



Ministry of Home Affairs

Shri Rajnath Singh to chair the 11th Standing Committee meeting of Inter-State Council tomorrow

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The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh will chair the 11th Standing Committee meeting of the Inter-State Council here tomorrow. The meeting will discuss the recommendations of the Punchhi Commission on Centre-State Relations.

The members of the Standing Committee include the Union Minister for External Affairs, Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation & Information and Broadcasting, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping and the Chief Ministers of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

The Punchhi Commission, notified in 2005, submitted its report in 2010. The recommendations of the Punchhi Commission, which are contained in seven Volumes, pertain to History of Centre-State Relations in India, Constitutional Governance and Management of Centre-State Relations, Centre-State Financial Relations and Planning, Local Self-Governments and Decentralized Governance, Internal Security, Criminal Justice and Centre State Cooperation, Environment, Natural Resources & Infrastructure and Socio-Economic Development, Public Policy and Good Governance.

The concerned Union Ministries and all the State Governments responded to the recommendations made in the report by providing detailed comments. The comments have been analysed and will be discussed at this high level forum.

The forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee of Inter State Council will be examining the first three volumes of the Punchhi Commission's report. The subjects expected to be discussed at the meeting include significant issues concerning Centre-State relations, such as:

- a) Role of Governors
- b) Centrally sponsored schemes and financial transfers from the Centre to the States
- c) Creation of a unified agricultural market for the nation
- d) Measures to involve the States more closely in planning and delivery of services
- e) Steps to be adopted to make Inter State Council more vibrant and
- f) Measures directed towards better fiscal management by the Centre and the States.

The meeting acquires special significance in that the Standing Committee of the Inter State Council is being convened after a gap of 12 years. The recommendations of the Standing Committee will be placed before the Inter State Council at its next meeting.

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