

# Monthly Policy Review

April 2025

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## Highlights of this Issue

### [Budget Session 2025 concludes \(p. 2\)](#)

The Session was held from January 31 to April 4, 2025. Parliament passed ten Bills, including the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2024, and the Boilers Bill, 2024.

### [Parliament passed the Waqf \(Amendment\) Bill, 2024 \(p. 4\)](#)

Only persons demonstrating that they have been practising Islam for at least five years can declare a waqf. The Bill also includes non-Muslims in the composition of state waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council.

### [Supreme Court sets guidelines for Governor's assent to state Bills \(p. 2\)](#)

It held that after one round of withholding assent and re-passing the Bill, the Governor cannot then reserve the Bill for President's consideration. It also prescribed timelines for Governors for assenting to Bills.

### [Repo rate cut from 6.25% to 6% \(p. 2\)](#)

The standing deposit facility rate has been decreased from 6% to 5.75%. The MPC also decided to change its stance from neutral to accommodative.

### [Cabinet approves caste count in the upcoming population census \(p. 3\)](#)

The Union Cabinet has approved conducting a caste enumeration in the upcoming census.

### [UGC notified regulations for changes in higher education \(p. 5\)](#)

The new regulations outline admission criteria, degree requirements, and allow for flexible programme durations through accelerated and extended undergraduate degrees.

### [The Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme notified \(p. 5\)](#)

The scheme aims to develop domestic ecosystem for electronics component manufacturing. It will provide incentives linked to domestic sales, support for capital expenditure, or both for specified component.

### [Environment \(Construction and Demolition\) Waste Management Rules notified \(p. 6\)](#)

The new Rules set down the responsibilities of waste producers to recycle and reuse construction waste including safe disposal of demolition waste and utilisation of processed and recycled waste.

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May 1, 2025

## Parliament

### Budget Session 2025 concludes

*Atri Prasad Rout (atri@prsindia.org)*

The Budget Session of Parliament was held from January 31 to April 4, 2025.

During the session, five Bills were introduced, three of which were passed. These are: (i) the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, (ii) the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, and (iii) the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025. The Income Tax Bill, 2025 was introduced and referred to a Select Committee of Lok Sabha.

Of the Bills pending from earlier sessions, seven were passed. These include: (i) the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, (ii) the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and (iii) the Boilers Bill, 2024.

Parliament passed the Union budget and the Manipur budget for 2025-26. The proclamation of President's Rule in Manipur was also approved by both Houses.

For more details on the legislative business taken up during the session, please see [here](#). For more details on functioning of Parliament, please see [here](#).

### Supreme Court prescribes timelines for Governor's to assent to Bills

*Niranjana S Menon (niranjana@prsindia.org)*

The Supreme Court set down guidelines for Governor's assent to Bills passed by state legislatures. In October 2023, the Tamil Nadu government moved the Supreme Court citing inaction by the Governor of Tamil Nadu in giving assent to Bills passed by the state legislature. The Governor had not taken any action on 12 Bills passed by the state Assembly between January 2020 and April 2023. After the state government approached the Supreme Court, the Governor reserved two Bills for the President's consideration, and returned the remaining Bills to the Assembly. In November 2023, the state Assembly passed the 10 Bills again. The Governor reserved all the re-passed Bills for the President's consideration.

The Supreme Court examined questions including: (i) whether the Governor could reserve a Bill for the President's consideration after withholding assent the first time the Bill was passed, and (ii) whether there was a constitutionally prescribed time-limit within which the Governor is required to take action on Bills.

The Court set aside the reservation of 10 Bills enacted by the Tamil Nadu Legislature for the President. The Bills will be deemed to have received assent in November 2023. It also held that if the Governor withholds assent to a Bill, and it is re-passed without significant changes, the Governor cannot then reserve the Bill for the President's consideration. It also

prescribed the following timeline to be followed by Governors while assenting to Bills:

- A decision to withhold assent, or reserve the Bill for the President's consideration, on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers should be taken within one month,
- A decision to withhold assent or reserve the Bill for the President's consideration, against the advice of the Council of Ministers should be taken within three months, and
- If a Bill is passed again by the legislature after assent was initially withheld, assent must be granted within one month.

The judgement also prescribed a three-month time limit for the President to take a decision on Bills referred to her by the Governor. The Court held that some matters are subject to judicial review, including: (i) the Governor's decision to reserve a Bill for the President against the advice of the Council of Ministers, and (ii) the President's decision to withhold assent to Bills referred by the Governor.

