Monthly Policy Review

October 2026

Highlights of this Issue

Repo rate increased to 5.5% (p. 2)
RBI's Monetary Policy Committee voted to increase the repo rate from 5.25% to 5.5%. The standing deposit facility rate, marginal standing facility rate and bank rate were also increased by 0.25 percentage points.

CPI inflation averaged 4.9% in the second quarter of 2026-27 (p. 2)
CPI inflation was higher compared to the same quarter last year (1.7%). Food inflation average 6.4% during the second quarter of 2026-27. WPI inflation averaged 10.4%.

Cabinet approves sale of majority stake in IDBI Bank (p. 2)
A subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings will acquire a 60.7% stake for Rs 52,878 crore. After the sale, the central government and LIC will retain 15% and 19% stakes, respectively.

GST Council recommends several changes (p. 2)
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Standing Committees of Parliament have identified issues to examine (p. 14)
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Macroeconomic Development

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RBI increases repo rate to 5.5%

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted to raise the policy repo rate (the rate at which RBI lends money to banks) from 5.25% to 5.5%.[1] Other decisions of the MPC include:

- The standing deposit facility rate (the rate at which RBI borrows from banks without giving collateral) increased from 5% to 5.25%.
- The marginal standing facility rate (rate at which banks can borrow additional overnight funds from RBI) and the bank rate (rate at which RBI lends money to banks for the long term) increased from 5.5% to 5.75%.
- The MPC decided to change the stance to calibrated tightening.
- Real GDP growth for 2026-27 is projected at 6.7%, and CPI inflation at 5%.

RBI has also increased the minimum daily maintenance of the Cash Reserve Ratio from 90% to 99%.[2]

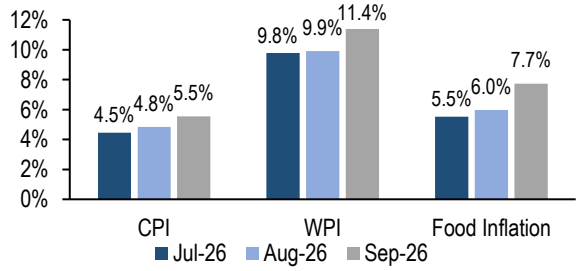
CPI inflation averaged 4.9% in the second quarter of 2026-27

Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was 4.9% in the second quarter (July-September) of 2026-27, higher than the corresponding quarter of 2025-26 (1.7%).[3] In the first quarter (April-June) of 2026-27, inflation was 3.9%.

Food inflation averaged 6.4% in the second quarter of 2026-27, higher than the corresponding quarter of 2025-26 (-1.6%). In the first quarter of 2026-27, food inflation was 4.8%.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation averaged 10.4% in the second quarter of 2026-27, higher than corresponding quarter of 2025-26 (-0.3%).[4] In the first quarter of 2026-27, WPI inflation was 9.4%.

Figure 1: Monthly inflation in Q2 of 2026-27 (% change, year-on-year)



Note: CPI and Food Inflation figures are from the new series with 2024 as the base year, while WPI figures are from the new series with 2022-23 as the base year.
Sources: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Ministry of Commerce and Industry; PRS.

Finance

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Cabinet approves sale of majority stake in IDBI Bank

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the sale of a majority stake in IDBI Bank.[5] A subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, named 10955230 Canada Inc., will buy a 60.7% stake for Rs 52,878 crore. This comprises 30.5% held by the central government and 30.2% held by LIC. Following the sale, the government and LIC will retain 15% and 19% stake, respectively. They will withdraw their nominees from the Board.

GST Council recommends several changes

The GST Council recommended several changes relating to processes such as registration, returns, refunds, dispute resolution, and adjudication.[6,7] Key recommendations include:

- **Enforcement provisions:** The Council has recommended amending the CGST Act to remove arrest powers. Monetary threshold for prosecution is recommended to be raised from one crore rupees to five crore rupees. It also recommended reducing the maximum general penalty from Rs 25,000 to Rs 10,000. No show cause notice will be issued if tax amount involved is less than Rs 10,000.
- **Registration:** It recommended introducing a simplified registration process for certain small sellers that supply through e-commerce platforms. They will be permitted to register without having to set up a place of business in each state of supply. The warehouse of the e-commerce operator may be declared as the principal place of business in such cases.
- **Optional scheme for certain small entities:** It provided in-principle approval for an optional annual return quarterly payment scheme. It will be available for entities who: (i) have aggregate turnover of five crore rupees or less in the last financial year, and (ii) are engaged exclusively in supplies to unregistered persons (B2C supplies).
- **Input tax credit:** The Council also recommended to provide for the refund of accumulated input tax credit in certain cases. These include: (i) capital goods where refund pertains to zero-rated supplies, and (ii) input services and capital goods where refund pertains to inverted duty structure. Inverted duty structure refers to a situation where inputs are taxed at a higher rate than the final product.

- **Refunds:** It recommended reducing the time available to acknowledge refund applications or communicate deficiencies from 15 to 10 days. For refund claims on account of zero-rated supplies and inverted duty structure, 90% of refund claims will be sanctioned provisionally within three working days of acknowledgement.

Following the meeting, the Ministry of Finance notified the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2026 to give effect to some of the recommended changes.[8] These mainly relate to registration and refunds.

High Level Committee constituted on Banking for Viksit Bharat

The central government constituted the High Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat (Chair: Mr Suresh N Patel) to review the sector and recommend reforms.[9,10,11] Its terms of reference include: (i) assessing existing banking practices, (ii) identifying global best practices and adapting them for the Indian banking system, (iii) reviewing the existing regulatory and legal framework, including for regional rural and cooperative banks, (iv) assessing long-term capital requirements and funding sources for banks, development financial institutions and non-banking financial companies, (v) identifying measures to encourage private investment, (vi) preparing a roadmap for AI and digital innovation in banking institutions, and (vii) reviewing the priority sector lending framework and lead bank scheme (under which a designated bank coordinates banking effort at local level). The tenure of the Committee will be six months.

RBI announces regulatory measures for foreign exchange market

RBI has announced various regulatory measures aimed at foreign exchange markets.[12, 13] Key changes include:

- **Foreign exchange derivative contracts:** RBI issued directions to tighten conditions for foreign-exchange derivative contracts involving the rupee. It reduced the limit for entering currency derivative contracts without demonstrating the underlying foreign-currency payment or receipt from USD 100 million to USD 5 million equivalent.
- Users are not permitted to re-book a cancelled foreign exchange derivative contract involving the rupee. Rollover on maturity will continue to be permitted.
- **Reserve for specified contracts**: Authorised dealers must maintain a Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR) with RBI for contracts exceeding two million USD equivalent where users purchase foreign currency against rupees to hedge current account transactions. The reserve must equal 20% of the rupee equivalent of the contract amount.
- **Special window for oil PSUs**: RBI also opened a special window to meet the entire daily dollar requirements of Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation from October 12, 2026.

SEBI notifies common advertisement code for securities market entities

SEBI notified a common advertisement code covering entities such as mutual funds, asset management companies, stockbrokers, investment advisers, research analysts, and portfolio managers.[14] Advertising requirements were previously prescribed separately for different categories of entities. The code will come into force from April 2027. Key features include:

- **Celebrity endorsements**: Previously, celebrity endorsements for mutual funds were permitted only for industry-level awareness campaigns. The new code permits celebrities to promote individual entities or brands, subject to prior approval from the relevant supervisory body or SEBI. Endorsements may name products or services but cannot make claims about, or induce investment in, a specific product or service.
- **Ratings and rankings:** The earlier mutual fund advertisement code prohibited rankings based on any criteria. The new code permits advertisements to use ratings or rankings assigned by a past risk and return verification agency. Their meaning and methodology must be explained or made accessible through website details, and advertisements must state that ratings or rankings are only one factor to consider when choosing a service.
- **Prohibitions:** The code prohibits incentives such as vouchers and coupons to induce trading and investment. It also prohibits dark patterns specified in consumer protection guidelines, misleading advertisements, testimonials, and assurances of guaranteed or risk-free returns. Entities must initiate action within seven days of learning about advertisements issued without their consent and disclose the incidents and action taken on their websites.

SEBI proposes changes to the framework for SME IPOs

SEBI invited comments on changes proposed to the framework for initial public offers (IPOs) by small

and medium enterprises (SMEs).[15] As of July 2026, 1,496 companies had listed on SME platforms. They together raised Rs 40,222 crore through IPOs and had a market capitalisation of Rs 4.7 lakh crore. SEBI noted that growth in fundraising and investor participation has expanded the segment. It now includes companies of varying sizes and stages of development. Key proposals include:

- **Eligibility:** Currently, companies with post-issue paid-up capital up to Rs 10 crore are eligible under the SME framework. Those above Rs 10 crore and up to Rs 25 crore may also issue specified securities. SEBI proposes replacing these thresholds with post-IPO market capitalisation. Companies valued up to Rs 1,000 crore will be required to use the SME platform. Those valued above Rs 1,000 crore and up to Rs 4,000 crore may also choose it, subject to specified requirements.
- **Profitability:** The existing framework requires an issuer to have operating profit of one crore rupees in at least two of the last three financial years. Operating profit refers to earnings before interest and taxes. SEBI has proposed to change this threshold to an average operating profit of three crore rupees in the preceding three financial years. Entities not meeting this requirement may undertake an IPO through a bidding process if at least 75% of the net offer is allotted to qualified institutional buyers.
- **Retail investor access:** Currently, at least 35% of the net offer is reserved for individual investors applying for minimum application size. SEBI has proposed to reduce the minimum application size from two lakh rupees to one lakh rupees. It has also proposed to allow SME shares to be traded one share at a time. Currently, they can only be traded in fixed lots of 100 to 10,000 shares based on the price of the shares.

Comments are invited until November 4, 2026.

Industry

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Cabinet approves setting up a growth fund for small and medium enterprises

The Union Cabinet approved setting up of a small and medium enterprise (SME) growth fund.[16,17] The fund will provide long-term equity capital to SMEs. A major share of the fund will be directed towards manufacturing-focused SMEs. Enterprises operating in industrial clusters in Tier-II and Tier-III cities will also be considered. The fund aims to help SMEs expand operations, adopt advanced technologies, increase manufacturing capacity, and access international markets. The central government will commit Rs 10,000 crore towards this fund.

