National Metadata Structure (NMDS) for Consumer Price Index (CPI)

1	Contact	
1.1	Contact Organisation	National Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Khurshid Lal Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi- 110001
1.2	Compiling agency	Price Statistics Division, National Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, 5th Floor, Khurshid Lal Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi- 110001
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2	**Data Description and Presentation**	
2.1	Data description	1. Consumer Price Index (Rural, Urban & Combined) from January 2025 onwards with base year 2024= 100 2. Consumer Price Index (Rural, Urban & Combined) till December 2025 with base year 2012= 100 3. Consumer Price Index (Rural, Urban & Combined) from January 2011 till December 2014 with base year 2010= 100
2.2	System of Classification	• The new CPI series with base year **2024=100** follows the **Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP 2018)**, which is the international framework developed by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

		• A total of **358 items** have been structured into **12 Divisions, 43 Groups, 92 Classes, and 162 Subclasses**. Detailed information on this classification is available on the **eSankhyiki portal** under the CPI section, as well as in the report of the Expert Group on *"Comprehensive Updation of Consumer Price Index."*
2.3	International/ National Standards Classification etc.	The new series of CPI with base year 2024 series adopts the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) 2018, replacing the earlier structure. This is the latest classification system developed by United Nations Statistics Division. Under the revised framework, items are classified into 12 divisions, 43 groups, 92 classes and 162 subclasses
2.4	Sector coverage	**Population Coverage:** The index is compiled for all 36 States and Union Territories of India and covers the entire population of the country. **Item Coverage:** Total number of weighted items in this basket is 358. Among these items, goods have been increased from 259 to 308 and services from 40 to 50 items. The sample markets in both rural and urban areas are increased considerably in CPI 2024 series. The price data will be collected from 1465 rural markets and 1395 urban markets across 434 towns. Further, 12 online markets are also added across 12 towns having more than 25 lakh population to capture price variations of the items on the e-commerce/online platforms.
2.5	Concepts and definitions	The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of movement of prices in the items consumed by the Households. The retail inflation based on CPI which provides year on year changes in CPI is a key macro-economic indicator for measuring the health of any economy. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) series with base year 2024=100 has been introduced to ensure that the index remains representative of current household consumption patterns, price structures, and the evolving nature of the Indian economy. Food Inflation is calculated from the index of Food Group. Housing index is compiled using a weighted average of three constituent groups, namely "**actual rental payments for housing", "maintenance, repair and**

		security of the dwelling", and "water supply and other miscellaneous services" relating to the dwelling. Housing inflation is thereafter computed on a year-on-year basis based on the resulting composite Housing index.
2.6	Unit of compilation	The prices of the items in the CPI basket are collected every month as per a weekly schedule from 1465 rural markets and 1395 urban markets across 434 towns. Further, prices are also collected from 12 online markets across 12 towns having more than 25 lakh population to capture price variations of the items on the e-commerce/online platforms.
2.7	Population coverage	The index is compiled for all 36 States and Union Territories of India and covers the entire population of the country The prices of the items in the CPI basket are collected every month as per a weekly schedule from 1465 rural markets and 1395 urban markets across 434 towns. Further, prices are also collected from 12 online markets across 12 towns having more than 25 lakh population to capture price variations of the items on the e-commerce/online platforms.
2.8	Reference Period	Expenditure weights are derived from HCES 2023–24, while base-period prices were collected during January 2024 to December 2024. • Timing of price observation: The prices of the items in the CPI basket are collected every month as per a weekly schedule from 1465 rural markets and 1395 urban markets across 434 towns. The retail prices for different commodity groups are collected on fixed days of the week as far as possible, such that comparisons between two markets from the same outlet are not affected by differences in the timings of data collection. • Keeping in view the volatility of prices on e-commerce platforms, prices are collected on all four weeks on identified days and time slot. • House Rent data is collected from 3201 rural dwellings and 15884 urban. Only private rented dwellings are covered.