## Macroeconomic Development

*Tushar Chakrabarty (tushar@prsindia.org)*

### Repo rate cut from 6.25% to 6%

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut the policy repo rate (the rate at which RBI lends money to banks) from 6.25% to 6%.<sup>1</sup> Other decisions of the MPC include:

- The standing deposit facility rate (the rate at which RBI borrows from banks without giving collateral) has been decreased from 6% to 5.75%.
- The marginal standing facility rate (the rate at which banks can borrow additional money from RBI) and the bank rate (rate at which RBI buys bills of exchange) have both been reduced from 6.5% to 6.25%.

The MPC also decided to change its stance from neutral to accommodative. The Committee's decisions are expected to keep inflation in line with the target of 4% while supporting growth.

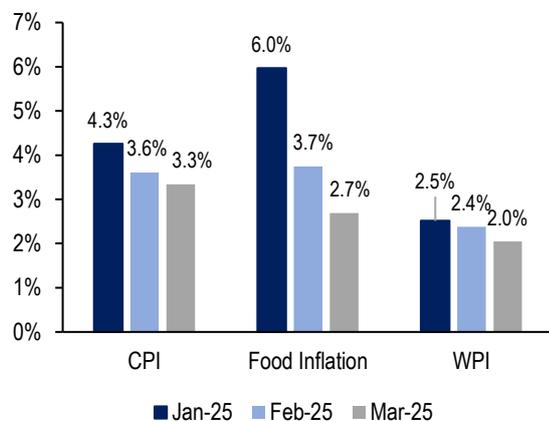
### CPI inflation averaged 3.7% in the fourth quarter of 2024-25

Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was 3.7% in the fourth quarter (January-March) of 2024-25, lower than 5% in the corresponding quarter of 2023-24.<sup>2</sup> In the third quarter (October-December) of 2024-25, CPI inflation was 5.6%.

Food inflation averaged 4.1% in the fourth quarter of 2024-25, significantly lower than 8.5% in the fourth quarter of 2023-24. In the third quarter of 2024-25, food inflation was 9.4%.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation averaged 2.3% in the fourth quarter of 2024-25, higher than 0.3% in the corresponding quarter of 2023-24.<sup>3</sup> In the third quarter of 2024-25, WPI inflation was 2.5%.

**Figure 1: Monthly inflation in Q4 of 2024-25 (% change, year-on-year)**



Sources: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Ministry of Commerce and Industry; PRS.

## Finance

*Tushar Chakrabarty (tushar@prsindia.org)*

### Ministry of Finance notifies amalgamation of 26 regional rural banks

The Ministry of Finance notified the amalgamation of 26 regional rural banks (RRBs) on the principle of “One State, One RRB”.<sup>4</sup> These banks raise deposits primarily from rural/semi-urban areas and provide loans to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans, and other priority sectors.<sup>5</sup> The amalgamation has been carried out across 10 states and one union territory. Post the amalgamation, the number of RRBs will reduce from 43 to 28, operating in 26 states and 2 Union Territories.

## Home Affairs

### Cabinet approves caste count in the next census

*Shirin Pajnoo (shirin@prsindia.org)*

The Union Cabinet has approved including caste enumeration in the upcoming population census.<sup>6</sup> The last decennial census was conducted in 2011.<sup>7</sup>

### Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 passed by Parliament

*Shirin Pajnoo (shirin@prsindia.org)*

A Bill introduced to consolidate laws regulating immigration, entry, and stay of foreigners was passed

by Parliament.<sup>8</sup> It consolidates the following Acts: (i) the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, (ii) the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, (iii) the Foreigners Act, 1946, and (iv) the Immigration (Carriers’ Liability) Act, 2000.

Key features of the Bill include:

- Immigration:** The 1920 Act empowers the central government to frame rules requiring persons entering India to possess passports. The Bill provides that persons entering or departing from India must also have a valid visa (for foreigners) along with valid passports or other valid travel documents. The Bill establishes the Bureau of Immigration for performing immigration functions and other prescribed functions. Immigration functions include: (i) visa issuance and regulation of entry into India, or (ii) transit, stay and movement within and exit from India.
- Registration of foreigners:** The 1939 Act empowers the central government to make rules for foreigners to report their presence to a prescribed authority. The Bill provides that on arrival in India, foreigners must register with a Registration Officer.
- Obligations of persons/entities to provide prescribed information:** The 1946 Act requires hotel keepers providing accommodation to foreigners to furnish information. The Bill adds that educational institutions must provide prescribed information to the Registration Officer on admitting foreigners. Further, medical institutions must provide information regarding foreign patients availing indoor treatment or their attendants availing lodging facilities to the Registration Officer.
- Carriers:** The Bill amends the 2000 Act to prohibit any transporter departing from India until a clearance has been obtained from the Immigration Officer.