Transport

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Cabinet approves the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme.[18] The scheme will run up to 2039-40 with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore. It aims to support new manufacturing facilities, and expansion of existing container manufacturing units. India imports nearly two million empty containers annually to meet domestic demand and for repositioning.[19] The programme aims to increase annual domestic manufacturing capacity by around ten-fold, to 7.5 lakh twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). Key features include:

- **Operational expenditure assistance:** Rs 8,891 crore has been allocated to provide financial assistance to containers manufactured as per global shipping standards and sold by eligible manufacturers.
- **Interest subvention:** Rs 859 crore has been allocated to provide interest subvention of 3% per annum on eligible loans for setting up or expanding manufacturing facilities. Eligibility criteria include: (i) new facilities must have an annual capacity of at least 1,00,000 TEUs, and (ii) expansion of existing facilities must add at least 25,000 TEUs of annual capacity, to be commissioned within three years of in-principle approval.[20]
- **Testing and certification:** Rs 150 crore has been allocated to establish common testing and certification facilities.

Cabinet approves setting up of Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority

The Union Cabinet approved setting up of a special purpose vehicle named Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA).[21] Key responsibilities of ITLA include:

- **Transport planning:** ITLA will prepare a national transport master plan with a planning horizon of 10 years or more. The plan will cover areas such as roads, railways, ports and

shipping, and civil aviation. ITLA will also evaluate annual and five-year sectoral plans of transport ministries. It will aim to ensure that the long-term and short-term plans are aligned with each other.

- **Technical appraisal and impact assessment:** ITLA will undertake technical appraisal of central government's infrastructure projects costing above Rs 500 crore. It will also monitor transport and infrastructure projects costing above Rs 500 crore, provide a coordinated mechanism for resolving issues, and conduct impact assessments.
- **Policy support and research:** ITLA will: (i) assist and advise in the review and updating of the National Logistics Policy (2022), (ii) contribute to capacity building in the logistics sector, and (iii) promote research and innovation in the transport and logistics sector.
- **Transport data repository:** The Authority will develop a National Transport Data Repository. The repository will integrate transport and logistics datasets from sources such as GSTN e-way bills, FASTag, Vahan, GPS based systems, and urban traffic management systems.

The Civil Aviation Ministry notifies Rules to replace the Aircraft Rules, 1937

The Ministry of Civil Aviation notified the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026 under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024.[22,23] These Rules replace the Part-IX of Aircraft Rules, 1920, the Aircraft Rules, 1937, and the Radio Telephone Operator (Restricted) Certificate and Licence Rules, 2025.[24,25] The new Rules consolidate provisions across these Rules. They will come into effect from January 1, 2027.
Key changes include:

- **Tariffs:** Earlier, the 1937 Rules provided that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) could issue directions to an airline if it was satisfied that an airline had: (i) charged excessive or predatory tariff, or (ii) indulged in oligopolistic practice. The 2026 Rules remove these powers of DGCA. They instead empower the central government to issue directions if it: (i) is of the opinion that an extraordinary situation has arisen, and (ii) considers necessary and expedient to do so in public interest. Such directions must be proportionate and for a specified period. DGCA will monitor tariffs of airlines.
- **Aircraft Management Service Providers (AMSP):** The 2026 Rules add that AMSPs must receive prior authorisation from DGCA to function. AMSP is defined as a person who provides aircraft management service to an aircraft owner under a commercial contract. AMSP will be the operator for the aircraft under its management and will be responsible for operational control and compliances under the Act and the Rules. The Rules further provide that aircraft owned by multiple persons must operate through AMSPs or through a dry lease agreement with a single entity. Dry lease refers to an arrangement which only provides for the physical aircraft. These Rules do not apply to any scheduled air transport service. A person holding an operator permit may act as AMSP without separate authorisation.

Motor vehicle Rules amended for flex-fuel vehicles

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notified amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 concerning fuel-related testing requirements for vehicle approval.[26,27] The amendments add E100 alongside E85 for ethanol flex-fuel vehicle tests and replaces B10 with B100 (100% biodiesel) for biodiesel flex-fuel vehicle tests.

Comments invited on draft Bharat Stage VII vehicle emission standards

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways released draft amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 proposing Bharat Stage VII emission standards.[28,29,30] The proposed standards cover: (i) limits on vehicle pollutants, (ii) monitoring emissions and fuel or electricity consumption during use, (iii) battery performance over time, (iv) emission compliance as vehicles age, and (v) access to information on emissions, fuel consumption and battery health through an environmental vehicle passport. The proposed emission limits would apply to passenger cars with up to nine seats manufactured from April 2029, light goods vehicles from April 2030, and larger passenger and goods vehicles from April 2031.

Comments are invited until November 11, 2026.

Social Justice

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Cabinet approves continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme

The Union Cabinet approved continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme for five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31.[31] The total expected outlay under the scheme is Rs 53,428

crore over five years. The Programme aims to provide social security and financial assistance to poor households. It has also been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana.

Monthly pension under the disability pension sub-scheme has been increased from: (i) Rs 300 to Rs 375 for persons aged below 80 years, and (ii) Rs 500 to Rs 625 for those aged 80 years and above. The disability benchmark threshold has been lowered from 80% to 40%, and the minimum age criterion has been removed.

Law and Justice

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Rules on qualifications, manner of selection, and service conditions of Tribunals notified

The Ministry of Law and Justice notified the National Tribunals Commission and Qualification, Selection, and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members of Tribunals Rules, 2026.[32] These have been framed under the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2026.[33] The Act establishes a National Tribunals Commission to select members of various Tribunals and inquire into complaints against them. Key features of the Rules include:

- **Qualifications of Tribunal members**: The Rules specify the qualifications for members of 15 Tribunals, including the Securities Appellate Tribunal and the National Green Tribunal. Chairpersons of most Tribunals must be, or have been, Supreme Court judges or High Court Chief Justices. Judicial members must be: (i) High Court judges, (ii) district or additional district judges for a combined ten years, (iii) advocates for at least ten years with relevant litigation experience, or (iv) Indian Legal Service Grade I officers.
- **Restrictions on other employment**: The Chairperson and members of the National Tribunals Commission cannot undertake arbitration or any paid assignment while in office, and cannot practice before any Tribunal after their term. Serving judges and government officers appointed to Tribunals must resign or take voluntary retirement from their parent service. They cannot take up any paid assignments while in office.
- **Inquiry procedure**: The government may refer a complaint against members of the National Commission to a three-member committee, comprising: (i) a Supreme Court judge, (ii) a retired High Court Chief Justice, and (iii) an eminent person from law, public administration, or finance. For Tribunals, the inquiry will be conducted by an Inquiry Officer who is current or former: (i) Judge of Supreme Court or Chief Justice of High Court in case of a chairperson, and (ii) Judge of High Court, in case of a member.
- **Determination of vacancies**: The Rules specify that the process for filling vacancies should begin six months before they arise.

Rural Development

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Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana as a centrally sponsored scheme for the period between 2026-27 and 2030-31.[34] The scheme has an outlay of Rs 7,396 crore, of which the central share will be Rs 4,869 crore (66%) and the state share will be Rs 2,526 crore (34%). The scheme aims to improve planning, coordination, and financial management by gram panchayats.

The scheme will support annual development plans for panchayats and bring information on government schemes, beneficiaries, community assets, and funds onto a common digital platform. It will also: (i) provide training to elected representatives and panchayat functionaries annually, (ii) support preparation of online audit plans, and (iii) conduct awareness campaigns. Implementation will be through state governments, which will submit annual action plans for approval by a central empowered committee.

Steel

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Draft National Steel Policy 2047 released for public consultation

The Ministry of Steel has released draft National Steel Policy: Vision 2047 for public consultation.[35] The Policy aims to expand domestic steel production, improve competitiveness, reduce import dependence, and promote sustainable steelmaking. Key features include:

- **Expansion of steel production**: The Policy aims to increase crude steel production capacity from current 220 million tonnes (MT) per

annum to 604 MT per annum by 2047. It also aims to enhance per capita steel consumption to 302 kg. India's crude steel production increased from 89 MT in 2014-15 to 170 MT in 2025-26, while finished steel consumption rose from 77 MT to 164 MT during the same period. The Policy also aims to increase steel exports to 45 MT by 2047 from 6.6 MT in 2025-26.

- **Raw material security**: Raw materials account for 65-70% of steelmaking costs. India imports about 92% of its coking coal requirements, which is a key raw material for steelmaking. The Policy proposes expanding coal washeries, diversifying imports, and increasing the use of domestic coking coal. It also aims to strengthen domestic scrap collection and recycling.
- **Decarbonisation**: The steel sector accounts for 10-12% of India's CO_2 emissions. Its average emission intensity is estimated at 2.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide per tonne of crude steel. This is higher than the global average of 1.9 tonnes. The Policy proposes a phased transition towards cleaner steelmaking through initiatives such as greater scrap utilisation, and hydrogen-based steel production. It aims to reduce emission intensity to 1.5 tonnes by 2047.
- **Development of secondary and value-added steel**: The Policy seeks to modernise the secondary steel sector, comprising smaller producers that use scrap metal and sponge iron to produce steel. This sector accounts for 47% of crude steel production capacity. Measures include technology upgradation, skill development, and support for downstream manufacturing clusters. It also aims to expand domestic production of specialty and stainless steel to reduce import dependence
- **Trade and quality standards**: The Policy aims to discourage imports of sub-standard steel through stronger certification and traceability. It also proposes targeted trade remedies against unfair import practices. Export competitiveness is to be strengthened through better market access and quality certification.

Policy on domestically manufactured iron and steel products amended

The Ministry of Steel amended the Domestically Manufactured Iron and Steel Products Policy, 2025.[36] The Policy gives preference to domestically manufactured iron and steel products in government procurement.[37] Key changes in the Policy include:

- **Iron and steel products:** The amendments change the domestic sourcing conditions for tubes, pipes, and pipe fittings. These must now meet the 'melt and pour' requirement. This means that the steel must be produced and poured into its first solid shape in India. Earlier, these products required 50% domestic value addition.
- **Capital goods:** Steelmaking central PSUs must procure all listed capital goods from domestic sources only. Imports may be permitted on a case-by-case basis by the Ministry's Standing Committee if the required specifications are not available domestically. Earlier, specified capital goods could be imported subject to minimum domestic content requirements.

