

# NEW INDIA SAMACHAR



जनगणना से जन कल्याण

## Census Fostering Progress of the Nation

The Census has a special national significance; its data will lay the foundation for shaping our policies and programs for years to come. Therefore, providing reliable information is the duty of every citizen



For e-copy

# The invaluable contribution of the civil nuclear programme in Nation-Building



Through the 133rd episode of the popular radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again shared his thoughts with people in India and across the world. In this broadcast, which aired on April 26, he emphasised science, technology, and the nation's achievements while also lauding the role of scientists in the nation's progress. He highlighted the country's growing strength in sectors such as wind and solar energy. Additionally, he spoke on several important topics, including the census campaign. Presented here are edited excerpts from 'Mann Ki Baat'...

● **Nuclear Programme:** India has always viewed science as linking it to the country's progress. With this very vision, our scientists are advancing the civil nuclear program. Their efforts are making a significant contribution to nation-building by providing sustainable energy solutions and enhancing national security through advancements in nuclear technology.

● **Attaining Criticality:** Our nuclear scientists enhanced India's pride with another major achievement. The Fast Breeder Reactor in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, has achieved criticality. Actually, criticality is the stage during which a reactor successfully attains a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction for the first time.

● **Wind Energy:** Wind power is scripting a new narrative of India's development. India has recently achieved a major milestone in the field of wind energy; the country's wind energy generation capacity has now surpassed 56 gigawatts.

● **Pride in the Team:** At the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad held in Bordeaux, France, our daughters delivered their best-ever performance. I am immensely proud of this talented team. Our team secured the sixth position globally.

● **The Teachings of the Buddha:** The life message of Lord Gautam Buddha remains as relevant today as ever. He has taught us that peace begins within us; he has conveyed to us that victory over oneself is the greatest victory. Amid the tensions and conflicts the world is going through today, Buddha's teachings have become even more important.

● **Pride in Traditions:** For the first time, the music of

Beating Retreat is also available on WAVES OTT. In the future, it will be available on other platforms as well – you must listen to it. You will be very proud of our Armed Forces and their traditions.

● **Enhanced Conservation:** Blackbucks have started reappearing in Chhattisgarh. Their numbers had dwindled significantly, but continued efforts led to increased conservation. Today, they are once again seen roaming the open fields. Similar hope is visible in the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard, the Godavan.

● **The Northeast's Success in the Bamboo Sector:** What was once viewed as a burden was, through a legislative amendment in 2017, reclassified to remove bamboo from the category of 'trees'. Since then, the bamboo sector has witnessed renewed momentum in terms of employment, commerce, and innovation. Our mothers and sisters have emerged as the primary beneficiaries.

● **Special Portal:** The National Archives has shared a unique database on a dedicated portal. This institution has digitised and made public over 200 million invaluable documents. I urge you all to visit [www.abhilekh-patal.in](http://www.abhilekh-patal.in).

● **Census 2027:** The national census isn't just a government task. It's the responsibility of all of us. Your participation is crucial. Come, let's all participate in this process. Let's make Census 2027 a success.

● **From Local to Global:** Indian products are now transcending national borders to reach markets and restaurants across the globe. As we speak today of the journey "from Local to Global" the example of Indian cheese serves as a guiding light, pointing the way forward.

Scan the QR code to listen to the 'Mann Ki Baat'



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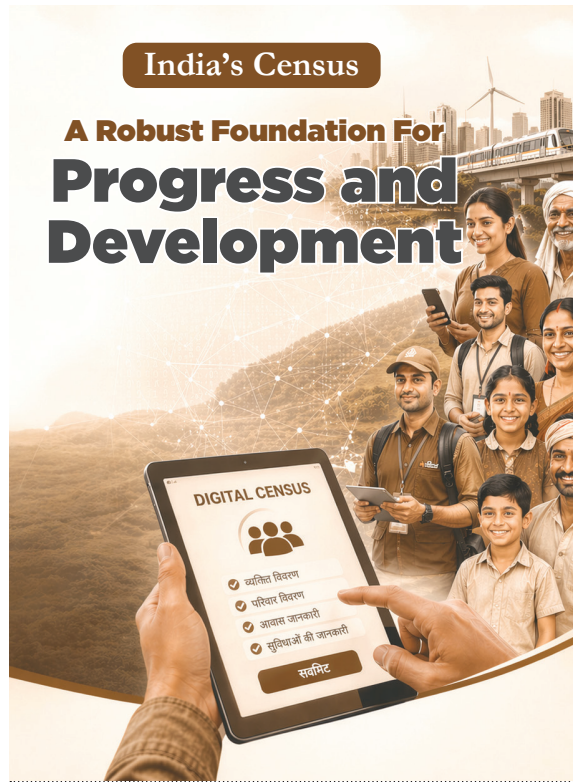
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## On the inside pages...



### India's Census

## A Robust Foundation For Progress and Development



In India, the Census is not merely a headcount of the population; rather, it serves as the backbone of India's entire policy-making framework. Although the decennial Census—typically conducted at the beginning of every decade—was delayed this time due to COVID-19 and commenced in April 2026, it is now poised to lay the foundation for a 'Developed India', standing as a symbol of modern technology and the digital revolution. **|8-26**

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# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

## Census 2027

### India's Journey Towards Development...

#### **Greetings!**

India has commenced Census 2027—the world's largest headcount of its population. This marks the beginning of the country's most extensive administrative and statistical exercise. It is India's first census to feature self-enumeration, along with a fully digital data capture mechanism. Every welfare scheme, every electoral constituency, and every development plan is made based on census data. The census has been conducted in India for over 150 years. The first complete census in modern times was carried out in 1881 under British rule; since then, it has been conducted every ten years. The previous census took place in 2011, and the next was scheduled for 2021. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the census had to be postponed. Consequently, the 2027 census assumes particular significance, as it will present a fresh demographic snapshot following a prolonged hiatus. This census is also noteworthy because, for the first time since independence, a caste census has been incorporated into the overall process. This constitutes a decisive step towards fostering social harmony and justice.

In simple terms, a census involves the enumeration of every individual within a country and the compilation of associated socio-economic data. This decennial process makes it easy to ascertain the total population residing in the country, their age demographics, educational attainment, employment status, and the extent to which they possess—or lack—various amenities. The data derived from the census serves as the bedrock for government policymaking. Planning across all sectors—such as

roads, education, healthcare, water supply, housing, and employment—is formulated precisely based on these statistics. In essence, these figures play a pivotal role in both the formulation and implementation of policies and schemes. The success of a census is dependent not solely on government efforts; public participation is equally vital. It is the duty of every citizen to provide accurate and complete information. This is not merely a bureaucratic formality but a tangible contribution toward nation-building. Census 2027—which highlights the process, objectives, significance, utility, and contribution of the census toward India's journey as a developed nation has become the cover story of our current issue.

Furthermore, the Personality section features Kumudini Lakhia, an eminent exponent of Indian classical dance. This issue also features fortnight's events of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including the flagship grain storage scheme.

Additionally, the magazine's inside page features special content on Mann Ki Baat, while the back cover includes excerpts from a letter and a message shared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the commencement of the Char Dham Yatra in the 'Devbhoomi' - Uttarakhand.

***Keep sending us your suggestions.***



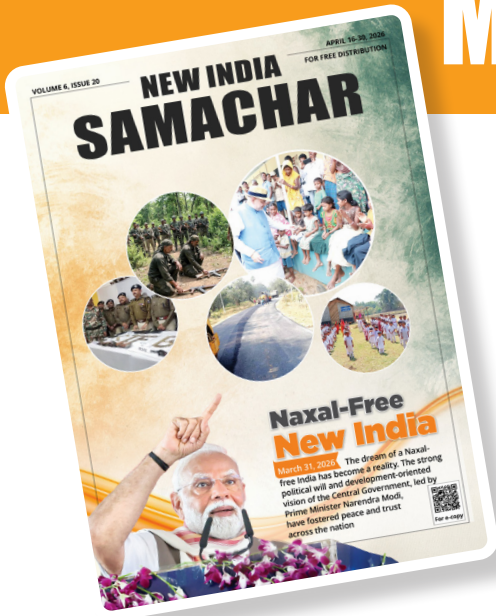
(Dhirendra Ojha)



Read/Download the magazine available in Hindi, English and 11 other languages.

<https://newindiasamachar.pib.gov.in/>

# MAIL BOX



## A Treasure of Fortnightly Updates

I am a regular reader of the New India Samachar magazine. Through its editorial, I gain an overview of the entire magazine. Based on this information, the magazine proves to be highly beneficial for its readers. This magazine is a treasure of fortnightly updates; therefore, I take pride in the fact that it is playing a pivotal role in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of a 'Developed India'.

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## Packed with vast information

The latest issue of New India Samachar magazine is packed with a vast information in a concise format. I have been reading this magazine for a very long time, and the information provided within it is consistently excellent and magnificent. The entire team must be commended for ensuring readers' satisfaction, featuring special coverage on the wealth of the nation's coastline and its transportation capabilities. It sets a high standard in terms of both information gathering and presentation. Its latest publication truly serves as a reference guide regarding India's maritime significance and dominance within the shipping industry. The highlight of the magazine was the article on Babu Jagjivan Ram, written with the utmost respect and reverence for the late, great leader.

**Manmohan Bahed Dadhich**  
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## Excellent Content with deep impact

The April 5th 'National Maritime Special' issue of New India Samachar was excellent in terms of both its content and its impact. As an Economics teacher, I derived immense benefit from this special volume. I will certainly recommend this publication to my students and to anyone interested in gaining a comprehensive understanding of India.

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## The Magazine Covers Many Interesting Subjects Related to India

I am a regular reader of the New India Samachar e-magazine. It is a highly engaging publication that covers a wide array of interesting subjects related to India.

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## An Excellent Source for Learning About Progress and Welfare Schemes

'New India Samachar'—a magazine published by the Government of India—serves as an excellent medium for staying informed about the country's progress and various welfare schemes. I am a regular reader of this magazine.

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## Nearly Twofold Increase in Women's Employment Rate

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, fresh and appropriate opportunities are opening up for women across the country, leading to unprecedented improvements in indicators of women's employment. The women's labour force participation rate has risen significantly over the past seven years, increasing from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 40% in 2025. During this same period, the women's Worker-Population Ratio also rose from 22% to approximately 39%. Furthermore, the women's unemployment rate has declined from 5.6% to 3.1%. This indicates that women seeking employment are now securing jobs with greater success. Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, stated that India's social security coverage has expanded nearly threefold over the past decade, rising from 19% in 2015 to over 64.3% in 2025. He noted that this achievement is the result of sustained policy interventions in areas such as labor law reforms, digital inclusion, and targeted welfare delivery.



