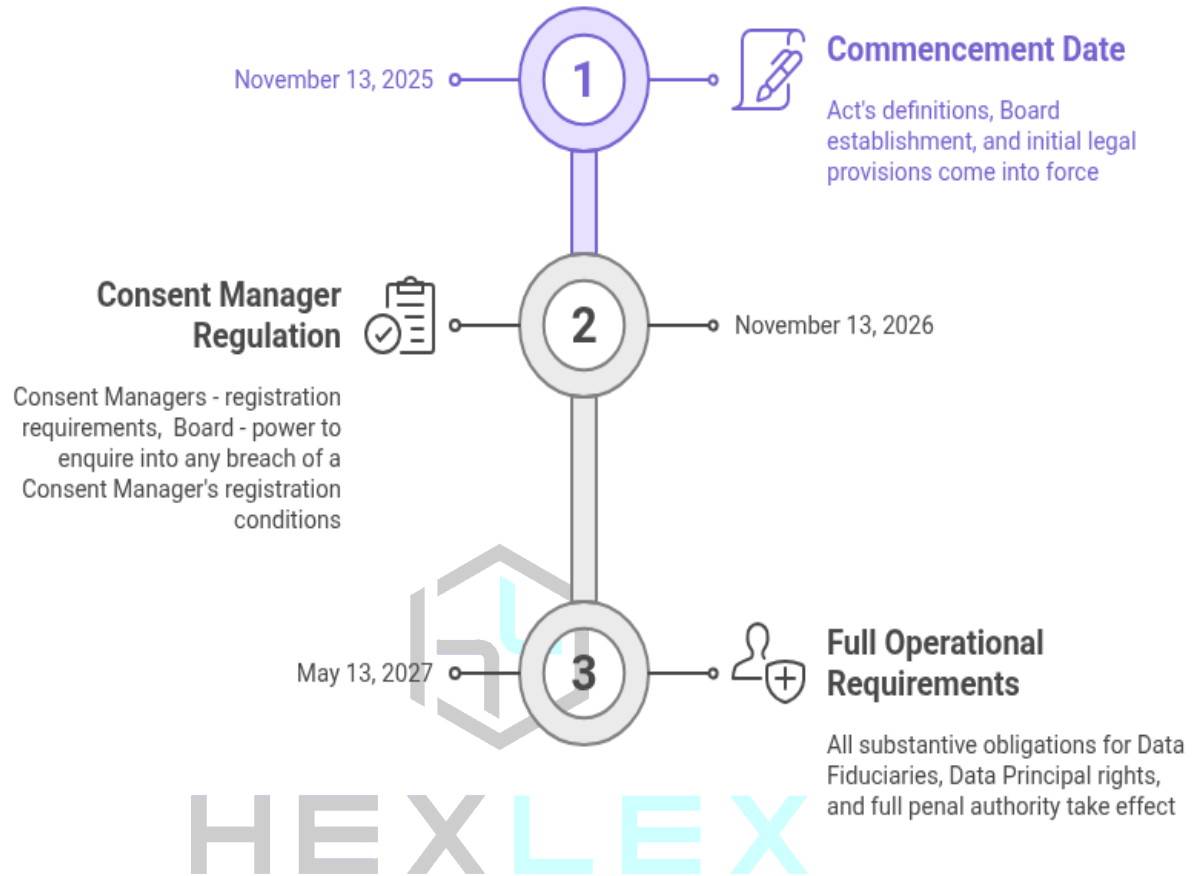


DPDP Act and Rules - Implementation Timeline



The implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and Rules will be in three phases.

Phase 1: Commencement Date (November 13, 2025)

This immediate phase focuses primarily on laying the groundwork for the regulatory authority (the Board) and establishing the legal scaffolding for the Act.

Category	Relevant Provisions of the DPDP Act (Sections)	Corresponding Rules (Rules)	Core Subject Matter
Preliminary/General	Section 1(2) (Commencement)	Rule 1 (Short title and commencement)	Basic definitions and commencement rules.
Definitions	Section 2 (All definitions)	Rule 2 (Definitions)	Legal definitions (e.g., Data Fiduciary, Data Principal, Board, Significant Data Fiduciary).
Regulatory Body	Sections 18 to 26	Rules 17 to 21	Establishment of the Data Protection Board of India. This includes the legal establishment of the Board as a corporate body, its composition, qualifications, terms of service, proceedings, and the appointment mechanisms for the Chairperson and Members. Also covers the Board's functioning as a digital office.
Legal Framework	Sections 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43		Miscellaneous Powers: Includes protection of actions taken in good faith, consistency with other laws, bar of civil court jurisdiction, power to make rules, laying of rules before Parliament, power to amend the

			Schedule, and power to remove difficulties.
Statutory Amendments	Sub-sections (1) and (3) of Section 44		Amendments to certain Acts, specifically related to substituting clauses in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (TRAI Act) and Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act) [(3) In section 8 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, in sub-section (1), for clause (j), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:— “(j) information which relates to personal information; ”.]