Energy

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Expert Committee report on pipelines safety standards released

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) released a report of a High-Level Expert Committee on technical and safety standards for natural gas pipelines, city gas distribution networks, and petroleum product pipelines.[38] The Committee examined pipeline exposure and rupture incidents, particularly those arising from natural calamities, and recommended amendments to improve safety and strengthen supply safety. Key recommendations include:

- **Strengthening design and construction standards:** PNGRB prescribes technical and safety requirements for the design, construction, and operation of pipeline infrastructure through regulations. The Committee recommended amending these regulations to make geo-hazard assessments mandatory at design stage for all new trunk pipelines, excluding city gas distribution (CGD) networks. It further recommended considering the likely increase in the intensity of rainfall due to global warming when estimating the highest flood level. It also recommended checking new trunk pipelines against seismic risks and using concrete coating to prevent pipelines from floating upwards when surrounded by floodwater.
- **Monitoring and preventive measures:** The Committee recommended identifying and periodically assessing vulnerable pipeline stretches, such as river crossings and flood-prone areas. It recommended monitoring through geo-tagging, drone and satellite surveillance, and increased patrolling during monsoons. It also recommended strengthening emergency response and supply continuity arrangements.
- **Strengthening distribution network:** The Committee recommended that CGD networks

should progressively move towards looped and interconnected systems, with multiple supply sources and gas injection points. It recommended alternate supply arrangements, including liquefied-to-compressed natural gas and CNG backup systems, with mobile decompression units. It also recommended maintaining localised storage, wherever feasible, to buffer short-term disruptions.

Draft guidelines for hydrogen blending in domestic piped natural gas released

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) released the Draft Guidelines for Blending of Hydrogen with Natural Gas in Domestic Piped Natural Gas Networks.[39] The guidelines prescribe minimum conditions for commercial supply of hydrogen-blended natural gas containing not more than 5% hydrogen by volume. Key features include:

- **Approval process:** Commercial supply will begin with a trial operation period of at least six months, after PNGRB approval and other statutory permissions. City gas distribution (CGD) entities must submit an integrated safety and readiness dossier demonstrating suitability of their networks, equipment, and domestic appliances. They must appoint an independent agency to verify readiness. An internal committee must review implementation monthly in the first year and quarterly thereafter.
- **Safety and monitoring:** Blending will be limited to small defined network areas serving only domestic consumers. Hydrogen concentration must be monitored continuously and hydrogen injection must automatically isolate on events such as high concentration or loss of flow. Entities must establish a leakage and integrity baseline and repair defects before commencing with blending.
- **Gas quality and consumer billing:** CGD entities will be required to ensure compliance with prescribed hydrogen quality and gas interchangeability standards. Consumer bills will be adjusted for any reduction in the calorific value of gas due to hydrogen blending.
- **Consumer protection:** CGD entities must provide advance notice to consumers, ordinarily at least 30 days before the commencement of supply. They must also communicate information on safety, appliance use and billing,

Comments are invited until November 12, 2026.

Compensation guidelines for inter-state transmission lines released

The Ministry of Power released the Guidelines for payment of compensation in regard to Right of Way (RoW).[40] RoW refers to right to install, operate, and maintain transmission lines across a strip of land. The 2026 guidelines replace the earlier compensation guidelines issued in 2024 and 2025.[41,42,43] These guidelines specify the process of determining land value for compensation to owners. Key changes include:

- **Composition of Market Rate Committee (MRC):** Under the earlier guidelines, compensation was mostly based on circle rate of the land. Circle rate refers to the minimum value of a land or property as notified by the state government. If market rates exceeded circle rates, then MRC determined land value based on assessment of nominated land valuers. This land value served as basis for compensation. MRC was composed of district collector (or district magistrate), a representative of land owner, and a nominee of Transmission Service Provider (TSP). The 2026 guidelines retain MRC but changes its composition. The MRC will include district collector, officers of registration department, sub-divisional magistrate, and administrative representative of local civic body.
- **Selection of valuers:** The 2025 guidelines provided for appointment of three land valuers each nominated by representatives of land owners, TSP, and district magistrate. The 2026 guidelines provide for selection of all three land valuers by the district administration. Each of the three valuers did the valuation along the alignment of the transmission line. The new guidelines retain this process.
- **Establishment of Appellate Authority:** The 2026 guidelines introduce an appellate authority for parties aggrieved by MRC's rate decision. Appeals must be filed within 30 days of rate notification. An appeal is admitted only if the aggrieved party agrees to allow construction work to commence on-site pending adjudication. The decision of the Appellate Authority will be final and binding. No further appeals will be permitted.

Framework for digitalisation of electricity distribution sector released

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) released the Unified Framework for Digitalisation of the Distribution Sector.[44] The Framework provides a common, non-binding approach for digitalising

electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs). Key features include:

- **Digital readiness and integration:** The Framework recommends that DISCOMs complete a digital readiness assessment before a major digitalisation. The assessment covers areas such as consumer and meter data, network mapping, smart metering, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA), cybersecurity, and financial and procurement readiness. It proposed progressively integrating existing systems, such as smart meters, geographic information systems (GIS), SCADA, and outage management through a common network model, rather than replacing them wholesale.
- **Standards, cybersecurity, and capacity building:** The Framework lists interoperability and other technical standards for DISCOMs. On cybersecurity, it recommends existing CEA and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's directions and advisories. It also proposes training programmes, a dedicated digital cadre, and shared services for smaller DISCOMs. Advanced functions should be scaled only when the necessary data, communication, network, and cybersecurity capabilities are in place.
- **Phased implementation:** The Framework proposes a roadmap extending from 2026 onwards. The first phase (2026-29) would focus on foundational infrastructure, including smart meters, GIS, and SCADA, along with cybersecurity and capacity building. The next phase (2029-32) would focus on integrating these systems. Subsequent phases (2032-35 and beyond) would scale up advanced distribution management systems, automation, and predictive analytics.

Defence

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Defence Acquisition Council approves proposals worth Rs 2.1 lakh crore

The Defence Acquisition Council provided in-principle administrative approval to various acquisition proposals of defence forces.[45] The estimated acquisition cost is about Rs 2.1 lakh crore. The approved proposals include procurement of: (i) high mobility vehicles and kamikaze drone system for the Indian Army, (ii) active offboard decoy system for the Indian Navy, and (iii) helicopters and air defence systems for the Indian Air Force. About 82% of the total procurement will be made from the Indian industry.

Electronics and IT

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Guidelines released under the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology released the guidelines for Target Segment 1 under the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme.[46] Target Segment 1 aims to incentivise mobile phone manufacturing. Key features of the guidelines include:

- **Eligibility criteria:** Under the scheme, an applicant must have a minimum global turnover of Rs 10,000 crore in 2025-26 to qualify for Target Segment 1. Applicants or brands owned directly or indirectly from a country sharing a land border with India are subject to FDI compliance processes and approvals. To receive incentives, existing brands must meet the minimum threshold sales criteria of Rs 5,000 crore every year over and above the total sale in 2025-26.
- **Computation of incentives:** The incentives will be computed on brand-wise basis on eligible sales of the mobile phones manufactured in India. There will be two rate-categories used in computation. The lower rate will apply to eligible sales up to the average sales of 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 (after deducting the baseline sales for the relevant year). The higher rate will apply to the remaining eligible sales. Baseline sales increase annually, defined as the preceding year's sales plus a 15% increment.
- **Component sourcing:** The guidelines also provide for additional itemised component incentives. Applicants must locally source at least 25% of the total quantity of that component to claim the additional percentage. The guidelines also specify minimum manufacturing processes for key components to qualify for additional incentives. Simple final assembly of semi-assembled products does not qualify for additional incentives.
- **Approval mechanism:** The guidelines provide for a dedicated project management agency to conduct application appraisal. and verify claims. An inter-ministerial body chaired by Secretary, MeitY will review performance, recommend approvals, and may also adjust component list for additional incentives under the scheme.

Communications

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TRAI releases draft guidelines on responsible use of AI in telecom

TRAI released the draft Guidelines on Responsible Use of AI in Telecommunication Networks and Provision of Telecommunication Services.[47] The draft guidelines propose requirements for risk assessment, AI governance, human oversight and incident reporting. These will apply to entities holding a license or authorisation under the Telegraph Act, 1885 or Telecommunications Act, 2023, and using or intending to use AI in telecom networks or services. Key features include:

- **AI policy:** The guidelines require applicable entities to formulate an internal AI policy. The policy must classify AI systems as high, medium, or low-risk based on: (i) their significance to telecom networks and services, (ii) impact on financial and operational outcomes and (iii) potential implication for consumers. Before deploying a new AI system or modifying an existing one, entities need to undertake validation, conformity assessment, and impact assessment. The conformity assessments must cover aspects such as accuracy, robustness, explainability, fairness, drift resilience, and human oversight. All AI incidents must be recorded in a central database. Entities must also maintain a database of AI-related harms reported by users and their resolution.
- **Oversight committee:** Every entity must establish an AI Governance and Safety Committee. The Committee must periodically review deployed AI systems including incident records. These reviews will aim to identify vulnerabilities, oversight weakness, fairness concerns, and emerging or systemic risks. It must ensure corrective measures such as modification or decommissioning of AI systems, where necessary.
- **Enforcement and compliance:** Entities will remain accountable for the outcomes of AI systems. This will also apply for systems developed or procured from third parties. They must report critical and high-severity incidents, to TRAI. They must also maintain records demonstrating compliance with the guideline.

Comments are invited until November 27, 2026.

Health and Family Welfare

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Regulations notified for autonomous boards in states and central assessment committee for allied healthcare

The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions has notified the Autonomous Boards and Central Assessment Committee (Establishment, Constitution, Functions and Powers) Regulations, 2026 under the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021.[48,49] The Act provides for regulation and maintenance of education and services by allied and healthcare professionals in India. Key features of the Regulations include:

- **Autonomous Boards:** The Act establishes a State Council in each state as the statutory body responsible for implementing the Act, regulating education, and managing professional practice. It requires every State Council to establish four Autonomous Boards for regulating professionals: (i) Undergraduate Board, (ii) Postgraduate Board, (iii) Assessment and Rating Board, and (iv) Ethics and Registration Board. The Regulations specify composition and members' qualifications, and functions in detail. Each Board will comprise 10-20 members, including a President. There must be one to two members from each recognised category of allied and healthcare profession. The members must have at least 10 years of experience in allied and healthcare sciences, with at least five years of experience as a leader in the area.
- **Central Assessment Committee:** In states and union territories without a functional State Council, a Central Assessment Committee will perform the functions of the Autonomous Boards. The Committee will operate under the supervision of the National Commission. It will comprise 10-30 members, including a President. There must be one to three members from each professional council (set up at the central level as one for each recognised category of profession).