## Seafood Exports at an All-Time High... Surpassing ₹72,000 Crore

The fisheries sector plays a pivotal role in realizing the vision of a 'Developed India by 2047'. This is precisely why the Central Government is continuously working to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture, modernize value chains, and expand seafood exports. As a result of these efforts, India's seafood exports have reached an all-time high of ₹72,000 crore. In terms of volume, exports have reached 19.32 lakh metric tonnes. Frozen shrimp alone contributed ₹47,973 crore to India's record-breaking seafood export figures.



## Nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2026

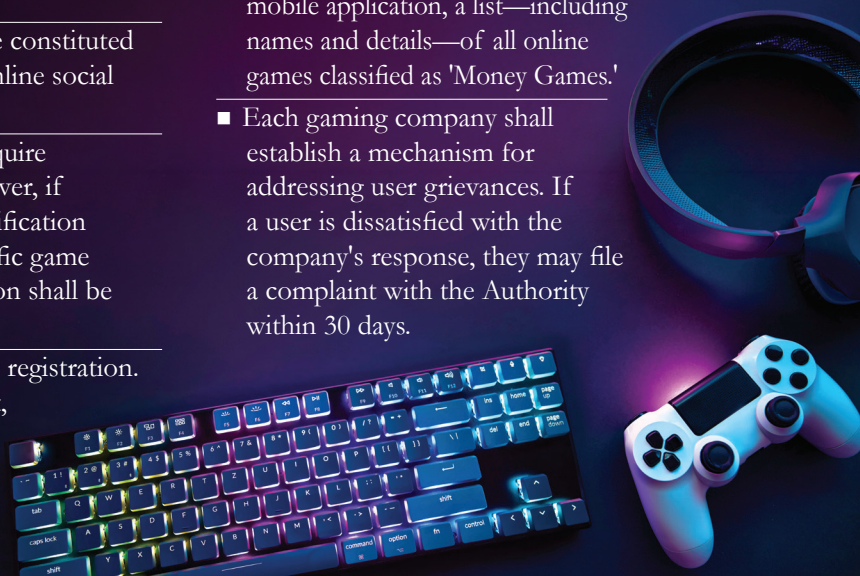
The eligible candidates for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2026 are encouraged to submit a nomination. The deadline for nominations is July 31, 2026. This is a prestigious national-level award presented annually to recognize the extraordinary achievements of children across the country. The award is conferred upon children who have earned national-level recognition in the fields of bravery, sports, social service, science and technology, environment, and arts and culture. Any Indian citizen residing in India, aged between 5 and 18 years as of July 31, 2026, is eligible for these awards. Nominations will be accepted exclusively through the National Awards Portal: <https://awards.gov.in>. Both self-nominations and recommendations submitted for the awards will be considered.



## Online Gaming Platforms to Store User Data in India

In August 2025, Parliament passed the Online Gaming Promotion and Regulation Act, 2025, with the objective of protecting citizens from the growing threat of online money games and establishing a conducive framework for e-sports and online social games. In furtherance of this initiative, the Central Government has now notified the Gaming Promotion and Regulation Rules, 2026, which came into effect on May 1, 2026.

- A clear, transparent, and time-bound mechanism will be established to definitively determine whether a specific online game constitutes an 'Online Money Game' (which is prohibited), an 'Online Social Game,' or an 'E-sport.'
- An 'Online Gaming Authority' will be constituted to serve as the digital regulator for online social games and e-sports.
- Generally, an online game will not require registration with the Authority; however, if the Central Government issues a notification mandating the registration of a specific game or category of games, such registration shall be mandatory.
- E-sports shall be required to undergo registration. The Authority will register an e-sport, provided that the game is recognized under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.
- Rule 17 stipulates that user data must be stored within India and securely retained for a prescribed period.
- The Authority shall make public, on its website or mobile application, a list—including names and details—of all online games classified as 'Money Games.'
- Each gaming company shall establish a mechanism for addressing user grievances. If a user is dissatisfied with the company's response, they may file a complaint with the Authority within 30 days.



### 3.39 Lakh Jobs Created Through PLI Scheme for Food Processing

The government is allocating ₹10,900 crore towards the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) for the period spanning from the financial year 2021-22 to the current financial year, 2026-27. The objective of this scheme is to foster the emergence of leading Indian food manufacturing companies on a global scale by incentivizing increased sales and brand promotion. Under this scheme, as of February 2026, 165 applications—pertaining to 274 project sites—have been approved, resulting in the disbursement of incentives totaling ₹2,162.55 crore. These projects have generated 3.39 lakh jobs. Furthermore, food processing and preservation capacity have witnessed an annual increase of 3.4 million metric tonnes.



### Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary Becomes India's 99th Ramsar Site

On April 22, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav declared the Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, located in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, as India's 99th Ramsar site. With this designation, the number of such sites in Uttar Pradesh has risen to 12. The Union Minister stated that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's campaign to revitalize its ecosystem—specifically its commitment to conserving wetlands and the natural habitats of animals, particularly birds—has yet again received a thumbs up from the global community. Shekha Jheel serves as a crucial stopover point along the Central Asian Flyway, providing a vital habitat during the winter season for migratory birds such as geese, painted storks, and various species of ducks.





# Ensuring Food Security

*Launched to meet the growing food grain requirements of the nation and the world, the world's largest cooperative grain storage scheme has not only benefited farmers but has also strengthened the country's economy. Since receiving Cabinet approval on May 31, 2023, and being inaugurated by the Prime Minister on February 24, 2024, a significant increase in farmers' incomes has become possible.*

Through the world's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector, efforts are being made to fulfil essential agricultural requirements at the PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) level. This is not only ensuring the country's food security but is also leading to a reduction in food grain wastage. Furthermore, farmers are receiving better prices for their produce. Launched as a pilot project, this scheme is being coordinated by an inter-ministerial committee, a national-level coordination committee, a state-level cooperative development committee, and a district-level cooperative development committee. To address the shortage of food grain storage capacity within the country and to build agricultural infrastructure, the central government had approved the 'World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme in the Cooperative Sector'. Under this scheme, various agricultural infrastructure facilities, including warehouses, custom hiring centres, processing units, and Fair Price Shops, are being constructed at the level of PACS and other cooperative societies,

*The plan also utilises NABARD's special refinance scheme to significantly reduce the financial burden on participating cooperatives. When combined with the 3% interest subvention available under the AIF, the effective loan interest rate for PACS is reduced to 1% under the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan.*

utilising funds from the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), the Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM), and the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.

Under the AIF Scheme, the benefit of interest subvention is given to the PACS against the loan taken for the

## AMI Scheme for grain storage Amended

The margin money requirement has been reduced from 20% to 10%.

### Plain Areas

# 7,000

rupees per metric tonne : the construction cost has been revised from 3,000–3,500 rupees per metric tonne.

### NE Region

# 8,000

rupees per metric tonne: the construction cost has been increased from 4,000 rupees per metric tonne.

- The subsidy for PACS has been increased from 25% to 33.33% (specifically, from ₹ 875 per metric tonne to ₹ 2,333 per metric tonne for plain areas, and from ₹ 1,333.33 per metric tonne to ₹ 2,666 per metric tonne for North-Eastern states).
- A provision has been made to provide an additional subsidy, equivalent to one-third of the total admissible subsidy, to PACS for infrastructure components such as internal roads, weighbridges, boundary walls, etc.



## Facilities being established under the scheme...

- Warehouses at the village level within PACS/cooperative societies
- Machinery Rental Centres
- Processing Units
- Fair Price Shops (Ration Shops)

construction of godowns, and under the AMI Scheme, 33% subsidy is given for the construction of foodgrain storage. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has extended the credit guarantee period for PACS under the AIF scheme from 2+5 years to 2+8 years.

Emphasising the importance of food grain storage infrastructure, Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah stated that the country's food grain storage capacity needs to be increased nearly threefold in the coming days, of which two fold expansion should be

## Progress of Grain Storage Scheme

**560** Cooperative societies have been identified under the Grain Storage Scheme.

**120** Warehouses have been constructed within cooperative societies.

**426** DPRs have been submitted for the construction of warehouses.

**72,702** Metric tonnes of storage capacity have been created as a result.

(Note: Figures are as of January 20, 2026.)

### Process for Establishing Grain Storage Centres

- The State Cooperative Department identifies PACS/cooperative societies.
- A DPR (Project Report) is prepared based on the specific location.
- Construction work commences in accordance with prescribed design and quality standards.
- The warehouse is completed in approximately 6 months.

# 9

Years

A rental guarantee for this duration is provided by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Low Interest  
(Approximately 1%)  
Loans are available at low interest rates, along with a subsidy of up to 33%.



undertaken by the cooperative sector. He said that this is everyone's responsibility and should not be left solely to PACS; tehsil-level cooperative dairies, state-level marketing federations, district cooperative banks through financing, and district sales-purchase unions should construct large warehouses. He added that 70 percent of food grains are procured from North India, Punjab and Haryana, and if procurement, storage and distribution are aligned regionally, transportation costs can be reduced by at least 30–40 percent. ●



## India's Census

# A Robust Foundation For Progress and Development



*In India, the census is not merely a headcount of the population; rather, it serves as the backbone of the country's entire policy-making framework. Although the decennial census—typically conducted at the beginning of every decade—was delayed this time due to COVID-19 and commenced in April 2026, it is now poised to lay the foundation for a 'Developed India'. Leveraging modern technology and the digital revolution, this exercise—which includes both self-enumeration and a caste census—will chart the course for the nation's future. Preserving a legacy spanning 150 years, Census 2027 will, during this 'Amrit Kaal', define the contours of the nation's destiny—recording the details, participation, and progress of every single citizen. It is not merely a count; it is set to script a new, transformative saga of development for an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.*

India's Census 2027 is far more than just a statistical exercise; it is a comprehensive national undertaking that determines the trajectory of the country's future. It serves as a mirror to the nation—a medium through which India views itself. It is a monumental endeavor aimed at understanding the very soul of the nation and shaping its future. It presents a unique opportunity for India to perceive itself through a fresh lens—to assess its human capital, diversity, challenges, and boundless potential. Thus, the census is neither a mere compilation of data nor simply a decennial ritual; it is a true reflection of the nation's strength and capabilities. It is a powerful instrument for laying the bedrock of the future. In this context—at a time when India is rapidly advancing on the path of development and the monumental goal

of a 'Developed India by 2047' stands before us—the significance of Census 2027 becomes even more profound. In essence, the census is a task of paramount national importance; the data it generates serves as a critical foundation for formulating national policies and programs for years to come, thereby giving new dimensions and shape to the planning for the decades ahead.

