

Draft National Electricity Data Sharing Framework, 2026

Anoop Singh, Professor
Founder & Coordinator, Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) & Energy Analytics Lab (EAL)
Department of Management Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur – 208016 (India)
E-mail: anoops@iitk.ac.in

The Ministry of Power notified Draft National Framework Data Sharing Framework, 2026 on dated 22.06.2026. The key objective of the draft framework is as follows:

Objective: The proposed Framework aims to enable secure, structured and non-discriminatory sharing of and access to electricity sector data for planning, operation, regulation and research. It aims to establish a standardised approach for the classification of datasets. The Framework also seeks to facilitate data sharing with third-party service providers through a consent-based mechanism aligned with the **India Energy Stack** or a similar framework.

The Framework will cover electricity sector data created and maintained by:

- generating companies, including captive generating plants (CGPs),
- transmission and distribution licensees,
- Load Despatch Centres (LDCs),
- Electricity Regulatory Commissions (CERC/SERCs),
- Central and State agencies such as CEA, CTU, STU and Grid-India,
- Energy market participants including PXs, OTC platforms, QCAs, aggregators, REMCs and trading licensees.

It will cover operational, planning, financial, technical, reliability, asset and market-related data. The sharing of such datasets will be subject to the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act** and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

The document can be accessed [here](#).

CER Opinion

- 1) Importance of the Data Sharing Framework:** The Draft National Electricity Data Sharing Framework, 2026 establishes a common framework for collecting, managing, standardizing, and sharing electricity sector data through a secure, transparent, and interoperable national data ecosystem. The framework is an important step toward improving data availability and consistency to support planning, system operations, regulation, policy-making, innovation, and research across the Indian power sector.

To further strengthen the framework, data should be classified into three categories:

- **Mandatory Data**, which should remain continuously accessible to all authorized users;
- **Periodic Data**, which should be published at predefined intervals such as daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually; and
- **NDA-Based Data**, which should be shared only upon request under a standardized Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA).

2) A Uniform Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA): A single, standardized Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) should be adopted across the country to ensure that data-sharing practices remain consistent, transparent, and efficient among all stakeholders. If individual states develop their own data portals, the NDA format should still remain uniform nationwide.

A common NDA will eliminate the need for multiple state-specific agreements, reduce documentation and administrative effort, minimize delays in data access, and provide a predictable and streamlined process for researchers, utilities, regulators, and other authorized users seeking access to restricted datasets.

3) Grievance Redressal Mechanism: In Clause 5.3, the framework table should clearly define the meaning of a “*written speaking order*”.

<i>Level</i>	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Scope & Responsibilities</i>	<i>Timelines</i>	<i>Escalation / Outcome</i>
<i>Level 1</i>	<i>Data Governance Officer (DGO)</i>	<i>a) Initial review of grievance</i> <i>b) Examine decision and ensure compliance</i> <i>c) Issue reasoned response</i>	<i>Decide within 14 working days</i>	<i>Escalation to Level 2 within 14 working days if dissatisfied</i>
<i>Level 2</i>	<i>One level above DGO</i>	<i>a) Appellate review of Level 1 decision</i> <i>b) Ensure fairness and accountability</i> <i>c) Issue final determination</i>	<i>Decision within 14 working days of escalation</i>	<i>Final decision issued as a written speaking order</i>

It should specify the minimum contents of a **written speaking order**, including the reasons for the decision, the relevant provisions considered, the basis for accepting or rejecting the grievance, whether the decision is final or subject to further appeal, and the timeline for sharing the requested data.

Further, the Grievance Redressal Mechanism currently prescribes timelines only for deciding data-sharing requests and appeals, but does not specify the time within which the approved data must actually be shared. The framework should clearly define this timeline to ensure timely access, accountability, and transparency.

- 4) Consultation Through Committees:** In Clause 5.1 States that *“The Data issuer may appoint a Data Governance Officer (DGO) having a rank not below 2 levels of head of the institution/organization. The DGO shall: a) Supervise the implementation of the Framework at the organization level and classification of datasets as indicated in the matrix b) Monitor and process incoming data requests within prescribed timelines c) Execute user agreements or non-disclosure agreements, as required, on behalf of the Data Issuer d) Act as point of contact for grievance handling”*

The power sector already produces a large volume of reports and data through utilities, regulators, tariff orders, scheduling systems, and planning documents. However, much of this information is available in different formats and requires significant effort to compile and standardize before it can be used for research and analysis. Therefore, the framework should provide for sector-specific expert committees or domain experts to support the DGO in identifying, validating, standardizing, and periodically updating datasets.

This would ensure that year-on-year changes are captured, the portal contains analysis-ready datasets, and users spend less time cleaning and processing data. The framework should serve as a platform for continuous consultation among these committees and stakeholders on technical, operational, regulatory, cybersecurity, and data-governance matters.

- 5) Role and Responsibilities of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA):** In this regard, Section 73 of the Electricity Act, 2003, which specifies the functions and duties of the Authority. In particular, **Section 73(h)** states that *“the Central Government on any matter on which its advice is sought or make recommendation to that Government on any matter if, in the opinion of the Authority, the recommendation would help in improving the generation, transmission, trading, distribution and utilization of electricity,”*

Section 73(i) states that “collect and record the data concerning the generation, transmission, trading, distribution and utilization of electricity and carry out studies relating to cost, efficiency, competitiveness and such like matters.”

Section 73(j) states that “the Authority shall make public from time to time the information secured under this Act, and provide for the publication of reports and investigations;”

Section 73(k) states that “promote research in matters affecting the generation, transmission, distribution and trading of electricity”.

The framework should therefore clearly define the role, responsibilities, and authority of the CEA in data collection, validation, standardization, publication, governance, monitoring, stakeholder coordination, and implementation of the framework. However, the draft does not clearly identify the CEA as the nodal agency or data custodian for the proposed National Electricity Data Centre (NEDC) and the National Electricity Data Portal (NEDP).

Since these functions are already aligned with the statutory responsibilities of the CEA under the Electricity Act, the framework should clarify the institutional ownership, accountability, and governance structure, rather than creating ambiguity through the introduction of new entities without clearly defining their relationship with the CEA.

- 6) Full Data Inventory:** The framework should provide a comprehensive inventory of all available data, including data already in the public domain, data that exists within organizations but is not yet publicly released, and data that may be shared for research, planning, policy analysis, and other legitimate purposes. It should also clarify that data providers may continue publishing their existing datasets while progressively expanding the scope of data made available under the framework.
- 7) Parameters for Data Release:** In reference to Annexure D – Recommended Tier 1 Public Datasets, the framework presents a list of 66 recommended Tier 1 public datasets covering the entire electricity value chain. These datasets span generation, transmission, distribution, grid operations, renewable energy, tariffs, government schemes, and planning documents, along with their prescribed granularity and reporting frequency to promote standardized, transparent, and timely data sharing across the power sector.

However, the framework does not adequately address “Scheduled data” and omits several important data publication parameters. It should clearly specify, for each dataset, the data retention



period, reporting frequency, periodicity, update cycle, publication schedule, and data latency. Defining these parameters will improve consistency, data quality, and the usability of datasets for planning, operations, regulation, and research.