Education

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Standing Committee submits report on reforms and strengthening of the NTA

The Standing Committee on Education (Chair: Mr. Mukul Wasnik) submitted its report on 'Reforms

and Strengthening of the National Testing Agency (NTA)'.[50] The Committee observed several challenges including: (i) absence of a statutory parliamentary oversight framework for the NTA, (ii) security vulnerabilities in pen-and-paper examinations, (iii) high staff vacancy, (iv) exam content favouring coaching-backed candidates, (v) difficulties faced by candidates during the examination, and (vi) persistent risks of paper leaks and impersonation.

Key recommendations include: (i) establishing a parliamentary oversight framework and an independent audit mechanism to address grievances against the NTA, (ii) transitioning national entrance examinations to Computer-Based Testing (CBT) with 1,000 secure CBT centres by 2030, (iii) recruiting permanent specialised staff and maintaining a public database of disqualified service providers, (iv) redesigning NEET-UG, JEE (Main) and CUET on the NCERT curriculum and regulating coaching centre fees, (v) providing a separate window for invigilator paperwork and a relaxed entry for slightly late candidates, (vi) free counselling, and (vii) adopting biometric authentication, CCTV coverage, AI-based malpractice detection and mobile jammers at examination centres.

For a PRS summary of the report, see here.

Youth Affairs and Sports

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Cabinet approves Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme.[51] The scheme will be implemented between 2026 and 2034. The expected outlay under the scheme is Rs 1,857 crore. The scheme aims to increase sports goods manufacturing in the country and encourage innovation and exports in this area. Key features of the scheme include:

- **Incentives to increase production:** The scheme will aim to encourage domestic production through two components: (i) anchor investment support to encourage domestic and global manufacturers to establish facilities in designated Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones (SGMZs), and (ii) turnover-linked incentive. This will have a combined outlay of Rs 1,130 crore.
- **Developing manufacturing infrastructure:** Dedicated SGMZs will be set up to promote cluster-based manufacturing and encourage co-location of manufacturers, suppliers, testing facilities, and design and prototyping centres. Existing manufacturing clusters will be upgraded with support for development of common facilities and shared infrastructure.
- **Visibility in global market:** The scheme will include market development initiatives through branding and outreach. This is aimed at improving the global visibility and competitiveness of Indian sports goods by leveraging export promotion.
- **Product quality:** The scheme has allocated Rs 105 crore for international sports federation certifications. The certificates aim to improve product quality and facilitate access to international markets in Indian-made goods.
- **R&D:** Centres of excellence will be set up in premier educational institutions to promote research in sports equipment, protective gear, and manufacturing technologies.

Coal and Mines

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Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 amended

The Ministry of Mines amended the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015.[52] Rules are released under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and govern the auction of mining leases and composite licences.[53,54]

Under the 2015 Rules, all bidders must submit a technical bid and an initial price offer in the first round. Bidders who are technically qualified will proceed to the next round. The Rules further provide that bidders would proceed to next round only when there are at least three technically qualified bidders. If the number is less than three, the first attempt was annulled. The amendments reduce the minimum number of qualified bidders from three to two for auctions of critical mineral blocks. If the number is less than two, the first round will be annulled.

Home Affairs

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Census Rules amended to specify persons eligible to be enumerators

The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026.[55] These Rules amend the Census Rules, 1990 issued under the Census Act, 1948.[56] The Rules define the roles and

responsibilities of census functionaries, and the manner of conducting census.

The 1990 Rules specify that the census enumerators may be teachers, clerks, any official or any person. The amended Rules instead provide that enumerators may include: (i) teachers of any educational institution run by government, local authorities, aided or unaided private bodies, societies, or trusts, (ii) clerks or any official of the central, state, or local government, public sector undertakings, banks, statutory bodies, companies, institutions, societies, or trusts, and (iii) any other person considered suitable by the state or union territory administration.

Housing and Urban Affairs

Vaishali Dhariwal (vaishali@prsindia.org)

Standing Committee submits report on census criteria for defining urban areas

The Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs (Chair: Mr Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy) presented its report on "Census Criteria for Defining Urban Areas".[57] Urban areas are defined through two mechanisms: (i) the Census, which identifies Census towns, and (ii) state notification of statutory towns. Census towns are villages with: (i) a population of 5,000 or more, (ii) a density of 400 or more persons per sq km, and (iii) 75% or more of male main workers in non-agricultural work. In 2011, statutory towns accounted for 84% of the urban population and Census towns for 15%. The Committee noted that of 2,576 new Census towns identified in 2011, only 175 have been notified as statutory towns and 367 have been merged with existing ones.

Key recommendations of the Committee include: (i) retaining the existing criteria for Census 2027 for comparability, (ii) declaring Census towns as "transitional areas" to provide them policy focus, (iii) engaging with states on converting eligible Census towns to statutory towns after Census 2027, (iv) developing a time-bound national framework for planned development of Census towns and peri-urban areas, (v) examining the feasibility of periodic surveys between Censuses to track changes between surveys, and (vi) conducting a study to develop a gender-inclusive methodology to define urban areas.

For a PRS summary of the report, see here.

External Affairs

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President of Switzerland visits India

The President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr Guy Parmelin, visited India for bilateral talks.[58,59] The two countries agreed to expand cooperation in the areas of: (i) sustainable infrastructure development for transport and mobility systems, (ii) migration and mobility, including combating human trafficking, (iii) promotion of long-term scientific collaboration and research, and (iv) innovation, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship. They also agreed to exchange of 300-500 young professionals per country annually.

Prime Minister of Poland visits India

The Prime Minister of Poland, Mr Donald Tusk, visited India for bilateral talks.[60,61] The two countries announced a target of doubling bilateral trade by 2030. They also agreed to establish dialogues for defence industry cooperation and counter-terrorism.

Standing Committee presents report on India-Sri Lanka relations

The Standing Committee on External Affairs (Chair: Dr Shashi Tharoor) presented its report on 'India-Sri Lanka Relations and the Way Ahead' on September 25, 2026.[62] Key recommendations of the Committee include: (i) holding regular meetings of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission, the Joint Working Group on fisheries and parliamentary exchanges between the two countries, (ii) addressing the unbalanced trade between both countries by creating joint export arrangements and supply chains for products like tea, coffee and spices, (iii) encouraging Indian investment in public-private partnership investments in refineries, minerals, and airports, (iv) completion of projects such as oil tank farms, housing projects and the land corridor linking Indian and Sri Lankan ports, (v) increased collaborative port side infrastructure development in both countries, and (vi) extending Overseas Citizenship cards for Indian Origin Tamils in India.

For a PRS summary of the report, see here.

Standing Committee presents report on India's role in technology and space diplomacy

The Standing Committee on External Affairs (Chair: Dr Shashi Tharoor) presented its report on 'India's Role in Global Tech Diplomacy, Digital Governance, Outer Space Diplomacy, AI and Emerging Innovations' on September 25, 2026.[63]

Key recommendations of the Committee include: (i) integrating technology partnerships and tech diplomacy into the Ministry's country and regional desk assignments, (ii) increasing research spending and a dedicated tech diplomacy budget within the Ministry, (iii) building technology expertise in Indian diplomatic missions and filling vacancies in the Ministry's space diplomacy division, (iv) collection and publication of data on capacity of data centre infrastructure in India, and (v) creating credible domestic AI regulations.

For a PRS summary of the report, see here.

Agriculture

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Rules for prevention and control of infectious diseases in animals notified

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has notified the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Rules, 2026.[64] These replace the 2010 Rules.[65] These have been framed under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009.[66] Key changes include:

- **Recordkeeping**: The Rules require reporting through Bharat Pashudhan portal for: (i) outbreak of specified diseases, (ii) administration of vaccination, and (iii) post-mortem reports which must be submitted within 12 hours of examination. The Rules also require veterinarians to maintain records of carcasses disposed of.
- **Adjudication of complaints:** The 2026 Rules allow any person or authorised officer to file a complaint about violations of the Act with an adjudicating officer. As per the Act, sub-divisional magistrate, or any other executive magistrate act as the adjudicating officer. The officer will issue a notice and give an opportunity for hearing before deciding the complaint. Appeals may be filed against these orders before the appellate authority (district magistrate or additional district magistrate as per the Act). Both adjudication and appeal must be decided within six months.
- **Utilisation of penalty amount:** The 2026 Rules specify that penalty deposited in the Animal Welfare Board of India's fund will be utilised through state boards for: (i) animal health management, (ii) training on good animal husbandry practices, (iii) prevention and control of diseases, and (iv) strengthening check posts and quarantine camps.

Draft Rules for control and supervision of animal experiments released for feedback

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying released the draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Control and Supervision of Experiment, Breeding and Trading of Laboratory Animals) Rules, 2026 for public feedback.[67,68,69] These Rules have been framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. The draft Rules seek to replace: (i) the Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1968, and (ii) the Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control & Supervision) Rules, 1998. These establish a framework for prior permission for experiments and measures to prevent unnecessary suffering of animals. Key proposals include:

- **Registration and prior approval:** Establishments undertaking the following activities must register with the Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CCSEA): (i) conducting experiments on animals, or (ii) housing, breeding, and trading animals for experimental purposes. CCSEA has been established under the 1960 Act. Prior permission must be obtained before conducting an experiment. Permission will be provided by either CCSEA or the Institutional Animals Ethics Committee (IAEC) as specified. The draft Rules require every establishment to set up an IAEC for control and supervision of activities. It will have nominees of CCSEA and specified scientists.
- **Restrictions on experiments**: The draft Rules prohibit experiments involving protected wildlife and non-human primates. Exceptions are permitted under specified conditions, such as scientific justification for usage and exemptions from competent authorities.
- **Welfare standards**: Establishments must: (i) use scientifically satisfactory alternatives to animal experimentation wherever possible, (ii) minimise the number of animals used, and (iii) adopt methods to reduce animal suffering.
- **Procurement of animals:** The draft Rules permit establishments to procure certain livestock, fish, and birds from unregistered sources or open market where registered suppliers are unavailable. Such procurement will be subject to prior approval of IAEC and veterinary-certified quarantine.

Annexure

Parliament has reconstituted its Departmentally Related Standing Committees. Some Committees have released subjects identified for examination for 2026-27. Those are listed below.

Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice

Department of Personnel & Training

1	Filling up of vacancies in the Central Government
2	Functioning of the Central Administrative Tribunal
3	Implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005, and Functioning of the Central Information Commission
4	Effectiveness of Vigilance Administration
5	Implementation of the Citizen's Charter in the Central Government
6	Review of implementation of reservation in Central Government Services (SCs, STs, OBCs and PwDs)

Department of Justice

1	Assessment of Fast-Track Special Courts
2	Review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for Judicial Infrastructure
3	Appraisal of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Digitization and usage of AI in the Justice Delivery System
4	Performance Evaluation of Legal Aid Institutions in India

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances & Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare

1	Effective Redressal of Public Grievances: i. Strengthening the Public Grievances Redressal System ii. Awareness of CPGRAMS and CPENGRAMS Portals

Department of Legal Affairs

1	Formulation and Implementation of the National Litigation Policy
2	Revisiting Legal Education System in India, for a 'Viksit Bharat'

Legislative Department

1	Availability of Supreme Court and High Court Judgements in Scheduled languages

Communications and Information Technology

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

1	Review of implementation of Laws related to all forms of Media.
2	Review of functioning of Prasar Bharati Organization.
3	Overview of Film Industry.
4	Emergence of OTT Platforms and related issues.
5	Review of functioning of Central Bureau of Communication (CBC).
6	Review of implementation of "The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (Part III)".
7	Ecosystem of Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) including AI generated Audio/Visual media content in India.
8	Community Radio Stations: Growth, Opportunities and Challenges.
9	Issues related to Digital and Social Media and way forward.
10	Study and Review of mechanism of TRP Ratings of Media channels.
11	Regulatory issues concerning Pay-TV Base.
12	Functioning of PSUs of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

1	Role of Digital Governance in Public Service Delivery.
2	Social and digital platforms and their regulation.
3	Cyber Security - Issues, Challenges and way forward.
4	Biometric data and technologies: current and future uses.
5	India's Semiconductor Ecosystem - Growth, Opportunities and Challenges.
6	Development of India's Cloud and Data Centre Infrastructure.
7	Cyber Security, Data Protection and Digital Trusts.
8	Regulation of Synthetically Generated Information (SGI) involving AI, deepfakes and automated identity fraud etc.
9	Review of High-Performance Computing (HPC), Quantum Computing (QC) milestones, indigenous AI/Machine Learning models and Regulatory Standards.
10	India's Power Sector Resilience to support IT Revolution 2.0 and Data Centres.
11	Advanced R&D, Emerging Tech & Electronics Manufacturing.
12	Review of e-Governance Standards and Guidelines.
13	Digital infrastructure in Central and State Governments, Banks, Public Sector Units and Organizations.
14	Skill Gaps in the fields like Artificial Intelligence, Deep-tech, Cloud Computing and cyber security.
15	Scrutiny of regulatory framework available in the country to tackle Algorithmic Bias and Consumer Protection.
16	E-Waste Management in Green Computing in India.
17	Safety controls, ethical standards and need for guardrails around the development and deployment of AI.

Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts)

1	E-commerce logistics and supply chain management in Postal Services.
2	Adoption of global best practices and the role of Universal Postal Union (UPU) in strengthening India Post.
3	Review of services offered by the Department of Posts - Challenges and Opportunities.
4	Empirical evaluation of India Post Payment Bank and role of India Post in advancing Financial Inclusion.

5	Human Resource Management and Skill Development in Department of Posts.
6	Operational and Financial Challenges of Postal Department in Digital Age.
7	Transforming India Posts into Country's Strategic Logistic Backbone.
8	Empirical Evaluation of India Post's Carbon Footprint and its Transition to Green Postal Fleet.
9	Analysis of Operational Efficiency in Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras and Foreign Post Offices.

Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications)

1	Issues confronting Telecom Sector in India.
2	Self Reliance in Telecom Manufacturing Sector.
3	Quality of Service (QoS) Standards and Consumer Protection in Telecom Sector.
4	Spectrum Management and status of next generation connectivity.
5	Review of the Financial and Operational Performance and Future Strategy of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
6	Review of the Revival, Modernisation and Manufacturing Capabilities of Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI).
7	Development of Indigenous Telecom Equipment and Technology Ecosystem in India.
8	Strengthening Telecom Cybersecurity and Security of Critical Telecommunication Network and Infrastructure.
9	Preparedness for 5G-Advanced, 6G and Next-Generation Telecommunication Technologies.
10	Regulatory Framework, Approvals, Competition, Security and Consumer Interests in Satellite Broadband Services in India.
11	Review of the functioning of TRAI.

Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports

Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy)

1	Review of the implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020 in school education.
2	Review of the functioning and performance of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
3	Review of Samagra Shiksha, PM POSHAN Scheme & PM SHRI.
4	Review of the Implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, including Access, Enrolment, Retention, School Rationalisation, Social Justice and Educational Equity.
5	Review of Girls' Education in India, including Access, Enrolment, Retention, Educational Equity, Institutional Support Systems, Safety and Learning Outcomes.
6	Review of functioning of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), including Affiliation, Regulation, Examination conduct and overseas ventures.
7	Review of steps taken and schemes in implementation for the education of Children with Special Needs (CWSN).
8	Review of efforts to universalize Early Childhood Care & Education and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills under NIPUN BHARAT.
9	Review of current practices and policies to popularize library access for school students and literate adults.
10	Regulations and quality assurance of Teacher education institutions under the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE).
11	Functioning of Coaching Centres in India: Regulations, Enforcement and Compliance.
12	Review of the Functioning and Performance of School Education Institutions, including Institutional Governance, Human Resource Management, Social Justice, Educational Equity and Accountability.
13	Review of Student Welfare and Support Systems in School Education, including Health, Safety, Mental Well-being, Inclusive Education and Grievance Redressal Mechanisms.
14	Review of Teacher Recruitment and Human Resource Management in School Education, including Vacancies, Deployment, Service Conditions, Reservation Policies and Educational Equity.

Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education)

1	Review of academic, administrative, Financial, and institutional framework of Central Universities.
2	Internationalisation of Higher Education in India: Review of the implementation of related UGC Regulations & Guidelines.
3	Review the progress of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 in HEIs.
4	Review of the Functioning of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE).
5	Integrity of National Examinations: Need for continued reforms in public examination system.
6	Review of HEFA and UGC's role in supporting institutions of higher education financially.
7	Student Welfare and Well-being in Higher Educational Institutions, Including Institutional Support Systems, Campus Environment, Mental Health, Social Justice and Student Safety.
8	Review and performance of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).
9	Review of efforts undertaken by the Department to promote higher education among students from religious minorities.
10	Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and leverage of emerging technology on education and students' employability.
11	Review of Autonomous Bodies and Institutions under the Department of Higher Education.
12	Review of Scholarships, Fellowships and Financial Support for Students and Research Scholars in Higher Education, with Special Reference to Adequacy, Access, Equity and Timely Disbursement.
13	Review of the Regulation and Accountability of Private Higher Educational Institutions, Including Fees, Quality, and Student Protection.

14	Review of the Scientific and Technological Research Ecosystem in Higher Educational Institutions, including Research Funding, Skilling, Infrastructure, Human Resources, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Training, Centres of Excellence, Innovation and Research Outcomes.

Ministry of Women and Child Development

1	Crime against Women: Trends, Challenges and Strategies for Prevention.
2	Review of Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 Scheme.
3	Review of Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi and other schemes to universalize Early Childhood Care and Education.
4	Review of PM CARES schemes for children.
5	Review of efforts to prevent and address child abuse.
6	Review of functioning and performance of autonomous bodies of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
7	Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013: Implementation in the Public and Private Sector, including informal jobs.
8	Review of efforts to support women & children's mental health and well-being.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Youth Affairs)

1	Review of trends in drug and alcohol use among youth and measures to stop proliferation, including De-Addiction and Rehabilitation.
2	Review of performance and functioning of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD).
3	Review of National Youth Policy, 2021: Status and vision
4	Review of National Service Scheme and its functioning and financing.
5	Review of efforts to improve technology and internet access for youth.
6	Review of the National programme for youth & adolescent development and youth training & skill development for employability.
7	Promotion of Adventure activities.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports)

1	Review of mechanism to ensure safety and security of women in sports.
2	India's preparation for, performance in, and learning from the 2026 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games and other efforts to develop sports talent for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and other international sports events.
3	Review of the Anti-Doping Framework in Indian Sports, including Regulatory and Institutional Mechanisms, Testing and Enforcement, Athlete Education, Prevention of Prohibited Substance Use and Safeguards against Contaminated Sports Supplements.
4	Review of management and governance in National Sports Federations (NSFs).
5	Review of efforts for the promotion of Rural and Indigenous Sports and Rural Sports Development.
6	Review of efforts to encourage private companies to invest in development of sports infrastructure and facilities through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.
7	Evaluation of current mechanisms to add sports as a regular part of school learning.
8	Review of the development and management of Sports Infrastructure and Facilities in India, including Planning, Funding, Regional Distribution, Accessibility, Maintenance, Utilisation and Suitability for Training and Competitive Events.

Finance

Ministry of Finance

1	Performance Review of International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)- GIFT City and Way Forward.
2	Artificial Intelligence in Finance: Emerging Issues and Prospects.
3	Review of Long-Term Public Finances and Debt at Centre and States.
4	Performance Review of SEBI: Capital Markets; Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs); Venture Capital and Investor Protection.
5	A Study on Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) and Way Forward.
6	Evaluating Financing of Union Territories to Increase Efficiency.
7	Evolving Macroeconomic Landscape and Growth Trends.
8	Strategy for Price and Currency Stability.
9	Small Savings Schemes: Interest-Rate Framework, Sustainability and Household Savings.
10	Currency Management: Modernisation, Security and Circulation.
11	Regulatory Mechanisms in the Financial Sector, Protection of Investors, Prevention of Fraudulent Practices and Measures to Curb Black Money.
12	Impact of Import on Forex Reserves.
13	RBI's Evolving Role in India's Dynamic Economy.
14	Evaluation of Central Government Schemes: From Expenditure to Outcomes
15	Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI): Implementation and Outcomes.
16	Direct Benefit Transfer: Efficiency and Security of Payment Systems.
17	Review of Survey of Public Enterprises and Way Forward.
18	Review and Evaluation of Mechanism of Memorandum of Understanding for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
19	Monetization of Public Sector Assets including Disinvestment and Asset Recycling.
20	Indirect Tax Reforms with Special Emphasis on GST: Simplification, Rationalisation and Ease of Compliance.
21	Direct Tax Reforms: Simplification, Rationalisation and Ease of Compliance.
22	Tax Litigation- Filing, Appeal, Pendency and Measures for Expeditious Disposal.

