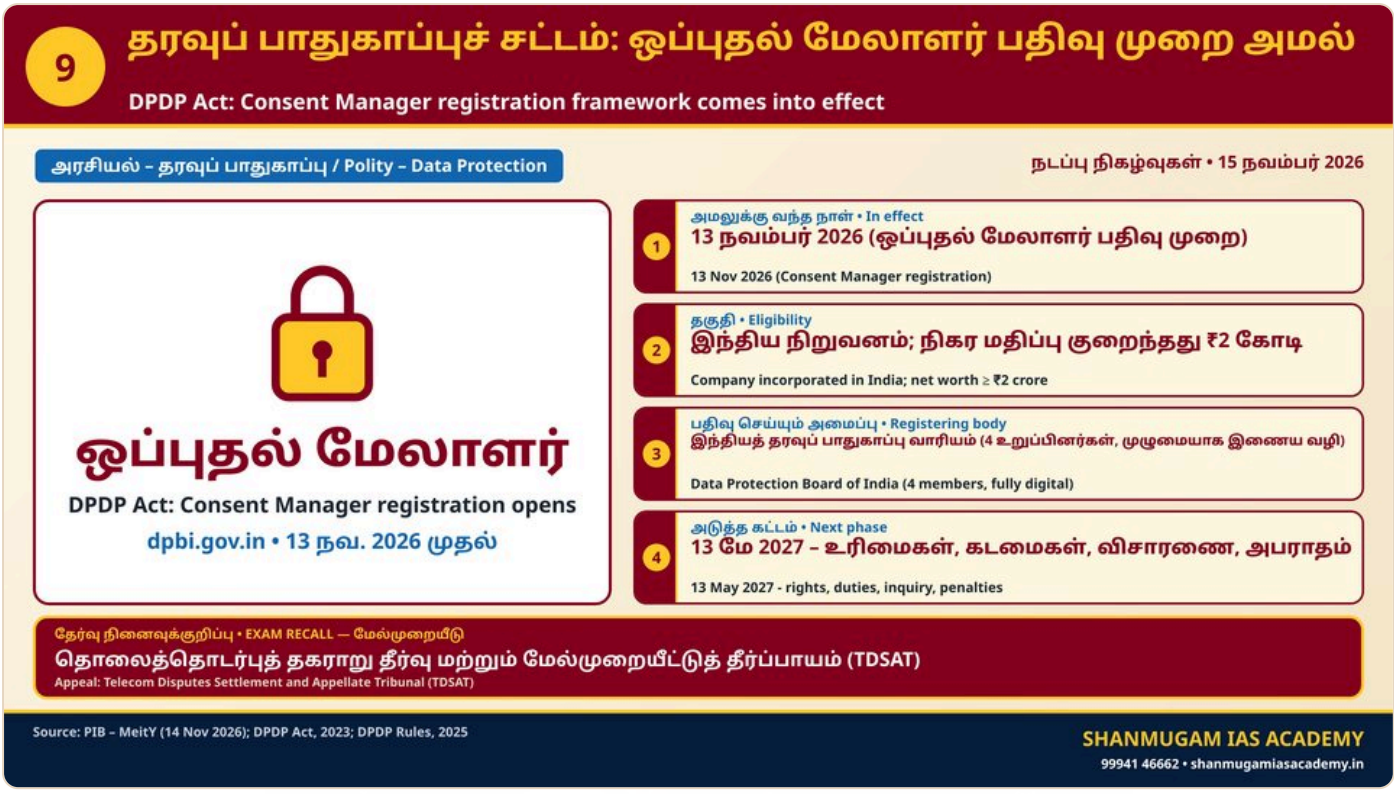
DPDP Act: Consent Manager registration framework comes into effect

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News

The registration framework for Consent Managers under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 came into effect on 13 November 2026, and S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), launched the portal dpbi.gov.in for applications (PIB, 14 November 2026). A Consent Manager is an entity registered with the Data Protection Board of India that gives the individual (the Data Principal) an accessible, transparent and interoperable platform to give, manage, review and withdraw consent, and it is accountable to the Data Principal. Only companies incorporated in India with adequate technical, operational and financial capacity, including a net worth of at least ₹2 crore, may apply; the Board will assess applications and publish the list of registered Consent Managers on its website. This is the next step in the 18-month phased roll-out set by the DPDP Rules, 2025, notified in November 2025; the other key provisions - rights of Data Principals, obligations of Data Fiduciaries and the Board's inquiry and penalty processes - are scheduled to come into effect on 13 May 2027.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
In effect	13 Nov 2026 (Consent Manager registration)
Portal	dpbi.gov.in - launched by MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan

Point	Details
Eligibility	Company incorporated in India; net worth ≥ ₹2 crore
Registering body	Data Protection Board of India (4 members, fully digital)
Role	Give, manage, review and withdraw consent
Next phase	13 May 2027 - rights, duties, inquiry, penalties
Act / Rules	DPDP Act (enacted 11 Aug 2023); DPDP Rules 2025 (Nov 2025)
Appeal	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)

Background

- Background: in K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (24 August 2017) a nine-judge bench held privacy to be a fundamental right, part of Article 21 and Part III. The Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee then gave the draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018; the 2019 Bill was withdrawn in August 2022; Parliament then enacted the DPDP Act, 2023 (11 August 2023).
- Key terms: Data Principal - the individual the data relates to (for a child, including the parent or lawful guardian); Data Fiduciary - the entity that decides the purpose and means of processing; Data Processor - one who processes on its behalf. A 'child' is a person below 18, whose data needs verifiable parental consent. The Act rests on seven principles: consent and transparency, purpose limitation, data minimisation, accuracy, storage limitation, security safeguards and accountability.
- Penalties and set-up: failure to keep reasonable security safeguards attracts up to ₹250 crore (the highest); failure to notify a data breach and breach of obligations on children up to ₹200 crore each; breach of the additional obligations of a Significant Data Fiduciary up to ₹150 crore; other violations up to ₹50 crore. Appeals against the Board's decisions go to TDSAT. The Act also amended Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005 (personal-information exemption) - a debated change and a Mains angle.
- Why Consent Managers? They let a person see, on one platform, the consents given to many apps and companies and withdraw them at any time. In finance, RBI's Account Aggregator system is another example of consent-based data sharing. Exam angle: privacy, the digital economy and the independence of regulators (GS-2/GS-3).

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai was one of the seven cities where MeitY held consultations on the draft DPDP Rules (PIB). As Tamil Nadu is a major hub for IT, IT-enabled services and fintech firms, the rules affect many companies here. State government departments that handle citizens' personal data are also Data Fiduciaries under the Act, subject to the exemptions in Section 17 (some apply directly under the Act, others when notified by the Union Government).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

In effect: 13 Nov 2026 (Consent Manager registration); Portal: dpbi.gov.in - launched by MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan; Eligibility: Company incorporated in India; net worth ≥ ₹2 crore; Registering body: Data Protection Board of India (4 members, fully digital).

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. What is the minimum net worth a company needs to register as a Consent Manager under the DPDP Act, 2023?

A) ₹1 crore

B) ₹2 crore

C) ₹5 crore

D) ₹10 crore

Answer: B – Explanation: It must be a company incorporated in India with a net worth of at least ₹2 crore; registration opened on 13 November 2026 via dpbi.gov.in.

2. Appeals against decisions of the Data Protection Board of India lie with which body?

A) Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)

B) National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

C) Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

D) Central Information Commission (CIC)

Answer: A – Explanation: Under the DPDP Act, TDSAT is the Appellate Tribunal.

3. How many judges were on the bench in K.S. Puttaswamy (2017), which declared privacy a fundamental right?

A) Five

B) Seven

C) Eleven

D) Nine

Answer: D – Explanation: 24 August 2017 - a nine-judge bench; privacy is part of Article 21 and Part III.

4. Under the DPDP Act, 2023, the highest penalty of up to ₹250 crore applies to which failure?

A) Breach of obligations relating to children

B) Failure to notify the Board of a data breach

C) Failure to take reasonable security safeguards

D) Failure to publish grievance officer details

Answer: C – Explanation: Security safeguards failure: up to ₹250 crore; breach notification and children's obligations: up to ₹200 crore each; other violations: up to ₹50 crore.

5. Under the DPDP Act, 2023, who is a 'Data Principal'?

A) The entity that decides the purpose of processing

B) The individual to whom the personal data relates

C) The entity that processes data on another's behalf

D) An officer appointed by the Data Protection Board

Answer: B – Explanation: The Data Fiduciary decides the purpose; the Data Processor processes on its behalf; the person the data is about is the Data Principal.

Sources: PIB, MeitY, 14 Nov 2026 (https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2336151); PIB, 14 Nov 2025, DPDP Rules notified (https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2190014); PIB Backgrounder, 17 Nov 2025 (https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2190655). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.