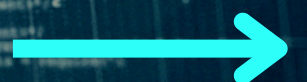


Evolution of Digital Personal Data Protection Law in India

India's journey toward personal data protection legislation showcases its endeavor to balance individual privacy, technological advancement, and economic growth. As a digital leader with a vast and diverse population, the country has encountered unique challenges in developing a data protection framework that aligns with global standards while addressing local needs. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA) and the Draft Rules of 2025 are pivotal milestones, marking a significant step forward in the evolution of India's data governance framework.



Key Milestones in India's Data Protection Evolution

● Srikrishna Committee and the Conceptual Framework (2017-2018)

The foundation for India's modern data protection framework was laid by the Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee, formed in 2017. The committee released its "A Free and Fair Digital Economy" report in 2018, identifying:

1. The need for a rights-based framework balancing individual privacy with the interests of innovation and national security.
2. Recommendations for data localization, consent mechanisms, and accountability of data fiduciaries.

● The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and Transition to Comprehensive Data Governance

Initially introduced to provide legal recognition for electronic transactions, the IT Act became insufficient to handle modern data privacy issues. The DPDPA complements and updates this framework, paving the way for broader governance of the digital economy through the forthcoming Digital India Act.



Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019

This was the first draft legislation introduced in Parliament that aimed to provide a comprehensive attempt to address data privacy concerns. It included provisions for a Data Protection Authority (DPA) to oversee compliance. Introduced key individual rights such as data portability, the right to be forgotten, and mechanisms for grievance redressal.

Withdrawal of the PDP Bill and Introduction of the DPDPA, 2023

In 2022, the government withdrew the PDP Bill, citing the need for a simpler, more focused framework. The DPDPA, 2023, was enacted to provide for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognizes both the right of individuals to protect their data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes.

Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules (DPDP), 2025

The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules aim to safeguard citizens' rights to protect their personal data. These rules seek to operationalize the DPDPA, 2023, in line with India's commitment to creating a robust framework for protecting digital personal data.



Key Features of DPDP Rules, 2025



Registration and obligations of a Consent Manager



Intimation of Personal Data Breach



Verifiable consent for processing personal data of children and persons with disabilities









Exemptions from obligations in processing personal data of children

Global Data Protection and Privacy Laws

As more social and economic activities move online, the importance of privacy and data protection is becoming increasingly acknowledged. To address these concerns, 137 out of 194 countries have established laws to ensure the protection of data and privacy.

Here are some countries that have laws in place to safeguard data and privacy:

-  **European Union** - General Data Protection Regulation
-  **China** - China Personal Information Protection Law
-  **South Africa** - Protection of Personal Information Act
-  **Japan** - Act on the Protection of Personal Information
-  **Australia** - Privacy Act 1988
-  **New Zealand** - Privacy Act 2020