## **A ROBUST FOUNDATION FOR POLICYMAKING**

The significance of the census in the life of a nation was articulated by



# The Census: A Long and Rich Tradition

India conducted its first synchronous census in 1881. However, the earliest references to census taking in the country are found in ancient texts, such as Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' and Abul Fazl's 'Ain-i-Akbari', among others...

- India possesses a long and rich tradition of conducting censuses. The earliest mention of a census is found in Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' (321–296 BCE).
- During the reign of Emperor Akbar, a census was also referenced in Abul Fazl's seminal work, 'Ain-i-Akbari'.
- The first systematic and modern population census, in its present scientific form, was conducted non-synchronously between 1865 and 1872 in the country.

## Post-Independence Censuses (1951–2011)

The first census following India's independence was conducted in **1951**

Subsequently, the census continued to be conducted every 10 years, up until

**2011**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the census scheduled for 2021 could not be conducted; it is now being carried out.



India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, during the country's first post-independence census in 1951. He stated at the time, "The census, as an institution, has a history stretching back to the distant past; its function is not merely to count people, but involves the extraction of information that plays a pivotal role in shaping many of our administrative policies. The information gathered during this exercise yields valuable scientific data of immense social significance. In many instances, it offers useful guidance that proves influential not only in the realm of economic policies but in other matters as well. The theory of population is, in itself, a fascinating facet of economics. The census aids us in testing these theories and establishing a factual correlation with them."

Indeed, the data derived from the census serves as the cornerstone of government policies. In formulating

and implementing policies related to education, skill development, healthcare, employment, and rural-urban development, census data proves to be not only accurate but also highly effective. The census acts as a vital instrument for strengthening social harmony and advancing the cause of justice. It identifies those segments of society that have lagged in the race for development. Various government schemes—such as those focused on poverty alleviation, women's empowerment, and rural development—become more targeted and effective precisely because they are shaped by this data. This process ensures that the light of development reaches the very last person in society.

In the modern era, the importance of statistics is universally acknowledged. Data plays a critical role in defining both the current reality and the future destiny of any nation. We rarely pause to reflect on the true significance

## Objectives, Significance & Utility of Census

### Objective

The census serves as the largest source of primary data at the village, town, and ward levels. It is a vital instrument for governance, providing the foundation for India's development planning for the upcoming decade.



### Significance

The census has long been an indispensable source of data for scholars and researchers across various disciplines, including demography, economics, anthropology, sociology, statistics, and many others. It serves as a crucial tool for understanding and studying India, as the rich diversity of its people is revealed precisely through the decennial census.



### Utility

It provides detailed statistics across various parameters, including housing conditions, amenities and assets, demographics, religion, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, language, literacy and education, economic activity, migration, and fertility. These statistics are utilised for a wide range of purposes, including development planning.



## Census to be conducted in two phases

### Phase 1

**Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO):** This will be conducted over a period of 30 days, scheduled between April and September 2026, at a time convenient for the respective States and Union Territories. Prior to the house-listing exercise, a 15-day window for 'self-enumeration' will also be made available.

- During this phase, information regarding the status of houses, the amenities available to households, and the assets possessed by them will be collected. Phase I comprises 33 questions, which have already been officially notified.

### Phase II

**Population Enumeration:** This will take place in February 2027. However, in the snow-bound, inaccessible areas of the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, as well as the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, this exercise will be conducted in September 2026.

- The enumeration of castes will also be carried out.
- Information related to demographics, socio-economics, education, migration, fertility, etc., will also be collected from every individual.



The current census marks the 16th census of the country and the 8th census since independence.



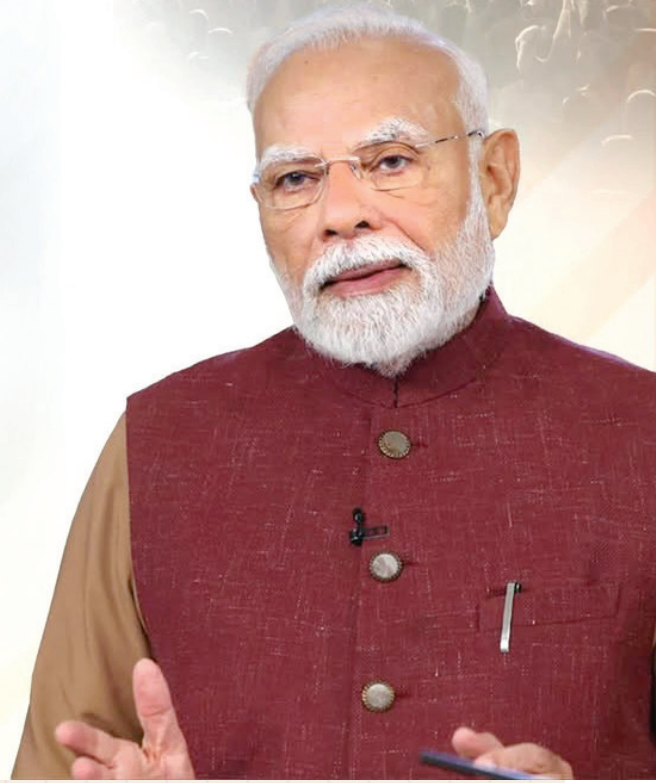
that data holds in our daily lives. Yet, from government policymaking to national development initiatives and public welfare schemes, it is this very data that serves as the foundational basis—data that is also utilized to facilitate research and to construct a comprehensive picture of the economy. The profound importance and utility of data can be best understood through the words of the renowned American statistician, William Edwards Deming: "Without data, you are just another person with an opinion." In other words, data serves as the foundation for strengthening any idea, policy, or plan.

## THE GRAND YAJNA OF COUNTING

According to religious scriptures, a Yajna is organized with the objective of attaining desired outcomes. It is also regarded as a means to foster progress and to fulfill specific wishes and necessities. The Census of

2027 is nothing short of a grand Yajna. To be conducted in two phases, the 2027 Census constitutes the largest census exercise in the world, the commencement of which dates back to April 2026. Although this census was originally scheduled for 2021, it had to be postponed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. This marks the first census that will be entirely digital; for the first time, provisions have been made for the use of mobile apps and online self-enumeration. A caste enumeration covering all communities will also be conducted alongside this census. To facilitate this, more than 3.1 million field workers across India have been trained. On June 16, 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs officially issued the notification for the 2027 Census. The Indian Census stands as the single largest source of diverse statistical information regarding the various characteristics of the people of India. With a history

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Call Regarding **The World's Largest Census**



*My dear countrymen,*

*A very important campaign is currently underway in our country, which every Indian must be aware of. This is the Census campaign, the world's largest census. Those who have already undergone such a process will have a different experience this time.*

- *Census 2027 has been made digital. All information is being recorded directly in digital form. The enumerators going door-to-door have a mobile app. They will enter the information in it after talking to you.*
- *This time, your participation in the census has also been made easier; you can enter your information yourself. This facility will open for you 15 days before the enumerator's arrival. You can enter the information as per your convenience. When you complete the process, you receive a special ID. This ID is received on your mobile or email. Later, when the enumerator visits your home, you can verify the information by showing this ID. This eliminates the need to give information again. This saves time and simplifies the process.*
- *In states where self-enumeration has been completed, census staff have also begun enumerating households. House listing for approximately one crore, twenty lakh families has been completed so far.*
- *The national census isn't just a government task. It's the responsibility of all of us. Your participation is crucial. The information you provide is completely secure, kept confidential, and protected with digital security. Come, let's all participate in this process. Let's make Census 2027 a success.*