23	Customs Risk Management: Enhancing Trade Facilitation, Compliance and Revenue Protection.
24	Banking Sector: Financial Inclusion and Emerging Issues.
25	Health Insurance Sector - a Roadmap for Universal Health Coverage, Affordability, Claim Settlement and Protection of Policyholders.
26	Urban Infrastructure Financing: Mobilisation of Resources and Sustainability of Public Finances.
27	Review of the Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems.
28	Performance Review of SIDBI in financing and strengthening the MSME Sector and the start-up ecosystem.
29	Performance Review of NABARD in empowering and providing credit to the agriculture and rural sector.
30	Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs): Performance Review, Regulatory Gaps and Way Forward.
31	Enhancing Financial Literacy and Financial Digitalisation: Challenges and Achievements.
32	Functioning of Grievance Redressal Mechanism in Financial Sector.
33	Social Security for Informal Sector.
34	Performance Review and Regulation of Pension Sector.
35	Credit Information System: Accuracy, Access and Grievance Redressal.
36	Digital Finance Infrastructure: Consumer Protection, Regulatory Oversight and Cyber Security.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

1	National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT): Challenges and Way Forward.
2	Performance Review of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA).
3	Review of Corporate Social Responsibility.
4	Corporate E-Governance Ecosystem: Ease of Compliance and Service Delivery.
5	Group Audits: Accountability of Group Auditors and Oversight of Component Auditors.

NITI Aayog / Ministry of Planning

1	Review of Functioning of Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme of NITI Aayog.
2	Viksit Bharat @2047: Role of NITI Aayog in Formulation and Monitoring of Sectoral Roadmaps.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

1	Monitoring and Appraisal of Central Sector Projects of Rs. 150 crore and above and Accountability for Time and Cost Overruns.
2	Review of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in light of revised guidelines.
3	National Accounts Statistics: Strengthening Economic Data Mechanism.

Housing and Urban Affairs

Department of Urban Development

1	PM-eBus Sewa Scheme.
2	Review of Implementation of Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.
3	Implementation, Monitoring and Effectiveness of Rainwater Harvesting Initiatives in Cities.
4	Legacy Waste Remediation and Sustainable Management of reclaimed sites in cities.
5	Operation and Performance of Smart City Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) in E-Governance.
6	Review of Implementation of Affordable Rental Housing Projects of MoHUA
7	Review of Slums Redevelopment and Resettlement initiatives of MoHUA.
8	Review of progress of various schemes and programmes of the Ministry i.e. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), Deendayal Jan Ajeevika Yojna-Shehari (D JAY-S), National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM), Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), Metro Rail Projects in various cities, etc.
9	Sustainable urban development of heritage cities and cities of religious importance.
10	Improving the standard and quality of living in urban cities with focus on Metro cities.
11	Urban Flooding & Drainage
12	Strategies to address traffic congestion through smart traffic management systems in Cities.
13	GIS-Based Master Planning and the Role and Functioning of the Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO)
14	Public–Private Partnership (PPP) Model in Urban Development: Effectiveness, Challenges and Future Outlook.
15	Strengthening Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)
16	Review of functioning of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), Hindustan Prefab Limited (HPL), Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO), Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO)

Department of Capital Development

1	Regularization of Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi.
2	Redevelopment and Modernisation of Government Colonies.
3	Review of the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal undertaking of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.
4	Allotment and Management of Government Properties (lands and buildings) in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
5	Review of functioning of Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Central Public Works Department (CPWD), National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC), Directorate of Estates (DoE), Land and Development Office (L&DO), Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC), National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).
6	Implementation of Master Plan of Delhi 2047.

7	Implementation of NCR Planning Framework and Inter-State Coordination.
8	Sustainability of Operational RRTS Corridors and Future Expansion Planning
9	Last-Mile Connectivity and Integration of Metro, RRTS and Bus Services.

Coal, Mines and Steel

Ministry of Coal

1	Role of Coal and Lignite Companies towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat
2	Review of functioning of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries
3	Review of functioning of Coal Controller's Organization (CCO)
4	Review of functioning of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO)
5	Safety measures in Coal Mines
6	Coal Block Auction & Allocation Process - A Review
7	Coal Mines closures, Land Use Management and Rehabilitation in Coal Mining Areas
8	Research and Development in Coal Sector
9	Future of Coal in India's Energy Mix
10	Welfare measures for Coal Mine Workers
11	Compliance of Environmental Norms by Coal and Lignite Companies
12	Review of measures for prevention of Illegal Coal Mining and Theft
13	Demand, Supply and Linkages of Coal to Thermal Power Plants
14	Overburden Removal in Coal Mines
15	Coal Gasification Scheme
16	Review of Infrastructure for evacuation and transportation of Coal
17	Mission Coking Coal
18	Role of MSMEs and Private Enterprises in Coal Sector
19	Review of Mine Water Management: Maximizing Utilization and Minimizing Environmental Impact
20	Implementation of IT and Vigilance Activities to curb Illegal Coal Mining and Theft of Coal

Ministry of Mines

1	National Critical Minerals Mission: A step towards making India Aatmanirbhar
2	Mineral Exploration and Mining Activities in North-Eastern States
3	Measures for Abatement of Pollution due to Mining Activities
4	Review of functioning of National Aluminum Company Limited (NALCO)
5	Review of functioning of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)
6	Measures to curb Illegal Mining of Minerals and Metals in the Country
7	Welfare measures for workers and inhabitants in mining areas
8	Review of functioning of HCL
9	Review of functioning of MECL
10	Review of functioning of NIRM
11	Review of functioning of JNARDDC
12	SDF Star Rating of Mines
13	Skill Development in Mining Sector
14	Recycling of Minerals and Metals
15	Exploration of Offshore Mining in India
16	International Cooperation activities of Ministry of Mines
17	Production of non-ferrous metals in India – A Review
18	Review of functioning of Geological Survey of India (GSI)
19	Implementation and Utilization of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Fund and PMKKKY – A Review
20	Comprehensive study and Review of Auction Regime for Minerals and Critical Mineral Blocks
21	Review of Aluminium and Copper Industry in India – Challenges, Opportunities and the Road to Aatmanirbharta
22	Review of Implementation of MMDR Act and its Amendments
23	A Study on Royalty Rates in the Mining Sector and its Impact on Mineral Development, Investment and Aatmanirbharta
24	Review of QCOs under Ministry of Mines
25	Status of Bharat Gold Mines Limited and the Future of India's Gold Mining Assets
26	Role of MSMEs and Private Enterprises in Mining Sector
27	Review of the development of India's Precious Metals Industry
28	Review of Classification, Distribution and Development of Major and Minor Minerals in India

Ministry of Steel

1	Review of functioning of RINL
2	Review of functioning of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)
3	Review of functioning of NMDC Steel Limited (NSL Limited)
4	Review of functioning of KIOCL
5	Review of functioning of MOIL Ltd.
6	Review of functioning of MECON and MSTC Ltd.
7	PLI Scheme for Steel Sector
8	Promotion of R&D in Iron and Steel Sector
9	Iron Ore Handling Infrastructure in India
10	Environmental Issues related to Steel Plants
11	Development of Manganese Ore Industry in India
12	Green Transition of the Iron and Steel sector in India - Roadmap and Action Plan
13	Safety measures in Steel Plants
14	Skill Development in Steel Sector
15	Modernization and Expansion of Steel Plants
16	Steel Research Technology Mission of India (SRTMI)
17	Development of Steel Scrap Recycling Ecosystem and Circular Economy in the Steel Sector

18	Promotion of Indigenous Steel Usage in Roads, Railways, Highways and Infrastructure
19	Promotion of Indigenous Steel for ISRO and other Space Missions
20	Augmentation and Consumption of Domestic Coking Coal by Steel Sector
21	Review of the Revival, Current Functioning and Future Expansion Plans of the Bird Group of Companies (EIL, OMDC and BSLC) under Ministry of Steel
22	A Study on Implementation of the National Green Hydrogen Mission in the Steel Sector
23	Review of functioning of NISST and BPNSI
24	Management of Energy Efficiency by Steel Plants
25	Review of QCOs in Steel Sector
26	Role of MSMEs and Private Enterprises in Steel Sector
27	A Study on functioning and Implementation of NSP
28	Promoting Indigenous Steel for Defence PSUs and Strategic Defence Equipment Manufacturing

Social Justice and Empowerment

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice & Empowerment)

1	Economic Empowerment through Skill Development Schemes for SCs, OBCs, DNTs and EBCs.
2	Schemes/programmes implemented for the welfare of SCs/OBCs under Corporate Social Responsibility
3	Review of Functioning of National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC).
4	Review of the implementation of The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.
5	Review of financial assistance provided to NGOs/VOs for the socio-economic development of SCs, OBCs, DNTs and EBCs.
6	Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)
7	Review of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY).
8	Review of National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE).
9	Review of Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE).
10	Review of National Action Plan on Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)
11	Review of the functioning of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).
12	Review of Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)

1	Review of functioning of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC).
2	Review of functioning of National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.
3	Implementation of Reservation Policy for Divyangjan.
4	Review of Accessible India Campaign.
5	Review of financial assistance provided to NGOs/VOs for the socio-economic development of Divyangjan.
6	New age Software innovations for empowerment of visually challenged and other Divyangjan.
7	Schemes/programmes implemented for the welfare of Divyangjan under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
8	Review of Skill Development Schemes for Divyangjan
9	National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities.
10	Review of the Functioning of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1	Schemes for Educational and Economic empowerment of Tribals.
2	Review of the functioning of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).
3	Schemes/programmes implemented for the welfare of Tribals under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
4	Review of the Implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006.
5	Review of financial assistance provided to NGOs/VOs for the socio-economic development of Tribals including PVTGs.
6	Review of Skill Development Schemes for Tribals including PVTGs.
7	Review of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN).
8	Implementation of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)
9	Review of Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes
10	Review of the functioning of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).

Ministry of Minority Affairs

1	Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakarm (PMJVK).
2	Review of Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS).
3	Review of Skill Development/Schemes for minorities including Seekho Aur Kamao, USTTAD etc.
4	Review of financial assistance provided to NGOs/VOs for the socio-economic welfare of Minorities.
5	Review of Scholarship Schemes for Minority Students.
6	Schemes/programmes implemented for the welfare of Minorities under Corporate social responsibility (CSR).
7	Haj Management

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Minority Affairs	
1	Financial inclusion along with Priority Sector Lending by the Financial Institutions such as Banks/Non-Banking Financial Institutions of deprived sections of the society including SCs, OBCs, DNTs, EBCs, Divyangjans, Tribals and Minorities in co-ordination with concerned Ministries/Departments/Organizations.
2	Socio-economic impact of the activities of Central Public Sector Enterprises on deprived sections of society including SCs, OBCs, DNTs, EBCs, Divyangjan, Tribals and Minorities in co-ordination with concerned Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations.