2.9	Duration and period of enumeration	Monthly
2.10	Sample size/Dataset Size	The prices of the items in the CPI basket are collected every month as per a weekly schedule from selected 1395 urban markets in 434 towns and 1465 villages covering all districts of the country. Further, prices are also collected from 12 online markets across 12 towns having more than 25 lakh population to capture price variations of the items on the e-commerce/online platforms.
2.11	Data Confidentiality	The unit level price data of the basket of commodities are not placed in public domain. However CPI is published for item/sub-class/class/group/division level for All India and all the States/ UTs and is available on the eSankhyiki portal of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation- https://esankhyiki.mospi.gov.in/. Data is made available to all at 4 PM on 12th of every month (or on the next working day, in case of 12th being a holiday).
3	**Institutional Mandate**	
3.1	Legal acts and other agreements	In accordance with the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, as amended from time to time. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to compile and release the data on the broad-based CPI (Rural, Urban, Combined).
3.2	Data sharing/Data Dissemination	The unit level price data of the basket of commodities are not shared with any stakeholder. Data is disseminated in public domain at 4 PM on 12th of every month (or the next working day, in case of 12th being a holiday).
3.3	Release calendar	An advance release calendar which gives one quarter ahead notice of the precise release date is disseminated on the internet on the IMF's Data Dissemination Bulletin Board (DSBB). Provisional monthly CPI (Rural, Urban, Combined) numbers are released on 12th day of the following month (next working day if it is a holiday).

		Final indices for the penultimate month are also released along with the provisional indices of the previous month.
3.4	Frequency of dissemination	Monthly
3.5	Data access	The broad-based CPI (Rural, Urban, Combined) data are released simultaneously to all interested parties by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation by issuing the Press Note on Consumer Price Index. The data are then subsequently posted on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation following website:https://mospi.gov.in/web/mospi/pressrelease. Following files are uploaded every month on the official website of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation: - 1. Press Release on New CPI for the current month (pdf form) 2. Annexure of the press release for the current month (excel format). 3. Item level and higher level indices and inflation rates for All India and State/ UT level are also being uploaded on the eSankhyiki portal of MoSPI. 4. CPI data on back series from January 2013 to December 2024 with base year 2024=100 is also available on eSankhyiki portal. 5. CPI Data till December 2025 pertaining to the old series with base year 2012 is available in the warehouse of CPI which may be accessed from- www.cpi.mospi.gov.in
4	**Quality Management**	
4.1	Documentation on methodology	Documentation on the methodology and the data sources used in the compilation of the Consumer Price Indices for Rural, Urban & Combined sector (Base 2024=100) is available in the publication "Expert Group Report on Comprehensive Updation of CPI " Available in the

		website of MoSPI. - https://www.mospi.gov.in/uploads/Marquee/doc-0aee0026-bf32-4213-ae4f-c5308088444e.pdf
4.2	Quality documentation	CPI data is validated as per the guidance given in the CPI Manual 2020. This manual is compiled by IMF in collaboration with other multi lateral agencies.
4.3	Quality assurance	Officers and staff are carefully instructed to comply strictly with all rules regarding integrity and confidentiality to prevent any influence from other parties. Consistency in concepts as well as in published data are also given high priority. Staff are, therefore, trained and instructed to follow rules and procedures in the compilation of the index to ensure the quality. Measures are in place to monitor the quality of the various statistical stages. Through the regional offices and the price supervisors, efforts are continuously made to ensure that the guidelines for price collections are followed. The processing of data is carefully done each month according to a fixed schedule with checking and validation of data, both manually and automatically. Elementary and higher level indices are thoroughly checked across all levels. Before publishing, the final index figures are thoroughly checked to avoid mistakes/errors/discrepancies.
5	**Accuracy and Reliability**	
5.1	Sampling error	In the new CPI series, the sample markets in both rural and urban areas have been increased considerably. The price data is collected from 1465 rural markets and 1395 urban markets across 434 towns. The increase in the sample frame is expected to reduce sampling variability and improve the precision of CPI estimates by lowering sampling error.
5.2	Measures of reliability	The reliability of the new CPI series (Base: 2024=100) has been strengthened through methodological and coverage enhancements undertaken during the base revision exercise. • Rural house rent has been included for the first time, ensuring better representation of housing consumption in rural areas.