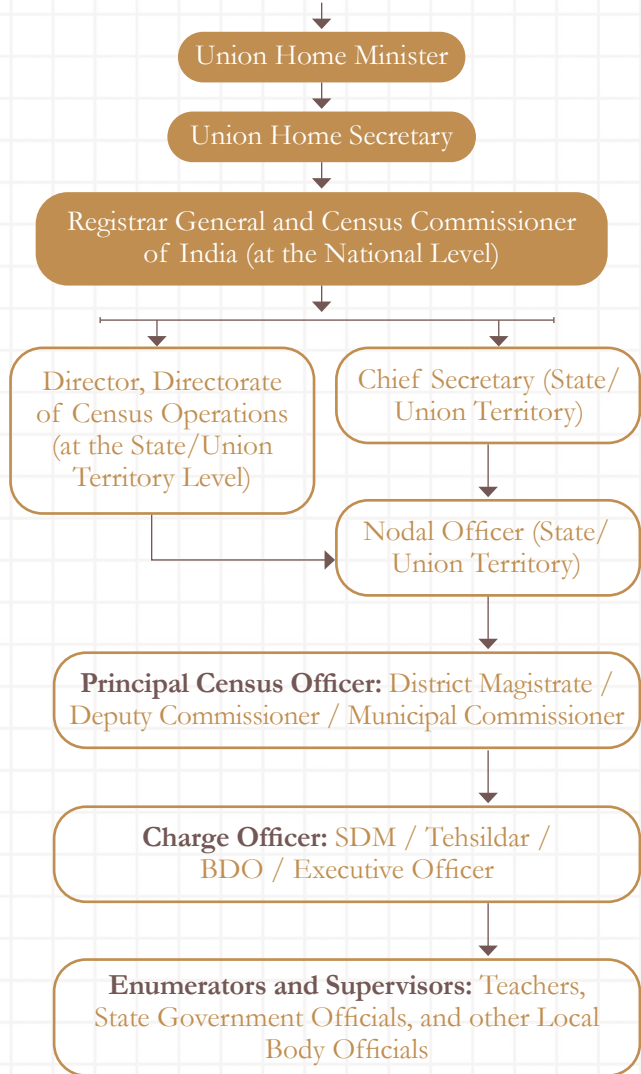


**One Call, Complete Information**

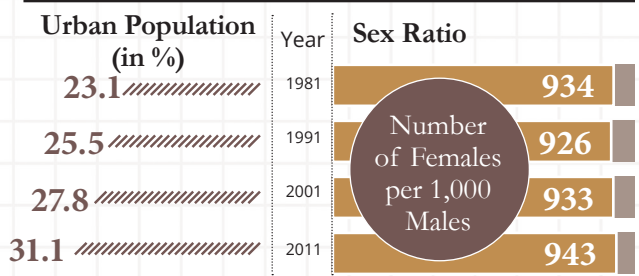
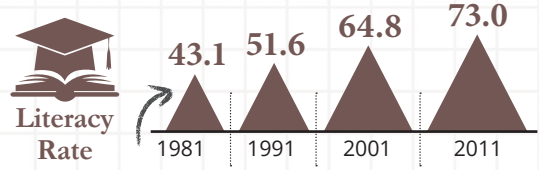
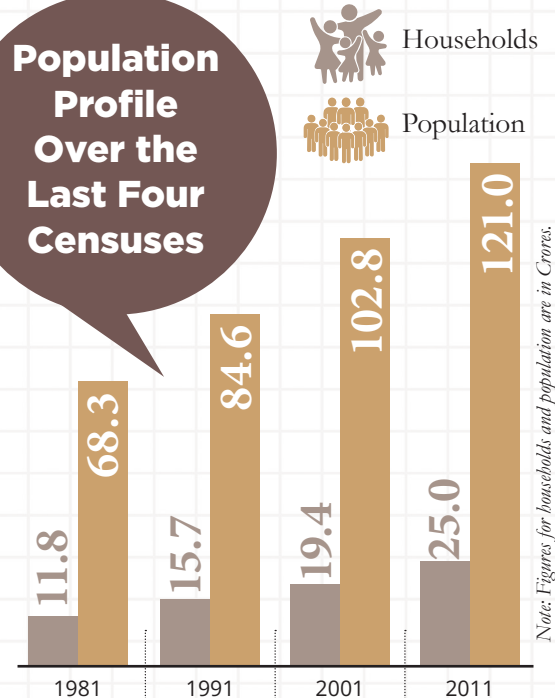
Call the toll-free number **1855**

Scan the QR code for official updates regarding Census 2027

### Census - Administrative Structure



### Population Profile Over the Last Four Censuses



spanning over 150 years, this reliable and time-tested process has consistently provided authentic data on the population every ten years. The 2027 Census will be the 16th census conducted in the country and the 8th since India's independence.

To truly grasp the objectives, significance, and utility of the census, one must look to the words of Govind Ballabh Pant, the country's fifth Home Minister. He stated, "Indeed, in the present era, one cannot undertake any significant administrative, economic, or social



Today marks the beginning of the first phase of Census 2027, relating to house listing and housing operations. This census is the first time data collection is being done through digital means. It also empowers the people of India to self-enumerate their household details. I appeal to the people of India to self-enumerate their household details themselves and participate in the census process.

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

initiative without referencing the census report—an indispensable component of every inquiry and study. In fact, one often has to consult the census report even to resolve minor issues.” A census is the systematic and official process of collecting data on every individual, household, and structure within a country at a specific point in time. It measures the size, growth, and distribution of the population. Furthermore, it records data regarding literacy, housing, migration, fertility rates, employment, and income levels. Population enumeration is defined in a United Nations document—specifically, in accordance with

## No more pen and paper... Digital Census 2027

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has become a pioneer of the digital revolution over the past decade. The digital census is considered another important and historic step towards fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Moving away from traditional paper-based methods, enumerators will collect data through specialised mobile applications using the 'Bring Your own Device (BYOD)' model.

- The public has been provided the opportunity for self-enumeration through the dedicated portal "se.census.gov.in". Subsequently, enumerators will visit homes to verify this information.

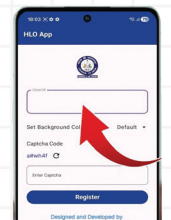


### ■ **Houselisting Creator (HLBC) Web Application:**

A web-map application that enables Charge Officers to digitally create Houselisting Blocks using satellite imagery, ensuring standardized geographic coverage across the country.

### ■ **Block Application:**

- **HLO Mobile Application:** A secure offline mobile application for enumerators to collect and upload Houselisting data. Only enumerators registered on the CMMS Portal can access the application. The app enables direct field-to-server data transmission, eliminating traditional paperwork.



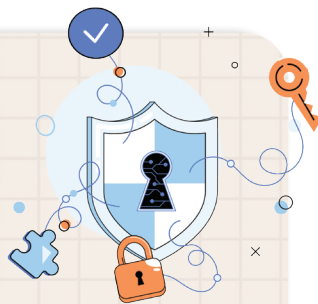
- All Houselisting data will be collected through this app, which can only be operated using registered mobile numbers. The application is compatible with Android and iOS platforms and it can be operated in 16 regional languages.



- **Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) Portal:** A centralized, web-based digital platform designed to plan, manage, execute, and monitor all census-related activities across administrative levels.



# Census 2027: Robust Data Security



Any data collected from the public during Census 2027 will be legally treated as completely confidential and secure. Under no circumstances will personal information be made public. Furthermore, a multi-layered “cyber shield” has been established to safeguard the data, ensuring protection against hacking and unauthorised intrusion.

- By prioritising technological innovation and adopting an inclusive approach, it will be ensured that Census 2027 is accurate, secure, and comprehensive.
- For Census 2027, data is being collected through door-to-door visits using a secure mobile application. This application incorporates robust security features, and all necessary measures have been implemented to ensure data protection.
- Comprehensive measures have been taken to ensure data security during the entire process – from data collection on mobile devices and its transmission to its storage at the server level.
- The digital tools utilised for Census 2027 are equipped with strong encryption and multi-factor authentication to guarantee high-level data security.
- Data collection for the census is conducted in strict accordance with the provisions of the Census Act, 1948, and the Census Rules, 1990. All personal data collected during this process is maintained in absolute confidence.
- Prioritising data security above all else, only aggregated data – compiled across various administrative levels – is published.
- A dedicated web portal has been developed to facilitate the management and monitoring of the various activities associated with Census 2027.



*Residents who have completed the “Self-Enumeration” process to keep their Self-Enumeration ID (SE ID) ready and share it with the enumerator upon their visit. Households that have not opted for self-enumeration will be covered by census enumerators through door-to-door visits during the house-listing and housing census phase*

the Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses as the process of collecting, compiling, and publishing social, economic, and demographic data to all individuals within a country or a delimited territory at a specific time or times.

## GLOBAL CONTEXT OF CENSUS

The word ‘census’ is derived from the Latin term *censere*, which means “to assess” or “to evaluate.” Its history dates back to the 1st or 2nd century BCE, when magistrates in Rome were required to compile population registers for the purpose of levying taxes and determining the availability of adult males for compulsory military service. Prior to the establishment of the Roman Empire, evidence of various proto-censuses—often in the form of cadastral (land-related) surveys—is available. Such enumerations were conducted in ancient Babylonia, China, and Egypt as early as the 30th century BCE. Herodotus documented similar undertakings in the Nile Valley and ancient Persia. Accounts of census records can also be found in sections of the Old Testament. Prior to the Exodus (circa 1500 BCE), Moses enumerated the fighting men of Israel. Similarly, in the late 12th and early 13th centuries, Genghis Khan commissioned a census of the population within his conquered territories to assess their capacity for taxation. In China, evidence of detailed census planning schemes dating back to the 14th century has been discovered. One of the earliest complete censuses—encompassing residents of



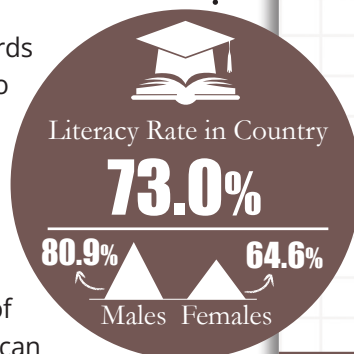


The census is conducted in two distinct phases: first, the enumeration of houses/households, followed by the enumeration of individuals. Currently, the first phase – the enumeration of houses – is underway. Since houses do not possess a caste identity, the census form for this phase does not include a field for caste information. The issue of a caste census will arise when we conduct the census of individuals.

*Amit Shah, Union Home Minister*

all ages—was conducted in the German city of Nuremberg in the year 1449. Reports indicate that other provincial or municipal censuses were carried out in Switzerland during the 15th and 16th centuries. In North America, the first census within the Spanish-held territories was commissioned by King Philip II of Spain in 1576. This task was executed by the indigenous inhabitants of the region, and the report they compiled is currently preserved at the University of Texas.

However, historical records suggest that there is no single event that can be definitively termed “the first census”; while early enumerations often incorporated one or more features characteristic of modern censuses, none can lay claim to having encompassed



## Delay in Census Due to COVID

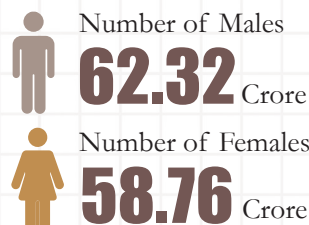
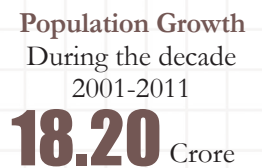
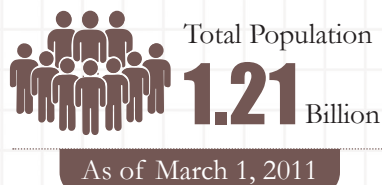


After the 2011 Census, the government had completed all preparations for the 2021 Census. At that time, the biggest pandemic of the century, COVID, struck, making it impossible to conduct the census. Even after the COVID crisis subsided, the country needed time to recover, and now the census is being carried out.



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the prime minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for conducting the Census of India 2021 and updation of the National Population Register (NPR).
- Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Census 2021 and associated fieldwork activities were postponed until further notice.
- The government's intention to conduct Census 2021 was notified in the Gazette of India on March 28, 2019.
- Consequently, the long-awaited census in India has now commenced in the year 2027.

### Key Demographic Findings of Census 2011



Child Sex Ratio in 2011 (per 1,000 Boys)

**918** Girls

India's Population Density in 2011

**382** per square kilometre, with a decadal growth of 17.7%.

Kerala retained the top position with a literacy rate of **93.91%**

followed by Lakshadweep (91.8%) and Mizoram (91.3%)

# Understand the complete process of the census

States and Union Territories play a crucial role in the smooth conduct of the census. This is because various grassroots-level activities, including data collection, verification, monitoring, supervision, and progress review, are carried out by census officers appointed by the respective state governments and union territory administrations, in accordance with the provisions of the Census Act, 1948, and the Census Rules, 1990.