For a PRS summary of the Bill, see [here](#).

### Cabinet approves second phase of Vibrant Villages programme

*Tushar Chakrabarty (tushar@prsindia.org)*

The Union Cabinet approved the Vibrant Villages Programme – II for implementation between 2024-25 and 2028-29.<sup>9</sup> The programme will be implemented as a central sector scheme with an outlay of Rs 6,839 crore. It will be implemented in select strategic villages adjoining international land borders in states including Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, and Punjab. It aims to create better living conditions and livelihood opportunities, control trans-border crime, and assimilate border population with the nation. Funds will be provided for infrastructure, value chain development, education, and development of tourism circuits.

## Minority Affairs

Shirin Pajnoo ([shirin@prsindia.org](mailto:shirin@prsindia.org))

### Bill amending law regulating waqf property passed by Parliament

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was passed in Parliament.<sup>10</sup> It amends the Waqf Act, 1995.<sup>11</sup> The Act regulates waqf property in India. The Act defines waqf as an endowment of movable or immovable property for purposes considered pious, religious, or charitable under Muslim law. Every state is required to constitute a Waqf Board to manage waqf. Key features of the Bill as passed include:

- **Formation of waqf:** The Act allowed waqf to be formed by: (i) declaration, (ii) recognition based on long-term use (waqf by user), or (iii) endowment when the line of succession ends (waqf-alal-aulad). The Act allowed for waqf creation by any person. The Bill states that only persons showing that they have been practising Islam for at least five years may declare a waqf. The Bill removes waqf by user, which will apply prospectively.
- **Government property as waqf:** The Bill states that any government property identified as waqf will cease to be waqf. Any officer above the rank of a Collector and chosen by the state will determine ownership in case of uncertainty and submit a report to the state government.
- **Composition of the Central Waqf Council:** Under the Act, the Union Minister in-charge of waqf is the ex-officio chairperson of the Council. Members of the Council include Members of Parliament, persons of national eminence, retired Supreme Court or High Court judges, and eminent scholars in Muslim law. The Act requires that all Council members, barring the Minister, must be Muslims, and at least two must be women. The Bill removes the requirement for the MPs, former judges, and eminent persons appointed to the Council to be Muslim. It further mandates that two members must be non-Muslims.
- **Composition of Waqf Boards:** The Act provides for election of up to two members each from electoral colleges of a state's Muslim: (i) MPs, (ii) MLAs and MLCs, and (iii) Bar Council members, to the Board. The Bill amends this to empower the state government to nominate one person from each of the above groups to the Board. They need not be Muslims. It adds that the Board must have: (i) two non-Muslim members, and (ii) at least one member each from Shias, Sunnis, and Backward classes of Muslims. The Act provides that at least two members must be women. The Bill mandates that two Muslim members be women.

For a PRS analysis of the Bill, see [here](#).

## Civil Aviation

Shrusti Singh ([shrusti@prsindia.org](mailto:shrusti@prsindia.org))

### The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 passed by the Parliament

The Parliament passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025.<sup>12</sup> The Bill aims to give legal effect to the following international agreements: (i) Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (also known as Cape Town Convention of 2001), and (ii) Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Aircraft Equipment.<sup>13,14</sup> India had acceded to these in 2008. The Convention and Protocol aim to bring uniformity in securing rights for high-value assets such as aircrafts, helicopters, and engines in case of default. Key features of the Bill include:

- **Obligations of debtors:** Debtors must submit records of dues to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). A debtor is a person who has taken an aviation asset under a lease or, conditional purchase agreement, or pledged an asset under a security agreement.
- **Remedies in case of default:** The Convention gives creditors certain remedies in case of default by a debtor. The remedies include the right to take back possession of the asset within a period of two calendar months or a mutually agreed upon period, whichever is earlier. The Bill states that before exercising any remedy, the creditor must notify DGCA about the occurrence of default.
- **Detention of assets by government agencies:** The following entities will have the right to detain an asset if dues for services related to that asset remain unpaid: (i) central government, (ii) any other entity providing public services in India, or (iii) an inter-governmental organisation of which India is a member.

For a PRS summary of the Bill, see [here](#).