		• The basket has been revised to reflect emerging consumption patterns, including modern items such as "online media and streaming services (OTT subscriptions)", "Geysers and Sterilizers", "Air Purifier" etc. • Greater use of digital and administrative data sources has improved accuracy and consistency in price collection for items such as telephone charges, rail fares, air fares, fuel, postal charges, and online services. • The weighting structure is based on the latest **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), 2023–24**, ensuring that expenditure weights accurately reflect current household consumption patterns in both rural and urban areas • Compilation Methodology has been revised for calculation of elementary level index and for house rent index as well. • Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) has been introduced for price data collection.
6	**Timeliness**	
6.1	Timeliness	CPI for the reference month is released with a lag of 12 days for the current month. The lag happens as the price collection of the commodities is done over the entire month in identified urban and rural markets and is supplied to this division for further scrutiny and compilation of indices.
7	**Coherence and Comparability**	
7.1	Comparability – over time	The back series indices arrived after applying linking factor to base 2012=100 series on the basis of base 2024=100 is available on the eSankhyiki portal of MoSPI.
7.2	Coherence	CPI designed by adopting standard international practices and is coherent.
8	**Data Processing**	

8.1	Source data type	The Consumer Price Index (Rural, Urban, Combined), 2024=100, is a Young/Modified Laspeyres' index covering the entire population, Rural and Urban throughout the country. The index covers an average of approximately 358 items, although the number of items of goods and services varies from market to market in case of CPI (Urban) and village to village in case of CPI(Rural). The prices are collected every month as per a weekly schedule from 1395 markets in 434 towns and 1465 villages across the country. The latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24 has been used for determining the item basket and their corresponding weights in CPI 2024 series.
8.2	Frequency of data collection	The prices are collected every month as per a weekly schedule.
8.3	Mode and method of data collection method	The prices are collected every month as per a weekly schedule from 1395 markets in 434 towns and 1465 villages across the country by personal interview. The retail prices for different commodity groups are collected on fixed days of the week as far as possible, such that comparisons between two markets from the same outlet are not affected by differences in the timings of data collection. • Digital and administrative data sources has used in price collection for items such as telephone charges, rail fares, air fares, fuel, postal charges, and online services
8.4	Data validation	Price data is collected on Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing based tablets, which has in-built validation checks. Further, data received through CAPI is again routinely assessed for errors by the concerned field Offices, FOD Headquarters and Price Statistics Division every month before compilation. Data are carefully examined and checked for outliers by comparing data both over time and across product groups at the same point in time. The NSO's instructions to field staff describe in detail definitions, classifications, and rules to prevent as far as possible mistakes and errors. Unusual movements in prices for particular States, items or price collectors are investigated. In cases where individual observations need to be checked, the PSD contacts the regional/field offices officers or supervisor and asks for verification. Statistical

		discrepancies between the indices of different States or for different product groups are investigated and measures are taken to remove or explain them.
8.5	Data compilation	In CPI compilation, the index is constructed in two main stages. First, elementary indices are computed at the lowest level using individual price observations. Second, these elementary indices are aggregated to higher levels using appropriate weights. In the new series of CPI, short index method, which is a modified version of Jevon's formula has been adopted for compilation of elementary indices. **Higher level Indices**- In line with established practices, the Young index was retained for higher-level aggregation in CPI 2024 as well. This approach is applied consistently in CPI calculations for aggregating item-level indices to higher levels such as subclass, class, groups, divisions and the overall index for state and All India as well as for combining rural and urban to generate combined index. **Housing:** Category-wise indices are compiled using a chain-base (short-term Jevons) index. For owner-occupied dwellings, the rental equivalence approach has been applied by using rent indices of corresponding dwelling categories, as no rents are directly collected from owner-occupied households. Category-wise indices are aggregated using weighted arithmetic means, with weights based on category shares for rented dwelling and owner-occupied dwellings. The overall State-level House Rent Indices are obtained by aggregating rented and owner-occupied indices using expenditure shares derived from HCES 2023–24.
8.6	Data identifier(s)	State code, town code, district code, village code, Sector code and item code are identifiers.
9	**Metadata Update**	
9.1	Metadata last posted	February 13, 2026

9.2	Metadata last update	February 13, 2026