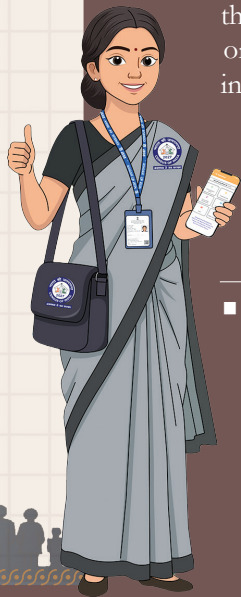


**1<sup>st</sup> time** The census will be conducted digitally

**1<sup>st</sup> time** A 'Self-Enumeration' option will also be available

## Why is it referred to as 'Census 2027'?

- The Government of India officially notified 'Census 2027' in the Gazette of India on June 16, 2025. One might ask: if this two-phase census commences in April 2026, why is it named 'Census 2027'?
- The answer lies in the fact that the reference date for the final count of the population will be 00:00 hours on March 1, 2027. This means that individuals born by 12:00 midnight on February 28 will be included in the Census 2027 count. Conversely, those who pass away by this specific date and time will not be included in the count.
- In the case of the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, as well as the snow-bound, inaccessible areas of the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, this reference date will be 00:00 hours on October 1, 2026.



## 33 Questions to be asked during house listing and housing census

- The phase of house listing and housing census will be conducted across the entire country between April 1 and September 30, 2026.
- During this six-month period, each state and union territory will complete this fieldwork within a specific 30-day window, as notified by the respective state/union territory government.
- During the house-listing and housing census phase, detailed information regarding housing status, household amenities, and available assets will be collected.
- A total of 33 questions have been notified for the first phase in January 2026 to capture key indicators, which provide a foundation for evidence-based planning, policy formulation, and targeted welfare schemes.



all of these features simultaneously. The concept of the modern census emerged in the 17th and 18th centuries, encompassing the entire population of a nation along with significant demographic characteristics.

## HISTORY OF THE CENSUS IN INDIA BEFORE 1872

Excavations at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro have revealed that by the third or fourth millennium BCE—and perhaps even much earlier—India possessed a

highly developed civilization. This civilization featured large and populous cities, well-constructed buildings, temples, brick-built public structures, and various other amenities comparable to those utilized by the people of Mesopotamia and Egypt during that era. Ancient literature, specifically the Rigveda, makes it evident that the population was sparse and scattered across vast regions in small villages. The existence of a dense population was further corroborated by the army of Alexander the Great, which invaded India in 327–326

# Self-Enumeration for the First Time

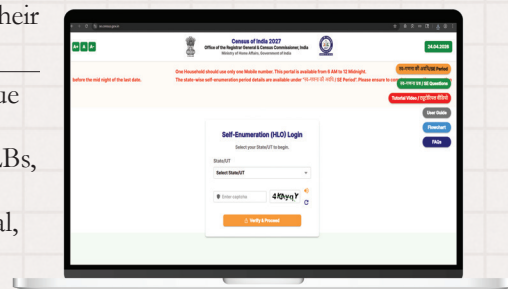
## Online Facility Available in 16 Languages

*This marks the country's 16th census overall and the 8th census since independence. While the Census has historically been conducted every 10 years, this time it is taking place after a gap of 16 years. More significant than these timelines, however, and a first in the history of these 16 censuses, is the introduction of a digital census and the provision of a 'Self-Enumeration' option for citizens. Under Section 6D of the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2022, self-enumeration is a secure, web-based facility available in 16 regional languages.*

- **se.census.gov.in** is a dedicated web portal that is easily accessible via desktop, laptop, or mobile devices. Self-enumeration can be performed online from any location within the country, even from a remote area.
- This facility will be made available to the general public 15 days before the commencement of the House Listing phase in their respective state or union territory,

allowing them to record their family details in advance.

- Enumerators will continue to visit every household within their assigned HLBs, while self-enumeration will serve as an additional, supplementary facility before their visits.



### Here is the complete process for self-enumeration



Scan the QR code for the video guide on self-enumeration



#### Section 01

#### Portal Login and Initial Registration

1

#### Portal Access and Login

To participate in Self-Enumeration, first visit the portal at [se.census.gov.in](http://se.census.gov.in). Select your state or union territory and enter CAPTCHA code.

2

#### Family Registration

Enter the name of the head of the household, their mobile number, and their email ID (optional).

- The name of the Head of the Household cannot be changed subsequently.
- Only one mobile number may be used per family. Once a number has been registered, that same mobile number cannot be used for any other family.

3

#### Language Selection and OTP Verification

Select your preferred language and enter the OTP received on your registered mobile number.

4

#### Enter Location Details

Select your district, enter the PIN code, and fill in the details regarding your village, town, or locality.

5

#### Mark the location of your residence on the map

Drag the red marker on the map to position it precisely over your residential building, and confirm the location.



#### Section 02

#### Verification and Location Identification



Scan the QR code to perform self-enumeration.



## Section 03

### Data Entry and Final Confirmation

#### Complete the questionnaire

- 6** Fill out the House Listing and Housing Census questionnaire. Tooltips, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and essential information are available to assist you in understanding the questions.

#### Preview and Review

- 7** Verify all the information you have entered by using the Preview screen. You have the following options: Go back to modify your entries, save the data as a draft for submission later, or confirm and submit.

#### Final Submission

- 8** Click “Confirm and Submit” to finalise the submission of your data; please note that no modifications will be possible after the final submission.

#### Generation of Self-Enumeration ID (SE ID)

Upon successful submission of the form, a unique 11-digit Self-Enumeration ID (SE ID) – starting with the letter ‘H’ – will be generated. This ID will be sent to you via SMS and email.

## Section 04

### Field Verification



#### Enumerator’s Visit

- 9** When the census enumerator visits your home, please share your SE ID with them for verification purposes.

#### SE ID Matching Result

If the SE ID matches the existing records, your information will be verified and accepted. If the SE ID does not match, the enumerator will collect the necessary details from you and fill in the new information.



**This caste census will empower all economically and socially backward sections of society, foster inclusion, and pave new pathways for the progress of the underprivileged. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to conduct the 2026 census with a caste enumeration component**

*Amit Shah, Union Home Minister*

BCE. Records from the reign of Chandragupta (321–297 BCE) indicate the existence of a standing army comprising 700,000 men—a force that would have necessitated a substantial population base to sustain it. Based on the aforementioned facts, it can be safely concluded that India possessed a significant population before the Common Era. Furthermore, efforts to collect population-related data were undertaken from very early times. In the third century BCE, the renowned “Arthashastra” —developed by Kautilya, one of the most brilliant minds of the Mauryan political administration—established the collection of population data for taxation purposes as a fundamental tenet of state policy. This treatise provides a detailed account of the methods to be employed for conducting population counts as well as economic and agricultural censuses.

Population enumeration—the importance of which was recognized by efficient administrations in ancient times—was largely neglected during the medieval era, a period characterized by a certain degree of political instability in the country’s history. However, with the subsequent development of a modern governmental apparatus, the need for accurate population statistics was once again keenly felt. The first comprehensive



# The World's Largest Census: 2027 Preparation for Viksit Bharat



## Census Expenditure

Census operations are conducted under the purview of the Union List (Entry 246) and the Census Act, 1948.

**₹ 11,718.24 crore**

sanctioned by the Government of India for the 2027 Census.

This allocation covers expenses such as enumerators' honorariums, training, IT infrastructure, logistics, and other related costs. Since the census falls under the Union List, these funds are expended by the Central Government; the census machinery of the state governments provides assistance in this process.



## Administrative Units Frozen

- For providing a stable framework for enumeration activities, administrative units have been frozen from 1 January 2026 to March 31, 2027.
- Pre-tests for Phase I were successfully conducted as early as November 2025.



## In Terms of Preparedness January 2026

A conference was convened involving the chief secretaries of states, state nodal officers, and directors of census operations.

- A comprehensive directory manual for the first phase has been prepared in 19 languages.

- To ensure uniformity and facilitate smooth operations, circulars outlining standardised procedures and guidelines have been issued at the national level.
- To ensure the timely execution of census activities, a detailed calendar for the entire programme has been formulated and is currently undergoing rigorous monitoring.

*All data collected under the Census Act, 1948, remains strictly confidential and is used solely for statistical purposes and development planning. All residents are requested to extend full cooperation to enumerators during the houselisting operations and actively participate in this important national exercise.*

census covering the entirety of India on a uniform basis was conducted in the year 1881. Since then, a census has been conducted regularly every ten years. The census of 1901, in particular, included a detailed analysis and classification of castes and occupations. The first census following independence was conducted in 1951. The report of this census deviated entirely from the pattern of previous census reports. It attempted to explain past changes in the size and structure of India's population, as well as to highlight the population's standard of living and its associated implications. The report results also presented an argument regarding

Nearly **6.40** lakh villages will be covered in census

Conduct of the Census 2027

**36** States/Union Territories

**7,092** Sub-districts

**5,128** Statutory Towns

**4,580** Census Towns

The Census 2027 will be conducted in approximately **6,39,902** villages

Training in **80** Thousand Batches

Comprehensive training is being provided to all field staff, including enumerators and supervisors, appointed for the world's largest digital census operation.

**100** National trainers have been trained by experts.

These National Trainers have trained approximately **2,000** Master Trainers.



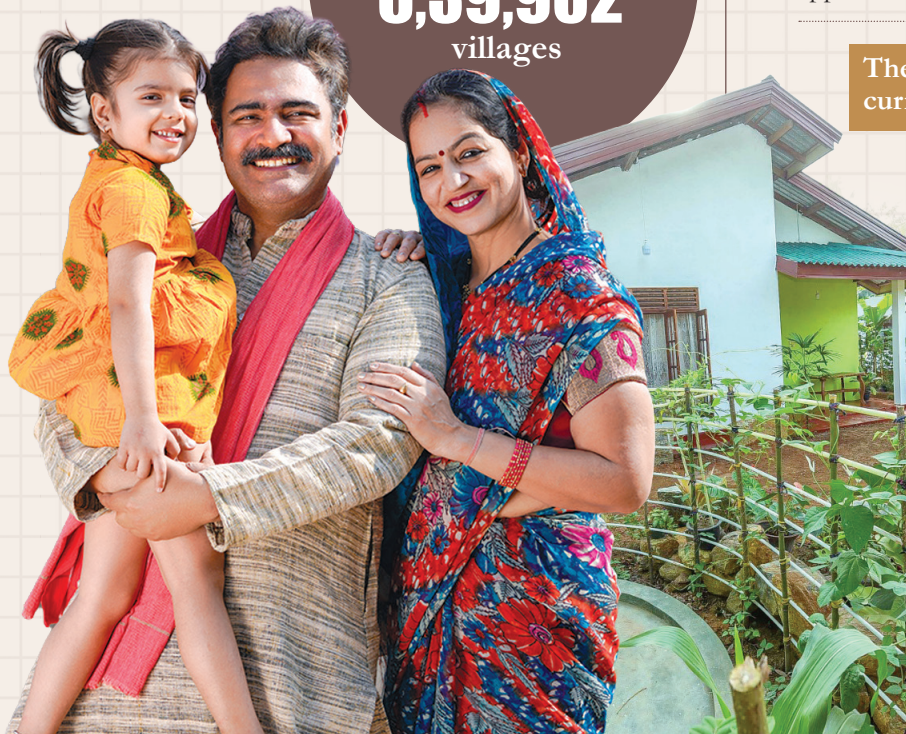
These master Trainers are tasked with training approximately **45,000** Field Trainers.

