

Centre for Applied Data Protection (CADP)

Vision Document - KLE Law College, Bengaluru

1. CONTEXT & RATIONALE

The enactment of India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 marks a watershed moment in the country's regulatory landscape. As organisations across sectors grapple with compliance requirements, there exists a critical gap: the shortage of skilled professionals who can bridge legal frameworks with practical implementation.

Educational institutions, particularly law colleges, are uniquely positioned to address this gap. However, most institutions lack the specialised expertise and operational infrastructure to serve as credible partners for DPDP capacity building and compliance advisory.

KLE Law College, Bengaluru recognises this opportunity to establish itself as a pioneer in applied data protection expertise. The Centre for Applied Data Protection (CADP) is conceived as a specialised unit that will build deep institutional competence in DPDP, serve organisational needs, and contribute meaningfully to the evolving discourse on data protection in India.

2. VISION STATEMENT

To establish KLE Law College as a recognised Centre of Excellence for Digital Personal Data Protection, serving as a trusted partner for organisations seeking compliance guidance and a thought leader in data protection research.

3. MISSION & FOCUS AREAS

CADP operates on two complementary verticals:

3.1. RESEARCH VERTICAL

- Conduct rigorous research on DPDP implementation challenges, sectoral implications, and emerging issues
- Publish white papers, academic articles, and policy briefs that inform industry practice and regulatory development
- Develop frameworks, tools, and best practices for DPDP compliance
- Contribute to national and international discourse on data protection

3.2. PRACTICE VERTICAL

- Build organisational capacity through training programs tailored to different sectors and roles
- Provide compliance advisory services ranging from gap assessments to full implementation support
- Develop case studies and practical resources that translate legal requirements into operational guidance
- Serve as a bridge between legal scholarship and real-world compliance needs

4. LONG-TERM GOALS

Year 1-2: Foundation & Validation

- Build core team expertise and operational capacity
- Validate service offerings through pilot projects
- Establish brand presence in Karnataka and select regions
- Develop research portfolio and methodologies

Year 3-5: Scale & Recognition

- Expand service delivery pan-India
- Build portfolio of successful compliance engagements
- Publish research outputs with industry impact
- Establish CADP as go-to resource for DPDP expertise in educational and mid-industry segments

Year 5+: Thought Leadership & Influence

- Shape regulatory discourse through research and advocacy
- Train professionals across sectors
- Establish formal partnerships with industry bodies, regulatory forums, and international data protection organisations
- Position KLE Law College as the institutional home for applied data protection expertise in South India

5. STRATEGIC APPROACH

CADP will be established through a phased implementation model:

Phase-wise Development

The Centre will be built systematically through multi-year phases, each with defined objectives, deliverables, and success metrics. Each phase will have its own project charter approved by college administration and university authorities.

Phase 1 (Foundation) focuses on core team capacity building, service validation, and brand establishment. Subsequent phases will scale operations, deepen research capabilities, and expand reach.

This phased approach ensures:

- Manageable risk and resource allocation
- Learning and adaptation between phases
- Clear accountability and milestone tracking
- Sustainable institutional capacity building

The detailed implementation plan, budget, timeline, and governance structure for Phase 1 (January 2026 - June 2026) is outlined in the accompanying Project Charter document.

6. INSTITUTIONAL VALUE PROPOSITION

6.1. FOR KLE LAW COLLEGE

- **Academic Distinction:** Position the college as a leader in emerging legal domains
- **Practical Relevance:** Bridge the gap between legal education and industry needs

- **Revenue Potential:** Create sustainable revenue streams through advisory services
- **Faculty Development:** Enhance faculty expertise and research output **Student**
- **Opportunities:** Provide students with exposure to cutting-edge compliance work
- **Network Building:** Establish connections with industry, regulators, and peer institutions

6.2. FOR KLE SOCIETY

- **Internal Compliance Support:** Serve as in-house expertise for KLE's society's institutional network
- **Reputational Capital:** Demonstrate commitment to innovation and societal impact
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Create replicable models for other KLE institutions in different domains

6.3. FOR THE BROADER ECOSYSTEM

1. **Accessible Expertise:** Provide compliance support to organisations that cannot afford large consulting firms
2. **Research Contribution:** Generate India-specific insights on DPDP implementation
3. **Capacity Building:** Train the next generation of data protection professionals
4. **Policy Input:** Contribute practitioner perspectives to regulatory development

7. SUCCESS INDICATORS

CADP's long-term success will be measured by:

1. **Recognition:** CADP cited as a credible source by industry publications, invited to speak at forums
2. **Client Satisfaction:** High client satisfaction ratings, repeat engagements, and referrals
3. **Research Impact:** Publications downloaded, cited, and used by practitioners and policymakers
4. **Financial Sustainability:** Advisory services generate sufficient revenue to support operations and research
5. **Talent Development:** Team members become recognised experts, sought after for speaking and consulting
6. **Institutional Footprint:** CADP's work influences regulatory guidance, industry standards, or educational curricula

8. GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

CADP operates under the oversight of KLE Law College administration, with periodic reporting to university authorities. An Industry Advisory Board comprising experts from legal, technology, and compliance domains provides strategic guidance and quality assurance.

Detailed governance structures, reporting mechanisms, and decision-making protocols are established in each phase's project charter.

9. CONCLUSION

The establishment of CADP represents a strategic investment by KLE Law College in building differentiated institutional capability. By systematically developing expertise in applied data protection, the college positions itself to serve pressing industry needs, contribute to regulatory discourse, and create lasting academic and reputational value.

This vision document provides the strategic foundation. The phased implementation approach, beginning with Phase 1 (January 2026 - June 2026), ensures disciplined execution toward these ambitious goals.