## Education

### Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025 passed

Shrusti Singh ([shrusti@prsindia.org](mailto:shrusti@prsindia.org))

The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025 was passed by Parliament.<sup>15</sup> The Bill establishes the Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA) as the Tribhuvan Sahkari University. Currently, IRMA is registered as a society. The Bill places IRMA as a school within the university. It also states that its autonomous identity will be preserved within the institutional framework of the University.

For a PRS Summary of the Bill, see [here](#).

## UGC notifies regulations for changes in higher education

Vaishali Dhariwal ([vaishali@prsindia.org](mailto:vaishali@prsindia.org))

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the UGC (Minimum Standards of Instruction for the Grant of Undergraduate Degree and Postgraduate Degree) Regulations, 2025. These regulations introduce reforms in higher education programmes and are in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.<sup>16</sup> The regulations have been issued under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. Key changes include:

- **Admissions and programme duration:** Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can admit students twice a year, in July/August and January/February. Undergraduate (UG) programmes may span three or four years, while postgraduate (PG) programmes can be of different durations, including: (i) a two-year programme with an exit option at the end of first year, (ii) a one-year programme, and (iii) an integrated five-year UG/PG programme. Students will be provided with multiple entry and exit options during the academic programme. Students may also pursue two undergraduate or postgraduate degrees simultaneously.
- **Admission criteria:** Students passing out from any stream in Class 12 can apply to any UG discipline upon qualifying a national or university-level entrance exam. For being eligible to join PG programmes, students must: (i) pass a three or four year UG degree, and (ii) qualify the national or university-level exam, irrespective of discipline.
- **Degree requirements:** To earn a major in a specific discipline at the UG level, students must complete at least 50% of their total credits in that discipline. The remaining credits can be earned through skill-based courses or applied learning components. Students exiting the degree after completing a certain level and gaining required credits are eligible to receive a UG certificate/diploma.
- **Recognition of prior learning:** This process assesses and validates the students' prior skills acquired through non-formal sources. Such students will be assessed by recognised HEIs.
- **Accelerated and extended degrees:** HEIs can now offer Accelerated Degree Programmes (ADP) for quicker completion of the credits, and Extended Degree Programmes (EDP) for students needing additional time. These are applicable for undergraduate degrees.

## Agriculture

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### Cabinet approves Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane for sugar season 2025-26

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane for the sugar season 2025-26 (October-September) at Rs 355 per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%.<sup>17</sup> This is an increase of 4% over the FRP for the 2024-25 sugar season (Rs 340 per quintal). FRP is the minimum price at which sugar mills can purchase sugarcane from farmers.

## Irrigation

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### Cabinet approves sub-scheme under PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

The Union Cabinet approved the Modernisation of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) as a sub-scheme under PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).<sup>18</sup> The sub-scheme has been launched with an initial outlay of Rs 1,600 crore for 2025-26. The scheme will target modernisation of irrigation water supply and micro-irrigation networks.

## Electronics & IT

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### The Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme notified

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology notified the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme.<sup>19</sup> The scheme provides incentives for domestic manufacturing of components. The total expected outlay under the scheme is Rs 22,919 crore over a period of six years. Key features of the scheme are as follows:

- **Components to be incentivised:** Table 1 lists the components to be incentivised under the scheme. The incentive will be provided to selected projects as a percentage of incremental domestic sales, capital expenditure, or both, depending on the category. Sales-linked incentive will be available for a period of six years.

**Table 1: Target segments under the scheme**

| Segment                                                                                                                               | Incentive                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Camera and display modules, and bare components such as sensors, lithium-ion cells, microphones, speakers, and enclosures for devices | 4%-10% of the net incremental domestic sales in the first year; gradually reduces to 1%-5% in the sixth year                                                              |
| Certain circuit boards and related sub-components                                                                                     | 5%-8% of the net incremental domestic sales in the first year; gradually reduces to 3%-4% in the sixth year; also eligible for incentive worth 25% of capital expenditure |
| Parts and sub-components for manufacturing of above segments; capital equipment for manufacturing                                     | 25% of capital expenditure                                                                                                                                                |

Source: F. No. W/49/2024-IPHW, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, April 8, 2025; PRS.

- **Eligibility criteria:** Existing as well as new manufacturing units will be eligible under the scheme. Companies must meet minimum annual threshold for investment, incremental sales, and employment to receive incentives.
- **Selection process:** A project management agency will be constituted to scrutinise applications and prepare appraisal reports. An inter-ministerial governing council will be set up to review the applications and recommend their approval. The Secretary of the Ministry will chair the council. It will have representatives from NITI Aayog and specified departments such as Expenditure, Economic Affairs, Heavy Industries, and Telecom.