These field trainers are currently providing training to

approx **80,000** batches

approx **31** lakh enumerators and supervisors are being trained

**A** क All training materials have been prepared in regional languages to ensure that enumerators and supervisors working at the grassroots level can collect high-quality data on time.



the decline in the country's birth rate. For the first time in the history of Indian censuses, the 1951 census also attempted to assess the accuracy of the population count through field-based re-verification. Since 1971, four censuses have been conducted at ten-year intervals, culminating in the census of 2011. The census of 2011 preceded the one currently underway. By 2021, the nation was poised for its next census. Continuing the unbroken series of decennial censuses dating back to 1872, enumerators and supervisors were enthusiastic as they attended training sessions to launch India's 16th census—this time as a digital exercise. However,

just one week before the census drive was scheduled to begin, the deadly COVID-19 pandemic compelled the Government of India to declare a nationwide lockdown. Consequently, the 2021 census had to be postponed indefinitely. India is now moving forward toward the realization of its resolve for a 'Developed India' through the Census of 2027.

### DIGITAL CENSUS: A SYMBOL OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

The Upanishads say "तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय, मृत्योर्मांमृतं गमय"—meaning, "Lead us from darkness to light; lead us

from death and adversity to immortality." The passage through Amrit Kaal cannot be illuminated without knowledge. Therefore, this era—the Amrit Kaal—is a period dedicated to knowledge, research, and innovation. Our objective is to build an India whose roots remain firmly anchored in ancient traditions and heritage, yet whose reach extends infinitely into the boundless skies of modernity. We must keep our culture, civilization, and values alive, while simultaneously preserving and enriching our spirituality and diversity. Concurrently, we must continuously modernize our systems across technology, infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Acting on this very vision over the past 12 years, the Central Government has transformed Census 2027 into a revolutionary undertaking, India's first fully digital census. Its primary objective is to facilitate precise planning and targeted action. Census 2027 is being hailed as a historic milestone from multiple perspectives. It places a special emphasis on technological innovation, digital data collection, and enhanced accuracy, ensuring that the data collection process is swift, transparent, and error-free. Features such as mobile applications, online forms, and real-time data processing lend this initiative a distinctly modern character. The census will no longer be confined merely to paper records; instead, every piece of information will be securely and instantly accessible through digital mediums. This will not only result in significant time savings but also ensure greater transparency and credibility. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has steered governance toward a model of "Data-Driven Governance." Accurate and authentic data is indispensable for realizing the spirit of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, aur Sabka Prayas" and "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance." These are no longer mere slogans; they have become the

## Caste Census to Ensure Inclusive Development

*A caste census is crucial for the realisation of social justice and for the effective implementation of policy schemes at the grassroots level. It will not only aid in understanding the actual socio-economic landscape but will also ensure inclusive development. Furthermore, concrete steps can be taken toward providing equal opportunities...*



### April 30, 2025

The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, decided to include caste-wise enumeration in the upcoming census.



### June 16, 2025

The Ministry of Home Affairs officially issued the notification for the 2027 Census.

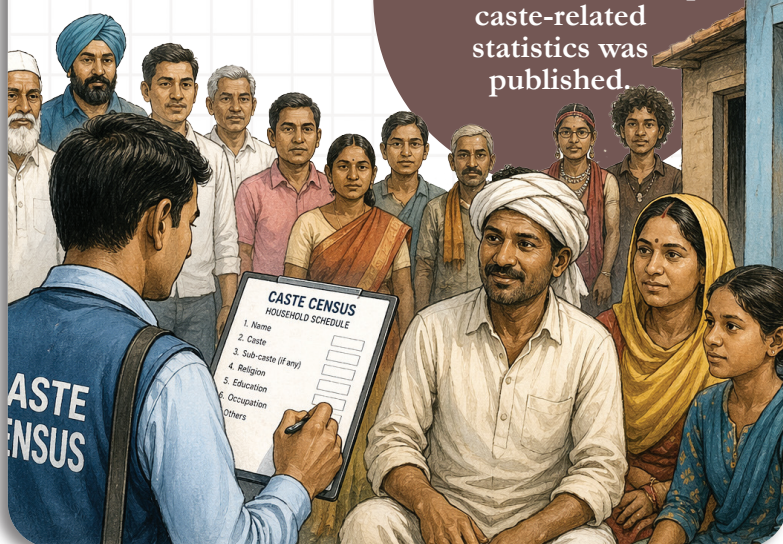


- For the first time since independence, the 2027 Census will include the enumeration of caste for all communities.

- To safeguard social harmony, it was decided to integrate the caste enumeration into the main census itself, rather than conducting it as a separate survey.

- Detailed information regarding the caste of every family member was last collected and published in 1931.

Following the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) of 2011, all data—except caste-related statistics—was published.





“

**Census is conducted in two phases – first, the enumeration of houses, and then of individuals. The first phase is currently underway, in which houses are being counted, and since houses do not have a caste, there is no option for caste in the form at this stage. The question regarding caste enumeration will arise during the subsequent phase, when individuals are enumerated.**

*Amit Shah, Union Home Minister*

very bedrock of policy formulation. Census 2027 represents a pivotal step in this direction, empowering the government to identify precisely which sectors have witnessed growth and which areas still require focused intervention. Census 2027 to be conducted after a long hiatus following the 2011 census—marks the dawn of a new era. It does not merely bridge a temporal gap; rather, it offers a glimpse of a New India—an India that is forging ahead to become self-reliant, empowered, and a leader in the digital age. Data is no longer confined to mere statistics; it has evolved into the guiding principles that determine the trajectory of development. Consequently, amidst the digital revolution and the transformed nature

of census operations, Census 2027 is emerging as a symbol of technological revolution within the era of “Digital India.” The digital tools employed in this census are equipped with robust encryption and multi-level authentication mechanisms to ensure high-level data security. A dedicated portal—dubbed the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS)—has been developed to manage and monitor the entire census process in real-time. Data security has also been accorded top priority.

### SOCIAL HARMONY: THE FIRST-EVER CASTE CENSUS

For the first time in independent India, the 2027 Census will include a caste enumeration of all communities. Since independence, caste has been excluded from all censuses conducted to date. Some states have conducted separate caste surveys—with varying degrees of transparency and intent—raising concerns regarding politicization. Therefore, to safeguard social harmony, it has been decided to incorporate the caste enumeration into the main census itself, rather than conducting it as a separate survey. The enumeration of caste for all communities will be carried out alongside this census. To this end, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, during its meeting on April 30, 2025, decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census—specifically, Census 2027. Given the immense social and demographic diversity within the country—along with the associated challenges—caste data will be collected electronically during the second phase of Census 2027, known as the Population Enumeration (PE). The caste enumeration will take place during the second phase of the census; questions related to caste will be included in the questionnaire when it is released for this second phase.

### THE FOUNDATION OF THE JOURNEY TOWARDS A DEVELOPED INDIA

The mascots for Census 2027—“Pragati” (a female enumerator) and “Vikas” (a male enumerator)—have been introduced as friendly

## Integrated into Census 2027: The Spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas...



#### Sabka Saath

The census is a subject falling under the Union List, wherein the entire administrative machinery of both the States and the Union Territories works in unison. Throughout this entire exercise, ‘Team India’ operates with the spirit of Sabka Saath to ensure the collection of foolproof data.

#### Sabka Vikas

This time, caste-based enumeration has been incorporated into the data collected during the census. This initiative aims to bring to light statistics regarding backward or marginalised sections of society, thereby facilitating the formulation and implementation of development schemes for the benefit of all.

#### Sabka Vishwas

Data security within the Census framework has been ensured in such a manner that the trust of ordinary citizens remains unshaken. During this campaign, whatever information the general public provides is accepted with trust and treated as the absolute truth. This embodies and upholds the spirit of Sabka Vishwas. Moreover, thanks to the introduction of the digital census this time around, the data collected will be highly accurate and available much more rapidly.

#### Sabka Prayas

The Census is now evolving into a nationwide movement. This marks the first instance where citizens have been provided the opportunity for ‘self-enumeration’. Similarly, extensive awareness programmes have also been conducted. This collective effort, this spirit of Sabka Prayas, serves as the very foundation of a Viksit Bharat.



## Don't Be Apprehensive Know The Truth

**Let us fulfil our responsibility; let us participate in the census**



**The personal data provided during the Census remains strictly confidential. It cannot be shared under the RTI Act, nor can it be used as evidence in a court of law; furthermore, no authority is permitted to utilise this personal data for individual-specific purposes; it is used exclusively for statistical compilation.**

*Mrityunjay Kumar Narain*  
*(Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India)*



Scan the QR code to watch the press conference regarding Census 2027

and approachable symbols. "Pragati" and "Vikas" also symbolize the equal participation of women and men in fulfilling the resolve to transform India into a developed nation by 2047. The objective of making India a developed nation by 2047 coincides with the completion of 100 years of independence. This entire journey—which commenced during the Amrit Mahotsav year—has been designated as the Amrit Kaal. Thus, Census 2027 is not merely a process of counting citizens; rather, it serves as a robust foundation for charting the course toward a Viksit Bharat. Accurate data and sound policies are crucial to realizing this objective. This not only facilitates precise planning and policy formulation but also plays a pivotal role in aspects such as the equitable distribution of resources, infrastructure development, and socio-economic equality. Technology plays a

**Rumour**

Enumerators will ask for OTPs and bank details.



**Fact**

You are neither required to provide an OTP nor submit any documents to any Census employee.