Phase 2: One Year from Commencement Date (November 13, 2026)

This phase introduces the specific operational framework for Consent Managers, recognizing them as an intermediary role and establishing the Board's power to regulate them.

Category	Relevant Provisions of the DPDP Act (Sections)	Corresponding Rules (Rules)	Core Subject Matter
Consent Managers	Section 6(9)	Rule 4	Registration of Consent Managers: This requires every Consent Manager to be registered with the Board subject to prescribed technical, operational, financial, and other conditions. Rule 4 details the application and registration process, conditions (like being an Indian company and having a minimum net worth of ₹2 crore), and obligations.
Board - Powers	Section 27(1)(d)		The Board gains the power to inquire into a breach of any condition of registration by a Consent Manager and impose a penalty.

Phase 3: Eighteen Months from Commencement Date (May 13, 2027)

This is the largest phase, encompassing the full operationalization of the Act. All core obligations for Data Fiduciaries, all Data Principal rights, and the full penal and regulatory authority of the Board take effect.

Category	Relevant Provisions of the DPDP Act (Sections)	Corresponding Rules (Rules)	Core Subject Matter
Substantive Scope	Sections 3 to 5	Rule 3 (Notice requirements only)	Application of the Act, Grounds for processing (Consent or Legitimate Uses), and the Notice requirements (including retrospective notice for existing data). Rule 3 prescribes the manner and content of the notice.
Consent & Accountability	Section 6 (Sub-sections 1 to 8, and 10)		Provisions establishing valid consent (free, specific, unambiguous), right to withdrawal, DF's obligation to cease processing upon withdrawal, and the DF's burden of proof regarding consent.
Lawful Processing	Section 7	Rule 5, Second Schedule	Certain legitimate uses including voluntary data provision and uses by the State for subsidies/services. Rule 5 and the Second Schedule define the standards for processing data for State purposes.

DF Obligations	Sections 8 to 10	Rules 6 to 13	Core DF Duties: Responsibility, accuracy, reasonable security safeguards, personal data breach intimation to the Board and Data Principal, data erasure/retention obligations , and publication of contact information. Rules detail security safeguards, breach intimation timelines (72 hours to the Board for detailed report), and specific erasure periods for large Fiduciaries (like e-commerce/social media).
Children's Data	Section 9	Rules 10, 11, 12, Fourth Schedule	Obligations related to obtaining verifiable parental consent , prohibitions on tracking, behavioral monitoring, and targeted advertising directed at children. Rules specify due diligence required for verification of parents/guardians and classes/purposes exempted from these restrictions.
Significant DF	Section 10	Rule 13	Additional obligations for Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDFs), including appointing a Data Protection Officer (DPO), undertaking periodic Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA), and independent data audits. Rule 13 specifies these must be done at least once every twelve months.
Data Principal Rights	Sections 11 to 14	Rule 14	Rights to access information about processed data, right to correction/erasure, right to grievance redressal, and right to nominate. Rule 14 requires publishing the means to exercise these rights and sets a maximum ninety-day period for responding to grievances.

Duties, Transfer, Exemptions	Sections 15 to 17	Rules 15, 16, Second Schedule	Duties of the Data Principal, power of Central Government to restrict cross-border data transfer, and general exemptions for processing (e.g., legal rights, investigation, research). Rule 15 governs international data transfer requirements.
Enforcement/Penalties	Sections 27 (except 1(d)), 28 to 34, 36, 37	Rules 22, 23, Seventh Schedule	The Board's full range of functions, including inquiring into personal data breaches or breaches of obligations, issuing directions, and imposing penalties. Also covers appeals to the Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), and the Central Government's power to issue directions, including blocking access to services of Data Fiduciaries.
Statutory Amendments	Sub-section (2) of Section 44		Amendments to the Information Technology Act, 2000 (including omission of Section 43A)

This phased approach ensures that while the foundation (the Board and supporting rules) is established immediately, Data Fiduciaries have a clear period of up to eighteen months (from November 13, 2025) to align their operational procedures and systems with the rigorous requirements, such as verifiable consent mechanisms and data audit requirements.