## External Affairs

Shirin Pajnoo ([shirin@prsindia.org](mailto:shirin@prsindia.org))

### Standing Committee report on welfare of Indian diaspora and status of Emigration Bill

The Standing Committee on External Affairs (Chair: Dr. Shashi Tharoor) presented its report on 'Indian Diaspora Overseas: All Aspects of their Conditions and Welfare, including the Status of the Emigration Bill'.<sup>20</sup> Indian diaspora refers to people whose origins can be traced to India or are Indian citizens who have settled abroad. Key observations and recommendations of the Committee include:

- **Policy for diaspora:** The Committee observed that there is no single policy document for the diaspora. It further noted that the lack of a clear policy impacts the country's ability to adequately address the diaspora's issues. The Committee recommended that the Ministry draft a policy which would serve as a guiding principle for deeper engagement with the community.

- **Remittances from NRIs:** The Committee observed that inward remittances from NRIs are the second largest source of external financing after service exports. In 2023-24 remittances from NRIs were around USD 119 billion. The Committee recommended: (i) streamlining online transfer platforms, (ii) reducing transaction fees, (iii) addressing taxation concerns, and (iv) promoting other investment options available to NRIs in India, such as mutual funds, stocks, and real estate.
- **Reintegration of deportees and returned migrants:** The Committee observed that state governments are responsible for the reintegration of returned Indian deportees. It also noted the absence of a national policy on reintegration of migrant returnees. The Committee recommended the Centre to implement reintegration programmes for returned deportees. It also recommended framing a reintegration policy for returned migrants with shared responsibilities between Centre and states.
- **Emigration Bill:** The Committee observed delays in finalising the Emigration Bill, 2024. The proposed Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive emigration management framework. The Committee recommended prioritising the Bill and setting timelines for presenting it in Parliament.

For a PRS summary of the report, see [here](#).

## Environment

Vaishali Dhariwal ([vaishali@prsindia.org](mailto:vaishali@prsindia.org))

### Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025 notified

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.<sup>21</sup> These Rules replace the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016 and aim to ensure responsible management, recycling, and reuse of construction and demolition (C&D) waste generated from building activities.

Key features include:

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Each producer will be responsible for the safe disposal and management of the construction and demolition (C&D) waste generated. This would include recycling and reuse of waste in future projects, with EPR targets enforced annually. A producer is defined as a registered waste generator undertaking large-scale building projects with a built-up area of 20,000 square meters or more.

- **EPR Certificates:** Producers can meet their EPR obligations by purchasing EPR certificates issued by registered recyclers. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will generate and regulate these certificates. C&D waste disposed of and recycled in-situ (on site) will receive higher credit weightage than waste managed ex-situ (off site).
- **Recycling Targets:** From 2026-27 onwards, at least 5% of materials used in construction and reconstruction activities must be derived from recycled C&D waste. This target will increase progressively to 25% in 2030-31. Failure to meet these targets will result in the payment of an environmental compensation. Unmet targets will roll over for up to three years but will not be waived off by payment of compensation.
- **Utilisation of Processed Waste:** All construction projects with a built-up area of 20,000 square meters or more, as well as road construction projects, are required to utilise processed/recycled C&D waste materials. The assessment of the waste to be utilised will be determined as a percentage of debris derived waste from construction activity ranging between 5% and 25% of the total construction material required.

### Ministry issued draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target (GEI) Rules, 2025, specifying greenhouse gases emission intensity targets for the obligated entities.<sup>22</sup> These rules are issued under Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023.<sup>23</sup> Rules specify the companies which will be obligated to meet these targets and include sectors such as cement, chemicals, metals, and paper.

The GEI targets will be calculated as per a prescribed method published by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. Entities shall be obligated to meet the GEI targets by the respective compliance years as stated the Schedule of the Rules. The entity will be liable to pay an Environmental Compensation if it fails to achieve its mandated GEI target. This compensation will be equal to or twice the average price of the carbon credit certificate traded in the respective compliance year. This compensation shall be paid within 90 days of its imposition. In addition, the funds collected will be used for the carbon credit trading scheme.