**Rumour**

Your data will be used for taxation or investigative purposes.



**Fact**

Your data is confidential. It is utilised solely for the purposes of planning, policy formulation, etc.



**Rumour**

The Census may adversely affect your government benefits.



**Fact**

There will be no impact whatsoever on your beneficiary status.



**Rumour**

You may be required to pay a fee for the census.



**Fact**

The Census is entirely free of cost. No fee is charged for the HLO (house-listing operations) or for self-enumeration.



**Rumour**

Just anyone could pose as an enumerator.



**Fact**

You can always verify their identity using their official ID card, which features a QR code for verification.





“

**The Modi government, committed to the cause of social justice, has taken a historic decision. Under the leadership of PM Modi, during the meeting of the CCPA held on April 30, 2025, the decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census has sent a strong message of commitment towards social equality and the rights of every section of society.**

*Amit Shah, Union Home Minister*

pivotal role in realizing the goal of a 'Developed India.' In this context, the data generated by a digital census will be both faster and more accurate. This will assist the Central Government in formulating plans. Therefore, it is evident that Census 2027 will serve as a cornerstone in fulfilling the dream of a Viksit Bharat. It will prove to be a strategic step toward enhancing the standard of living of the citizens.

Undoubtedly, the census is a vital instrument of governance, providing the foundation for India's development blueprint for the coming decade. As such, Census 2027 is not merely a compilation of statistics but a crucial pillar in the process of nation-building. It acts as a bridge between the government and society. Consequently, Census 2027 cannot be characterized merely as an administrative exercise; rather, it is a mass movement—a campaign in which the participation of every citizen is indispensable. Therefore, it is incumbent upon citizens to contribute their share to this national endeavor by providing accurate information and fostering awareness, ensuring that public participation itself becomes the bedrock for building an empowered, prosperous, and self-reliant India. ●



# Ganga Expressway

## A Gateway to New Dreams and Opportunities

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Uttar Pradesh on April 28 and 29 stood as a vibrant symbol of cultural, spiritual, and developmental commitments. Varanasi—counted among the world's oldest living cities—is now advancing toward a unique confluence of modern development and traditional heritage. With this vision of "Vikas Aur Virasat," PM Modi offered prayers and performed Darshan at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple, while also dedicating and laying the foundation stones for development projects worth thousands of crores of rupees—including the Ganga Expressway.*

There was a time when Uttar Pradesh was considered a "backward state"; yet, that very same Uttar Pradesh is today marching forward with the aim of becoming a \$1 trillion economy. This is a monumental goal, but UP possesses the inherent capacity to achieve it. Significant strides are being made here—ranging from infrastructure development to the creation of manufacturing hubs. Major corporations are coming to the state to invest, a trend that will accelerate the pace of progress and unlock new employment opportunities for the youth. In this era of modern advancement, the Ganga Expressway is poised to become the new lifeline of Uttar Pradesh's development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked, "I am delighted that the UP government has

named this expressway after Maa Ganga. This choice reflects both a vision for development and a reverence for heritage."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi often says that his government inaugurates projects for which it lays the foundation stone. The Ganga Expressway is an example of this. In December 2021, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for this expressway in Shahjahanpur. Less than five years later, on April 29, 2026, it was inaugurated in Hardoi. While the construction of the Ganga Expressway is complete, work on its extension has also begun. Soon, the Ganga Expressway will extend beyond Meerut to Haridwar. For its further utilization, the Farrukhabad Link Expressway will be constructed, connecting it to other expressways. PM



Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's event

# महिला सम्मेलन



As the MP for Kashi... as the Prime Minister of the country... I seek your blessings to achieve a major national objective... and this major objective is—implementing reservations for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. *-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

## ‘Nari Shakti’: The Strongest Pillar of a Developed India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a massive gathering of women at a conference held in Varanasi. Emphasizing the pivotal role women play in nation-building, the Prime Minister described ‘Nari Shakti’ as the strongest pillar of a ‘Developed India’. PM Modi sought the blessings of those present to achieve the major national goal of implementing reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, assuring them that he would spare no effort to turn this right to reservation into reality.

From the venue of the women’s conference itself, Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for various development projects worth approximately ₹6,350 crore. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister stated that when a woman in a household becomes empowered, the entire family gains strength; consequently, society and the nation are strengthened as well. PM Modi recalled that 25 years ago, when he became

the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he had launched two pioneering schemes for girls: first, ‘Shala Praveshotsav’ to ensure that the maximum number of girls attend school and complete their education; and second, ‘Mukhyamantri Kanya Kelavani Nidhi’ to provide financial assistance for their school fees. He remarked, “From that time until today, the welfare of women has consistently been accorded the highest priority in our government’s policies.”

Emphasizing the significance of economic empowerment, PM Modi asserted that as women’s economic power grows, their voice within the family and household becomes equally strong. Over the past 11 years, approximately 100 million women have been linked to SHGs, including about 125,000 sisters from Kashi. Through these efforts, 30 million sisters have so far become ‘Lakhpati Didis’-including thousands of sisters from Varanasi.

### A Gift to Banaras

Over **₹1,050** crore worth of 48 projects dedicated to the nation

- Widening of the Varanasi-Azamgarh road.
- Rail Overbridges at Kazzakpura and Kadipur.
- 55 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Bhagwanpur.



### Two New Amrit Bharat Express Trains Flagged Off

- Two new Amrit Bharat Express trains flagged off: Banaras-Pune (Hadapsar) and Ayodhya-Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus). This will enhance connectivity between Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- The Banaras-Pune service will facilitate easier access to the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, while the Ayodhya-Mumbai service will improve connectivity to the Shri Ram Mandir Teerth Kshetra and strengthen links between major religious sites.

**Foundation Stone Laid:** Varanasi Junction–Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction 3rd and 4th Railway Line Project. Construction of a Rail-cum-Road Bridge over the River Ganga. This will improve access to the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the Ramnagar area, and National Highway-19, while strengthening rail connectivity with Eastern UP and Bihar.

## Highway of Development

### Ganga Expressway set to uplift farmers, expand jobs

**₹ 36,230** crore Ganga Expressway in Hardoi district, inaugurated

- This 594-kilometer-long, 6-lane expressway can be expanded to 8 lanes.
- The expressway passes through 12 districts: Meerut, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj.
- An integrated manufacturing and logistics corridor will be developed across an area of approximately 2,635 hectares within these 12 districts.
- Farmers will gain direct access to urban and export markets and will receive better prices for their produce.
- New economic opportunities to create both direct and indirect employment opportunities across the entire region.
- With the commissioning of the expressway, the current travel time between Meerut and Prayagraj will be reduced from 10–12 hours to approx 6 hours.
- A 3.5-kilometer-long emergency landing facility (airstrip) has been constructed on this expressway in the Shahjahanpur district.



### Laying the Foundation Stone for over 112 Projects worth ₹ 5,300 Crore

- 13 sewerage and water supply schemes under AMRUT 2.0.
- A 500-bed multi-specialty hospital at the Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta Divisional District Hospital.
- Construction of market complexes and offices at Bhojuveer and Sigra, along with the renovation of ponds.
- Reconstruction of a 198-bed hospital and the construction of a 100-bed ICU block.
- Includes the development of tourism facilities at major ghats, including Assi Ghat, Dashashwamedh Ghat, and Namo Ghat. Foundation Stone of the Municipal Corporation Office Building, Government Children's Shelter Home, and Juvenile Justice Board.

#### Inauguration of Community Projects

30 rural drinking water schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Redevelopment of Chandravati Ghat; tourism development of the Sarangnath Temple near Sarnath.

Inauguration of the Sowa Rigpa Building and Hospital at the Central University of Tibetan Studies.



Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's event

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Shri Kasbi Vishwanath Temple.

Modi stated that this expressway is not just a high-speed road; it is a gateway to new possibilities, new dreams, and new opportunities.

The Ganga Expressway not only connects one end of Uttar Pradesh to the other, but it will also bring the immense potential of the NCR closer. Not only will vehicles run on the Ganga Expressway, but new industrial opportunities will also emerge along its banks. To this end, industrial corridors are being developed in other districts like Hardoi. This will bring new industries to all 12 districts, including Hardoi, Shahjahanpur, and Unnao. Clusters in various sectors, such as pharmaceuticals and textiles, will develop.

### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Uttar Pradesh's industrial development is also becoming India's strategic strength. One of the country's two defense corridors is located in UP. Major defense companies are setting up factories here. Missiles like the BrahMos, recognized globally, are being manufactured in Uttar Pradesh. MSMEs are supplying the small parts required for the manufacture of defense equipment. ●



## Northeast Emerges as a Hub for Global Tourism and Culture

*In present times, the Northeast embodies the spirit of the 'New India'—one that is 'Empowered, Connected, and Future-Ready.' Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this region has transformed from a frontier zone into a leading growth engine, symbolizing both self-confidence and competitiveness. It has achieved record-breaking growth across key sectors: infrastructure, investment, governance, and youth engagement. Building upon this momentum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sikkim on April 27 and 28. During this visit, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over ₹ 4,000 crore...*

Sikkim—the 'Paradise of the East' and the 'Garden of Orchids'—with its unparalleled natural beauty, serene atmosphere, and spiritual tranquility, serves as a major destination for nature-loving tourists from across the country. At a time when divisive forces—driven by political self-interest—are attempting to sow discord through linguistic chauvinism, regionalism, social hierarchy, and discrimination, Sikkim stands as a living embodiment of the philosophy of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Sikkim marks a significant milestone, coinciding with the state's Golden Jubilee year—the 50th anniversary of its statehood. This visit also underscores the current Central Government's unwavering commitment to the rapid and sustainable development of both Sikkim and the overall Northeast region. As PM Modi remarked,

Sikkim—and indeed the entire Northeast—is not merely a geographical part of the country; it represents India's 'Ashta Lakshmi'. Consequently, while the Central Government remains steadfast in implementing its 'Act East' policy, it has also adopted a firm resolve to 'Act Fast' for the development of the Northeast.

Carrying this resolve forward, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the closing ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Sikkim state along with inauguration, and laying the foundation stones for over 30 projects, including infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, urban development, environment, tourism. Although Sikkim covers less than one percent of the country's total geographical area, it is home to over 25 percent of the nation's floral diversity. The state boasts nearly 500 species of birds,

## Life to become easier for Sikkimese people

### 30 bed Sowa Rigpa Hospital inaugurated at NIT Deorali.

- Inauguration of the permanent campus of Sikkim University at Yangang.
- Launch of the Administrative Block of the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University of Excellence at Chakung.
- Launch of the Helen Lepcha Medical College at Socheyang, Gangtok.
- Vocational College at Dentam, Gyalshing.
- Model Residential School at Gyathang.
- Model Degree College at Mangshilla in Mangan District.