Water Resources

Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	
1	Review of the Framework for Wetland Conservation and Management in the Country with Special Reference to the Protection of Designated Ramsar sites, their catchment Areas, and the Role of State Wetland Authorities.
2	(i) Modernization of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects through the Adoption of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Systems for Real – Time Water Distribution; and (ii) An Overview of the 'Per Drop More Crop' Initiative with Particular Reference to the Expansion of Micro-Irrigation and Command Area Development.
3	Assessment of Water Requirement, Availability and Long-Term Security for Urban Development Projects and Greenfield Infrastructure in the Country: Evaluation of Planning Benchmarks, Sourcing Mechanisms and Sustainable Water Allocation.
4	Assessment of the Impact of Plantation and Afforestation Programmes on Water Resources Management with Particular Reference to Catchment Area Treatment, Soil Conservation, and Groundwater Recharge.
5	An Overview of the Impact of Climate Change on Glacial Lake Expansion and the increasing Risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) in the Indian Himalayan Region and steps taken for Deployment of Early Warning Systems (EWS) and protection of Downstream Habitats and Water Resources Infrastructure.
6	(i) An Overview of the Functioning of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) with Special Reference to the Accuracy, Timeliness, and Dissemination of Weather Forecasts related to Flood Control and Hydrological disasters; and (ii) Coordination among various Ministries/Departments including Central Water Commission (CWC), Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Geological Survey of India (GSI), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Dam Authorities in flood management with reference to Effective Early Warning System (EWS) to mitigate Hydro-Meteorological Disasters and lesson learnt from the recent case studies such as floods/cloudburst/landslide in Bihar, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and also neighbouring countries.
7	India's Water Security Challenge: Assessment of the Gap between Water Resources Development, Actual Utilization and Sustainable Management.
8	Review of the Project Appraisal Framework of the Central Water Commission with Particular Reference to Timeliness, Procedural Efficiency and Accountability.
9	Assessment of Recurring Floods and Seasonal Water Scarcity: Efficacy of Water Storage, Irrigation and Flood Management Infrastructure.
10	Assessment of Climate-Induced Changes in Hydrological Regimes and the Adequacy of Existing Water Resources Planning and Management Frameworks.
11	(i) Conservation, Development, Management and Abatement of pollution in river Ganga and its Tributaries under Namami Gange Programme with particular reference to project deliverables and timelines as well as performance of State Governments; and (ii) An overview of the National River Conservation Plan-Other Basins.
12	(i) Management of Reservoirs and Water Bodies, streams and rivers, including wetland in protected/non-protected forest areas, National Parks, Tiger Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries impacting sustainable flora and fauna; and (ii) Submergence of Islands in inhabited and uninhabited regions of various States including forest areas.

13 (i) An Overview of the Safety and Functioning of Dams including small dams with reference to Dam Safety Rule curves under the Dam Safety Management Act in the background of Inter-State Coordination in Reservoir Operation for Flood Management/Moderation including automated Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) and effective use of modern digital technologies – Role of National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA).
(ii) An Overview of the Futuristic Dam Planning/Policy of the Country including Existing and Proposed New Dam Projects in the Country, with Particular Reference to their Appraisal, Implementation Efficiency, Environmental Sustainability, Rehabilitation and Resettlement and Institutional Accountability.
(iii) Review of the efficacy, implementation, and inter-state coordination of reservoir sediment management efforts, with particular reference to the National Framework for Sediment Management, 2022.

14 Causes, Impact, Mitigation and Relief Measures for Floods/Cloudburst/ Landslides in the Country with special reference to Inter, Intra-State and Trans-Border Rivers including protection of river banks, flood plains along with issues of unregulated occupancy and encroachment.

15 Review of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) Projects both at State and National levels, and its role in irrigation efficiency, water management and adoption of modern technologies such as irrigation through pipes, drip and sprinkler etc. with special reference to the areas having three crop cultivation practices in a year.

16 Overall review of National Water Mission in view of the objectives of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) with special focus on the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE), assessing progress, challenges and effectiveness.

17 Management of Water Resources by the Major Organizations and industrial establishment having large parcels of land in the country under various sectors including Public Private Partnership (PPP) model on water consumption and pollution control measures.

18 (i) Water Resources Management in North-Eastern Region of the country with special reference to soil erosion caused by Brahmaputra river and its tributaries including groundwater recharge and pollution control measures in the border areas adjoining Bhutan and Nepal; and
(ii) Restoration of water bodies across the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) and North-Eastern Region (NER) affected due to impact of Major and Minor Hydro Power Stations, urbanization, construction, sewerage and other anthropogenic activities.

19 Review of Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation Projects in India including their Status and Progress with regard to (i) Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) and (ii) Water Users Associations (WUAs).

20 (i) Contamination/Pollution of Water Resources: Causes, Consequences and Remedial Measures to check ground water contamination with particular reference to the impact of pesticides and other agricultural practices on water sources/ bodies in the country and water level rejuvenation measures; and
(ii) Adverse Impact of Industrial Discharge on sea water and marine life: Causes, Consequences and Remedial Measures.

21 Interlinking of Rivers: Significance, challenges and ongoing river interlinking projects such as Kosi-Mechi and Ken-Betwa and other Projects in pipeline.

22 Review of Major Canal Irrigation Projects, with special reference to the Gandak and Eastern Rajasthan Canal Projects including upgradation of existing canal system in the country.

23 Conservation and Restoration of smaller Perennial and Non-Perennial rivers for inclusive water planning for sustainable development across the country including measures for de-siltation and improve navigability.

24 Backwater Management, Stagnation and Depletion of Cultivable Land in Coastal Regions, including Impacts on Aquaculture and Fisheries including pollution of ground water in the region.

25 Review of International Water Treaties and Inter-State Water agreements with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh focusing on water sharing and flood management.

26 An overview of the functioning of various Tribunals/Councils/Boards w.r.t. Inter-State River Water Management in the country.

27 Overall impact of climate change on glacier melt, black carbon deposits, and hydrology in the upper Himalayan regions, including implications for downstream water availability and disaster risk.

28 An overview of the Functioning of Various Organizations/Bodies under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

29 An overview of the functioning of WAPCOS Limited and NPCC Limited including the role played by various PSUs, Industries/Corporations under CSR for maintenance, creation, and enhancement of water bodies and river rejuvenation.

30 Review of Sustainable Flow of Adequate Water for Irrigation and Navigational Purposes in Major Rivers and their Tributaries.

31 Review of Atal Bhujal Yojana and Ground Water Management in the country including recharge measures such as Rainwater Harvesting and integration with water conservation programs.

32 An Overview of Water Security through the Revival, Rejuvenation and Sustainable Management of Natural Springs/Hot Springs, Aquifers and Traditional Water Systems for Securing the Himalayan Water Future.

33 An Overview of Stormwater Management in the Country, with Particular Reference to Rural/Urban Flood Mitigation, Groundwater Recharge, Inter-Agency Coordination, and the Effectiveness of Existing Policies, Infrastructure and Implementation Mechanisms.

34	Overview of the Polavaram Project: Assessment of Project Implementation and Mechanisms for Ensuring Time-Bound Completion and Accountability.

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation

1	(i) Review of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) with special emphasis on the Provision of Urban Drinking Water, Reduction of Non-Revenue Water, and Rejuvenation of Urban Water Bodies. (ii) Assessment of Urban Drinking Water Security: Functional Sustainability of Piped Water Supply, Expansion of Treatment Capacity, and Promotion of a Circular Water Economy in Urban Local Bodies.
2	Beyond Har Ghar Jal: From Tap Connections to Reliable Water Services.
3	Water After the Project: Life-Cycle Management of Jal Jeevan Mission Assets.
4	Review of performance of Jal Jeevan Mission 2 - Quality and functional sustainability of piped water supply infrastructure created under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in rural area, maintenance, management and expansion.
5	Review of performance of Swachh Bharat Mission-Phase II with particular reference to achievement of open defecation free (ODF)plus target for all village and GOBARdhan a waste to wealth initiative in the country.
6	Review of the steps taken for providing World Class Hygiene and Sanitation Facilities at Tourist/Pilgrimage Places under 'Green Leaf Rating', 'PRASAD Scheme' and 'Swachh Iconic Places (SIP)' and other state level tourist locations.
7	Challenges of Drinking Water Supply in Coastal Areas –Use of Latest Technology and Innovation for Setting up of cost-effective Desalination Plants.
8	Solid, Liquid and Plastic Waste Management under Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen (SBM- G) including collection, storage and disposal.
9	An overview of the performance of JJM and SBM in Aspirational Districts and other backward districts.
10	Measures to ensure safe Drinking Water Availability in Rural India including Arid Regions and other Water Stressed Areas in the country with particular reference to role of Canals in providing potable drinking water.
11	Role of Government, Local Bodies, Industries, PSUs, and Corporations under CSR for Creation, Maintenance, and Restoration of Ecosystem through Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission and Other Initiatives.
12	An Overview of Water Security through the Revival, Rejuvenation and Sustainable Management of Natural Springs/Hot Springs, Aquifers and Traditional Water Systems with Particular Emphasis on Drinking Water Management.

Railways

1	Ensuring safety in Indian Rail operations.
2	Optimum utilisation of Railway land and planned commercial development of Station areas.
3	Role of Railway PSUs in growth and expansion of Indian Railways.
4	Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) related activities of PSUs of Indian Railways.
5	Improvement of public facilities at Railway Stations.
6	Human resource management in Indian Railways.
7	Upgradation of tracks and signaling in Indian Railways.
8	Passenger Reservation System in Indian Railways.
9	Evaluation of onboard services in Indian Railways.
10	Performance of Production Units and Railway Workshops of Indian Railways.
11	Promotion of Railway based tourism.
12	High Speed Rail network in India.
13	Role of Indian Railways in development of multi-modal logistic parks and their integration with road and port network.
14	Diversification of Freight Basket of Indian Railways.
15	Upgradation and Modernisation of Indian Railways' Rolling Stock.
16	Status and Progress of Suburban Railway Networks in India, including New Projects and Expansion Plans.
17	PPP initiatives in Indian Railways for infrastructure augmentation.
18	Energy efficiency in Indian railways.
19	Progress of Railway Projects : New Rail Lines, Doubling, ROBs/RUBs, Station Upgradation, New production units and workshops.
20	Eliminating Level Crossings: Improving Road and Rail Safety through ROBs and RUBs.
21	Heritage conservation in Indian Railways.