## Communications

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### TRAI releases recommendations on designating critical services in machine-to-machine communication

TRAI released recommendations on the issues related to critical services in the machine-to-machine communication sector (M2M), and transfer of ownership of M2M SIMs.<sup>24</sup> M2M refers to use of telecom services to enable direct communication between electronic devices, usually through SIM cards installed in the devices themselves. TRAI noted that M2M communication will increasingly be used to deliver services of critical importance such as health and transport. For such critical services, higher reliability of communication will be essential.

TRAI recommended that a service should be classified as critical if it passes following tests: (i) whether the service demands ultra-reliable and low-delay connectivity with very high availability, and (ii) whether any disruption in connectivity will have an adverse impact on national security, economy, public health, or public safety. It further recommended that instead of classifying an entire domain or sector as critical, specific applications should be classified as critical. This classification should be carried out by respective ministry or regulatory body in consultation with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Such classification should be technology-agnostic.

Other key recommendations include: (i) entities providing critical services should be allowed to enter service-level agreement with telecom service providers, and service performance parameters should be enforced through these agreements, (ii) the devices deployed in critical services should be subject to mandatory testing and certification in a phased manner, and (iii) DoT should establish a framework for transfer of M2M service authorisation, as well as M2M SIMs.

<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee April 7 to 9, 2025, Monetary Policy Statement 2025-26, Reserve Bank of India, April 9, 2025, <https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/PressRelease/PDFs/PR61C1724B25D B7646DFB49022F184DF3766.PDF>.

<sup>2</sup> “Consumer Price Index Numbers on Base 2012=100 for Rural, Urban and Combined for the Month of March, 2025”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, April 15, 2025, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2121843>.

<sup>3</sup> “Index Numbers of Wholesale Price in India for the Month of March, 2025 (Base Year: 2011-12)”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, April 15, 2025, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2121751>.

<sup>4</sup> “Department of Financial Services notifies amalgamation of 26 RRBs in fourth phase of amalgamation”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Finance, April 8, 2025, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2120016>.

<sup>5</sup> Overview, Regional Rural Banks, <https://www.nabard.org/auth/writereaddata/File/RRBs.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> “Cabinet approves Caste enumeration in the upcoming Census”, Press Release, Press Information Bureau, Cabinet, April 30, 2025, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2125526>.

<sup>7</sup> Census Division, Census India, Ministry of Home Affairs, as accessed on May 1, 2025, <https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/node/378>.

<sup>8</sup> The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, [https://prsindia.org/files/bills\\_acts/bills\\_parliament/2025/Immigration\\_and\\_Foreigners\\_Bill\\_2025.pdf](https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/2025/Immigration_and_Foreigners_Bill_2025.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> “Cabinet approves “Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) for financial years 2024-25 to 2028-29”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, April 4, 2025, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2118731>.

<sup>10</sup> Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, [https://sansad.in/getFile/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/PassedBothHouses/TH/HE%20WAOF%20\(AMENDMENT\)%20BILL,%202025411202521212PM.pdf?source=legislation](https://sansad.in/getFile/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/PassedBothHouses/TH/HE%20WAOF%20(AMENDMENT)%20BILL,%202025411202521212PM.pdf?source=legislation).

<sup>11</sup> Waqf Act, 1995, [https://prsindia.org/files/bills\\_acts/bills\\_parliament/2024/Mussalman\\_Wakf\\_\(Repeal\)\\_Bill\\_2024.pdf](https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/2024/Mussalman_Wakf_(Repeal)_Bill_2024.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, [https://prsindia.org/files/bills\\_acts/bills\\_parliament/2025/Protection\\_of\\_Interests\\_in\\_Aircraft\\_Objects\\_Bill\\_2025.pdf](https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/2025/Protection_of_Interests_in_Aircraft_Objects_Bill_2025.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, 2001, [https://www.icao.int/sustainability/Documents/CPTConvention\\_AnnexA.pdf](https://www.icao.int/sustainability/Documents/CPTConvention_AnnexA.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Aircraft Equipment, 2001, [https://www.icao.int/sustainability/Documents/CPTConvention\\_Protocol\\_AnnexB.pdf](https://www.icao.int/sustainability/Documents/CPTConvention_Protocol_AnnexB.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, [https://prsindia.org/files/bills\\_acts/bills\\_parliament/2025/Tribhuvan\\_Sahkari\\_University\\_Bill\\_2025.pdf](https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/2025/Tribhuvan_Sahkari_University_Bill_2025.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> UGC (Minimum Standards of Instruction for the Grant of Undergraduate Degree and Postgraduate Degree) Regulations, 2025, University Grants Council, April 2024

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