
DPDP Act + Rules 2025: Effective Sections, Deadlines and What To-Do Next

MeitY Notification G.S.R. 846(E), 13 November 2025

1. What the DPDP Act Already Provides (Statutory Framework)

The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (22 of 2023)** is already law. The notification does not “start” the Act. The Act is fully enacted.

Key operative provisions already exist on paper:

Foundational Definitions (Section 2)

- Personal data
- Processing
- Data fiduciary
- Data principal
- Child
- Consent
- Data breach
- Processing for lawful purposes (Sec 4)

Core Obligations of Data Fiduciaries (Chapters II & III)

- **Section 5:** Notice and consent
- **Section 6:** Duties of Data Principal
- **Section 7:** Additional grounds of processing (State functions, subsidy/benefit/service, etc.)
- **Section 8:** General obligations:
 - purpose limitation
 - data minimisation
 - security safeguards
 - data breach intimation
 - accuracy
 - storage limitation
 - grievance redressal
 - erasure
- **Section 9:** Processing of children’s data
- **Section 10:** Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDF)

Rights (Chapter III)

- Access (Sec 11)
- Correction & Erasure (Sec 12)

- Grievance redressal (Sec 13)
- Nomination (Sec 14)

Institutional Mechanism

- **Chapter V (Sections 18 to 27):** Data Protection Board of India
- **Section 28-29:** Appeals
- **Section 30-36:** Penalties & offences
- **Section 37-40:** Rule-making power, exemptions, national security, government directions

Note:

Most obligations **exist in the Act**, but they **cannot operate without Rules** (because the Act says “as may be prescribed”).

The notification activates only some Rules.

2. What the 13 November Notification Actually Activates

The notification brings **DPDP Rules, 2025** into force **in a staggered manner**, under **Section 40 of the Act**.

Effective Immediately (13 November 2025)

Only **Rules 1, 2 and 17 to 21** are in force.

Rule 1: Commencement

This establishes the staggered timeline.

Rule 2: Definitions

Adds new legal terms to be read **in conjunction with Section 2 of the Act**:

- **“user account”**
- **“verifiable consent”** (Rules 10 & 11)
- **“techno-legal measures”** (Rules 20 & 22)

Rules 17 to 21: Operationalising the Data Protection Board

These Rules implement **Chapter V of the Act**, including:

- **Rule 17:** Search-cum-Selection Committees (for Chairperson & Members), as required under **Section 18**
- **Rule 18:** Salary and service conditions (Fifth Schedule)
- **Rule 19:** Meetings, quorum, casting vote, conflict of interest, authentication of orders
- **Rule 20:** Digital office and techno-legal measures (ties back to **Section 19-27**)

- **Rule 21:** Officers & employees (Sixth Schedule)

Note:

As of today, India has the **legal infrastructure** to operationalise the Data Protection Board.

3. What Organisations Should Be Doing (Act + Rules Together)

Even though the compliance-heavy parts of the Rules are not active, the **Act is in force**, and the notification now makes the direction clear.

Immediate steps aligned with the Act:

- Start preparing for **Section 5** (notice), even though Rule 3 is not live
- Begin mapping personal data to support **Section 8(c-g)** requirements
- Start preparing breach workflows for **Section 8(6)** (which requires notification “as may be prescribed”)
- Identify processing involving minors (Section 9)
- Assess risks under **Section 10** (SDF criteria)
- Strengthen security practices to align with **Section 8(5)**

Immediate steps aligned with Rules now in force:

- Track the formation and actions of the **Data Protection Board**
 - Understand “user account” and “verifiable consent” implications for system design
 - Prepare leadership for inquiry and adjudication processes as per Rule 19
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4. Compliance Prep for 2026 and Beyond

A. 13 November 2026 (After 1 Year)

Rule 4 becomes active → Consent Manager ecosystem

- Registration
 - Net-worth requirement
 - Governance & conflict-of-interest controls
 - First Schedule obligations
- Directly enables the Act’s consent architecture under **Sections 5 & 6**.
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B. 13 May 2027 (After 18 Months)

This is when **the Act becomes operational in day-to-day practice**, because the Rules fill in the procedural details.

Legal impact:

Rule 3 → implements Section 5 (Notice Requirements)

- Itemised data categories
- Specific purposes
- Communication links for rights & consent withdrawal

Rule 5 → operationalises Section 7 (State Processing)

- Second Schedule standards

Rule 6 → implements Section 8(5) (Security Safeguards)

- Encryption, obfuscation, access control
- Log retention (1 year)
- Data Processor obligations
- Business continuity

Rule 7 → implements Section 8(6) (Data Breach Notification)

- Notice to data principal
- Reporting to the Board
- 72-hour detailed report

Rule 8 → supports Section 8(7) (Erasure + Purpose Expiry)

- Mandatory erasure for large platforms
- Third Schedule timelines

Rules 10-12 → refine Section 9 (Children + Persons with Disabilities)

- Verifiable consent
- Identity/age verification rules
- Exemptions for education & healthcare (Fourth Schedule)

Rule 13 → operationalises Section 10 (SDF obligations)

- Annual DPIA
- Audit
- Algorithmic risk checks
- In-India processing for specified data

Rule 14 → supports rights under Sections 11-14

- Rights request mechanisms
- 90-day grievance timeline

Rule 15 → supports Section 16 (Transfers Outside India)

Rule 16 → supports Section 17(2)(b) (Research & Statistical Processing)

Rule 22 → implements Section 29 (Appeal Process)

- Digital filing
- UPI payment of fee

Rule 23 → implements Sections 37-38 (Govt Information Requests)

- Seventh Schedule authorised persons

Remember

The **Act is fully in force** but mostly dormant without Rules.

The **13 November 2025 notification activates the foundation**: definitions + Board.

The real compliance burden starts on:

- **13 November 2026** → Consent Managers
- **13 May 2027** → Notices, consent, security, breach, erasure, children's data, rights, SDF duties, cross-border rules, appeals, government directions

For the first time, organisations now have **certainty, dates, and legal structure**.

This is the first real step from legislation to implementation.

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