Energy

Ministry of Power

1	Energy Security in India – Ensuring uninterrupted availability of Energy at an affordable Price.
2	Energy Transition.
3	Energy Conservation and Efficiency.
4	Performance of Thermal (Coal and Gas based) Power Plants - Ensuring availability of sufficient quantity of Fuel.
5	Revival of Hydro Power Sector in the Country.
6	Revamping of the Transmission Sector - Strengthening of the Infrastructure and Management of High Demand in the Power System.
7	Strengthening of the Electricity Distribution Sector - Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme with special focus on Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Losses and Smart Metering.
8	Ensuring Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Power Sector.
9	Go Electric - Facilitating Electric Mobility and Development of Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles.
10	Action Plan for ensuring Cyber Security of the Electricity Sector.
11	Carbon Footprints of Power Sector in India and Action Plan for Carbon Credit Trading Scheme.
12	Role of Power Sector Statutory Bodies, PSUs and Institutions in development of Power Sector.

13 Emerging Scenario in the Power Sector and Need for a New Electricity Policy – An Appraisal.
14 Action Plan for Development of Pump Storage Plants and Battery Energy Storage Systems.
15 Impact Assessment of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Power Sector Statutory Bodies, PSUs and Institutions in reducing carbon emissions, enhancing energy efficiency and promoting sustainable community development.
16 'One Nation-One Grid-One Tariff'- Feasibility, Regulatory Reforms and Roadmap for Uniform Electricity Tariff in India.
17 Comparative Assessment of Cost and Tariff - Competitiveness of Renewable and Conventional Energy Sources in the Changing Energy Scenario.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

1 India's Renewable Energy Targets by 2030 and Beyond.
2 Performance of India's Solar Energy Sector.
3 Evaluation of Wind Energy Sector in the Country.
4 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM) - An Evaluation.
5 PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana - Grid connected Solar Rooftop Initiative.
6 National Green Hydrogen Mission - Role of Green Hydrogen in achieving Energy Independence for India.
7 Ensuring Round-the-Clock-Power (RTC) from Renewable Energy Projects.
8 National Bioenergy Programme - An Evaluation.
9 Green Energy Corridor - Development of Evacuation and Transmission Infrastructure for Renewable Energy.
10 Self Reliance in Renewable Energy Sector - Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules.
11 Renewable Energy Financing - Sound and Innovative Financing as the key to accelerated Growth in Renewable Energy Sector.
12 New Technologies in Renewable Energy Sector - Progress in Offshore Wind, Geo Thermal and Ocean Energy.
13 Research and Technology Development in Renewable Energy Sector.
14 Skill Development and Capacity Building in Renewable Energy Sector.
15 Impact Assessment of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Renewable Energy Sector Public Sector Undertakings and Institutions in promoting clean energy, mitigating environmental impact and promoting sustainable community development.

Petroleum and Natural Gas

1 Pricing of Petroleum Products Including Review of Pricing Policy.
2 Marketing and Supply of Petroleum Products.
3 Physical and Financial Performance of Oil Companies.
4 Review of Human Resource Policies of Oil PSUs.
5 Measures to improve Energy Security of India including 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives.
6 Efficacy of Safety, Security and Environment protection measures in Indian Petroleum Sector.
7 Review of On-Going projects of Oil PSUs.
8 Grievance Redressal Mechanisms in Petroleum/Gas Sectors and measures to improve Customer satisfaction at Retail Outlets.
9 Initiatives & Schemes for Promoting Alternative Energy Sources and fuels including Ethanol blending, Biofuels, Green Hydrogen and EV Charging at Retail Outlets.
10 LNG Infrastructure in the Country.
11 Examination of International Operations, Investments and Overseas Assets of Oil PSUs.
12 Review of PDH-PP Project by GAIL at Usar, Maharashtra.
13 Role of Private Sector in Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector.
14 Impact of Global Geo-Political Situation on Petroleum Sector.
15 Review of Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited Towards Implementing Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for North-East.
16 Import dependence and sourcing diversification of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
17 Supply of LNG to power plants in the country: Allocation, pricing & supply security.
18 Energy transition Joint Ventures between Oil PSUs and Power Sector PSUs.
19 Carbon Credit Trading Scheme: Preparedness of Oil and Gas PSUs.
20 Review of role of Oil PSUs in nuclear power.
21 Functioning of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
22 Enhancing Crude Oil production from mature oil fields including Mumbai High and Western Offshore.
23 Impact of under recovery of fuel prices on the financial health of Oil PSUs.
24 Upcoming greenfield oil sector projects including refinery projects

Chemicals and Fertilisers

Department of Fertilisers

1 Evaluation of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme.
2 Review of the Non-performing Assets/ Immovable properties lying idle in the Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
3 Evaluation and Monitoring of Fertilizer Subsidy and Innovation Schemes with Focus on Balanced Fertilization and Nutrient Use Efficiency
4 Evaluation of performance of PSUs producing fertilizer.
5 Initiatives for ensuring growth of domestic fertilizer industry.
6 Fertilizer Projects and joint ventures for ensuring availability of fertilizers and raw materials.

7	Development, Promotion and Growth in the area of Nano Fertilizers including spray application mechanisms.
8	Reform of Urea Policy and need for nutrient based pricing for all fertilizers
9	Availability of Fertilizers at the Farmer Level: Demand Assessment, Planning and Supply Coordination between the Centre and the States
10	Prevention of Spurious and Sub-standard Fertilizers and Strengthening Enforcement of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985
11	Feasibility of Bringing Urea under the Nutrient Based Subsidy Regime: Transition Roadmap, Farmer Impact and Fiscal Implications
12	Promotion of Organic and Bio-Fertilizers.

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

1	To establish India as a leading manufacturer of chemicals and petrochemicals by initiating measures including, inter-alia, revival of sick units.
2	Review of the Functioning of CIPET, including Technical Support and R&D Services for the Plastic Industry and Training Infrastructure, Facilities and Amenities for Students
3	Factors impacting Dye-stuffs and dye intermediates industry.
4	Setting up of Plastic Waste Management Centres and steps taken to minimize the use of Plastic in the country.
5	Role of Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) in the light of proposed Chemical Parks.
6	Addressing Quality challenges in the Indian Chemical Industry.
7	New Schemes in Petrochemicals: An Assessment of Progress in Setting up Plastic Parks and Centres of Excellence.
8	Strengthening Domestic Chemical Manufacturing and reducing– import dependence through dedicated Chemicals Parks: A Progress Review.
9	Achieving Self Reliance in Chemical and Petrochemicals Industry: Vision of Viksit Bharat.
10	Safe Handling of Hazardous Chemicals in Industrial Establishments and Prevention of Pollution associated with it.

Department of Pharmaceuticals

1	Self-sufficiency in production and availability of Active Pharmaceutical ingredients (API) through various initiatives including Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI).
2	Establishing uninterrupted growth of the Pharmaceutical Industry while ensuring quality and safety standards.
3	Review of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadi Pariyojna (PMBJP) with specific reference to penetration of PMBJP in North-East States.
4	Review of the functioning of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)
5	Generic versus branded medicines with special reference to awareness and trust deficit.
6	Need for an Integrated, Transparent and Affordable Drug Pricing Mechanism, with Special Reference to Cancer and Other Life-Saving Drugs and Medical Devices.
7	Inclusive growth of the Pharmaceutical Industry.
8	Self-reliance in manufacturing of Medical Device Industry
9	Trade Margin Rationalization in Medicines and Medical Devices: Need for a Permanent, Transparent and Enforceable Framework to Protect Patients from Excessive Mark-ups.

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development)

1	Role of Banks in Rural Development
2	Review the functioning of Mission Antyodaya to strengthen Rural Health and Nutrition Infrastructure
3	Housing for All – Status of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)
4	Review of Rural Employment under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission – Gramin (VB-G RAM G)
5	Impact of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)
6	Implementation of e-Governance in Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Schemes
7	Review of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV)
8	Review of Autonomous Bodies under MoRD: National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), National Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (NRLPS), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) and Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) etc
9	Rural Development in Tribal, Left-Wing Extremism - Affected, Aspirational and Geographically Difficult Areas — assessment of infrastructure, livelihoods, connectivity and implementation gaps in Central schemes
10	Climate Resilience of Rural Livelihoods and Infrastructure — preparedness and response to floods, droughts, cyclones and other extreme weather events, including resilient reconstruction

Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)

1	Review the status of Wasteland Development and Land Use Change
2	Reviewing effective management of Common Property Resources & Grazing Lands
3	Impact of Mining & Industrial Corridors on Rural Habitation and Land
4	Review the status of Watershed Development & Soil Conservation under Watershed Development Component - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY)
5	Landlessness and Provision of Homestead Land to the Rural Poor — identification of landless households, availability/allotment of land and convergence with rural housing programmes

6	Land Rights and Land Administration in Scheduled and Tribal Areas — interface between land administration, Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA),Forest Rights Act (FRA) and Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

1	Fiscal Empowerment of Panchayats
2	Strengthening the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Disaster Management & Climate Response
3	Review of performance of Women & Youth Leadership in Panchayats
4	Review the implementation of Nine themes in realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Panchayats
5	Digital Empowerment of Rural India: Examination and Review of Common Service Centre (CSC), BharatNet Programme and Mobile connectivity
6	Status of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)
7	Gram Sabha as an Institution of Local Self-Government — powers, participation, accountability, social audit and implementation of Gram Sabha decisions
8	Role of Panchayats in Delivery of Essential Public Services — health, education, nutrition, drinking water, sanitation and other basic services
9	Role of Panchayat Raj Institutions and local communities in water – source management.

Industry

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

1	Review of Credit Access and Financial Empowerment Mechanisms for MSMEs.
2	Export Competitiveness and Global Market Integration of MSMEs.
3	Implementation of Mandatory Procurement Targets from MSEs by CPSEs and Timely Release of Dues.
4	Role of the MSME Sector in E-Waste Management.
5	Role of CPSEs and other Institutions/Organisations under the Government of India in Supporting MSME Growth.
6	Major Issues Concerning the MSME Sector in India: a. Delayed Payments and Acute Working-Capital Stress; b. Technology Upgradation, Innovation and Digitalisation; c. Incomplete Formalisation and MSME Data Gaps; d. "Missing Middle", Scale-up Constraints and Policy Convergence; and e. Infrastructure, Logistics and Business Environment.
7	Review of the Functioning of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
8	Review of the Functioning of the Coir Board.

Ministry of Heavy Industries

1	India's Transition to Electric Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities.
2	Revival and Modernization Strategies for CPSEs.
3	Competitiveness and Industry 4.0 Integration in the Capital Goods Sector.
4	Review of functioning of CPSEs under the Ministry of Heavy Industries

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