten years; five was the draft's figure	Online Gaming Rules, rule 14(2); draft note
The phone scheme needs 51% Indian ownership	Only for Indian brands in Target Segment 2	MPMS notification, para 8.1
Semicon 2.0 pays 50% of fab costs	40% for silicon wafer fabs, 35% for other fabs	Semicon 2.0, paras 3.5.3 to 3.7.3
The ECMS outlay is ₹22,919 crore	Budget 2026 raised it to ₹40,000 crore, the government says	Rajya Sabha question 2472

How IndusDesk helps with MeitY matters

We watch the authorities, tell you what each change means for your products and plans, represent you while a decision is still open, and carry the work through, with every step on record in your workspace.

Government affairs →

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Rule exposure audit →

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Frequently asked questions

Which ministry handles what: MeitY, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, DGFT or DPIIT?

MeitY administers the IT Rules for online intermediaries; the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting runs their part for digital news and streaming publishers (IT Rules, rules 2(1)(l) and 8(1)). DGFT authorizes restricted IT hardware imports, and DPIIT issues the procurement order buyers apply to electronics. Our foreign companies guide goes further.

Are MeitY's and CERT-In's FAQs legally binding?

No, neither binds. MeitY's 2026 IT Rules FAQ and CERT-In's FAQ each say they are not legal documents, so the rule governs where they differ: CERT-In's direction keeps logs in India, though its FAQ allows copies abroad. Our IT Rules guide explains more.

Is CERT-In still the statutory cyber security agency after October 2026?

Yes. Since October 12, 2026, CERT-In has been an attached office under MeitY's administrative control, and it remains the agency appointed under IT Act section 70B (MeitY order). Our CERT-In guide covers its directions.

Sources

- Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, as amended (MeitY consolidated text, updated as on February 10, 2026)
- G.S.R. 846(E): Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 (MeitY, November 13, 2025)
- Frequently Asked Questions on the Cyber Security Directions of 28.04.2022 (CERT-In, May 2022)
- Act No. 10 of 2009: The Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 (February 5, 2009)
- G.S.R. 303(E): Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026 (MeitY, April 22, 2026) (PDF, 2.1 MB)
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