### 160 schools in Sikkim to benefit from the commencement of an IT-enabled educational infrastructure project.

- Widening and strengthening of the road connecting Birdhang to Namchi via Kichudumra.
- Upgradation and renovation of the project for improving the Transmission and Distribution (T&D) network in Gangtok.
- Jan Seva Sachivalaya (Mini Secretariat) at Lumsey and the Civil Service Officers Institute in Gangtok.
- Inauguration of Sikkim Urban Garib Awas Yojana at Lingding, housing for police personnel, and Grade 'C' quarters at SAP Pangthang.
- Inauguration of the pollution abatement scheme of River Rani Chu through the Roro Chu River in Zone III in Gangtok.
- Inauguration of the redevelopment of the Ridge Precinct in Gangtok; eco-tourism and pilgrimage infrastructure at Dodak in Soreng; infrastructure related to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra; and a Pilgrim Guest House (Yatri Niwas) at the Krishna Pranami Mangaldham in Namphing.
- Inauguration of the IFFCO processing plant, which will boost agro-processing activities.
- Inauguration of indoor cricket facilities at Mining, Rangpo, in the Pakyong district.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi playing football with young Sikkimese

## Laying a Strong Foundation

### 100 bed Ayurvedic Hospital foundation stone laid in Namchi

- Foundation stones laid for two hinged double-lane steel arch bridges over River Teesta at Sirwani and Lower Samdong, connecting Namchi and Gangtok districts.
- Foundation stone laid for the Sadbhav Mandap.
- Foundation stone laid for the reconstruction of the sewerage system rehabilitation at Singtam town under river pollution abatement initiatives
- Foundation stone laid for an Eco-Pilgrimage Complex at Silnon in the Gyalshing district.

around 700 species of butterflies, lush forest cover, and the magnificent Kanchenjunga. This is precisely why everyone desires to visit Sikkim time and again.

Sikkim's greatest strength lies in its tourism economy. Tourism flourishes only when a state possesses excellent infrastructure; for this very reason, significant emphasis is currently being placed on enhancing Sikkim's connectivity and infrastructure. Over the past few years, hundreds of kilometers of highways have been constructed in the region. Work is progressing rapidly to extend road networks to every village. Whether it is the construction of the expressway connecting Bagdogra to Gangtok or the Sevoke-Rangpo railway line, these projects are serving as a vital medium of connecting Sikkim to the rest of the country. New national highways are also being constructed within the state. These initiatives by the government are expected to further boost the number of tourists visiting Sikkim and, consequently, lead to an increase in the income of the local population. ●



India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement



India-New Zealand Trade Pact  
Unlocks Duty-Free Exports

*India and New Zealand share long-standing and friendly relations. The two nations share Commonwealth heritage, democratic traditions, legal systems, and a mutual passion for sports. Cooperation across the fields of politics, trade, defense, education, tourism, culture, and sports is continuously expanding. In furtherance of this relationship, on April 27, 2026, the two countries signed the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement in New Delhi, marking one of the most rapidly concluded free trade agreements in history. This FTA will eliminate tariffs on Indian exports, attract an estimated \$20 billion in investment, and significantly expand opportunities for students and skilled professionals.*

India's economy is consistently scaling new heights, with its exports setting fresh records regularly. In the financial year 2025-26, India's exports of goods and services reached a record high of US\$ 860.09 billion, representing a 4.22 percent increase compared to the previous year. Despite global disruptions, sectors such as engineering goods, electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, gems and jewelry, and agro-based products have successfully maintained their export momentum. The primary catalyst for this success has been the global expansion of the Indian market over the past few years, facilitated by the signing of various free trade agreements. On April 27, India signed a Free Trade Agreement with New Zealand at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi; this marks India's ninth such agreement concluded with developed nations over recent years.

“  
This modern and balanced agreement will foster collective growth by harnessing the strengths of both nations. It will unlock new opportunities for farmers, artisans, the youth, entrepreneurs, women, and MSMEs. Access to global markets will expand across sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, technology, education, and services.

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

This agreement is poised to foster a robust economic partnership and stimulate investment.

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was signed by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment, Todd McClay. This agreement will eliminate tariffs on Indian exports, thereby boosting labor-intensive sectors. It will also strengthen Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Simultaneously, it ensures full protection for sectors such as agriculture and dairy. This agreement will expand opportunities for students and skilled professionals. It will also provide support to agricultural productivity and investment commitments. By eliminating non-tariff barriers, this Free Trade Agreement will bolster India's strategic economic presence in the Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, this agreement stands as a testament to a forward-looking approach toward the goal of a 'Developed India' by 2047. The agreement will come into effect following the completion of domestic procedures and ratification by both nations.

### **NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO UNFOLD**

Following the signing of the agreement between India and New Zealand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated in his message that this marks a historic day for India's global engagement and shared prosperity. The signing of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement symbolizes our strengthening economic ties, mutual trust, and shared objectives. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of both nations—particularly the youth, who constitute the very strength of our economies. This modern and balanced agreement will foster collective growth by leveraging the respective strengths of both countries. It will unlock new opportunities for farmers, artisans, the youth, entrepreneurs, women, and MSMEs. Access to global markets will expand across sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, technology, education, and services. Through partnerships in agricultural productivity and Centers of Excellence, New Zealand's modern agricultural expertise will be integrated with India's priorities. This will lead to improvements in productivity, infrastructure, and farmers' incomes. Over the past decade, India has been actively working to establish itself as a major hub in the global manufacturing supply chain. This agreement recognizes the critical

### **Enhanced Trade Agreement**

Trade in goods and services between India and New Zealand reached US\$

**2.4**

billion in the year 2024

In the financial year 2024-25, bilateral merchandise trade between the two nations stood at US\$ 1.3 billion. This represents a 49 percent increase compared to the previous year. Trade is expected to grow further following this FTA.



### **Increased Organic Products Trade**

Trade in organic products will receive a boost through a Mutual Recognition Agreement. In the initial phase, a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) will be implemented. Following the implementation of the MRA, demand is expected to rise for products such as Basmati rice, flaxseed, Arabica cherry, Isabgol, soybean oil cake, and organic black tea.

importance of skills, talent, and mobility. Consequently, it will create greater opportunities for skilled professionals, youth, and students. Finally, this agreement will accord global recognition to the traditional knowledge systems of both nations—such as organic products, AYUSH, and Yoga—thereby bridging our rich traditions with the opportunities of the future. Both countries will combine their strengths to build robust supply chains and produce affordable and competitive goods and services. This will open up new avenues for growth.

### **COMMITMENT TO STRONGER PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES TO BE STRENGTHENED**

In a message following the agreement, New Zealand

# India Concludes 9 FTAs in 6 Years



## India-New Zealand FTA – April 2026

The fastest-negotiated FTA Completed in just 9 months.



## India-US Interim Trade Framework – February 2026

A step towards a comprehensive trade agreement between India and the US.



## India-EU FTA– January 2026

The largest trade agreement involving 27 European Union member states.



## India-Oman CEPA – December 2025

The agreement has the widest tariff coverage among GCC nations



## India-UK CETA – July 2025

Duty-free access for 99% of India’s exports



## India-EFTA TEPA – March 2024 to October 2025

A historic agreement featuring an FDI commitment of \$100 billion



## India-Australia ECTA – December 2022

India’s first agreement to provide for 100% tariff elimination



## India-UAE CEPA – May 2022

Bilateral trade crossed \$100 billion mark in FY 2024-25



## India-Mauritius CEPA – 2021

India’s first trade agreement with an African nation



Prime Minister Christopher Luxon described it as a “once-in-a-generation agreement,” which will grant New Zealand exporters extensive access to India’s market of 1.4 billion people. This will expand market access, boost export growth, and enable cooperation in sectors such as agriculture. Meanwhile, New Zealand’s Minister for Trade and Investment, Todd McClay, noted that approximately 6 percent of New Zealand’s population traces its roots back to India. The Indian diaspora is making significant contributions across various fields. This agreement has been concluded amidst a period

of shifting global and regional dynamics, where reliable partnerships have become even more critical. New Zealand views India as a key partner in fostering regional stability, economic resilience, and shared prosperity.

### INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA FINALIZED IN NINE MONTHS

Official negotiations regarding the FTA commenced on March 16, 2025, on the eve of the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

## Key Highlights of the Agreement



### US \$20 Billion

investment pledge by New Zealand in India to boost agriculture, the manufacturing sector, infrastructure development, start-ups, innovation, and emerging technologies.

- New Zealand has offered its most comprehensive market access and services package to date. This will unlock high-value opportunities for skilled professionals, start-ups, and service-based enterprises. It has granted market access in 118 service sectors, while extending Most Favored Nation (MFN) commitments across 139 sub-sectors.
- 100 percent of India's exports to New Zealand will receive duty-free access. This encompasses all tariff lines. Labor-intensive sectors—such as textiles, leather, footwear, engineering goods, and processed foods—will be significantly empowered.
- Consistent with the treatment accorded to New Zealand's other trading partners, Indian products will enjoy zero-duty market access from the very moment of entry; this ensures they remain fully competitive within the New Zealand market and are accorded a level playing field.
- This agreement represents a "New Generation Trade Agreement" designed to support a "Developed India" by 2047. Through provisions regarding tariffs, talent mobility, investment, and agricultural productivity, it empowers the youth, farmers, women, artisans, and Small & Medium Enterprises.
- India has offered tariff liberalization on 70.03 percent of its tariff lines—covering 95 percent of the bilateral trade value—while simultaneously excluding 29.97 percent of tariff lines to safeguard India's sensitive sectors.

- **Products Excluded for Protection:** To safeguard farmers, the rural economy, and domestic industries, certain products have been excluded. These include dairy products, animal products (excluding sheep meat), agricultural produce (such as onions, chickpeas, peas, maize, almonds, etc.), sugar, artificial honey, and animal/vegetable oils. The list comprises arms and ammunition, gems and jewelry, copper and copper-based articles, and aluminum and aluminum-based commodities, among others.



Specific tariff lines will be eliminated immediately; these include timber, wool, mutton, leather, and raw hides, etc.

- Meanwhile, tariffs on 35.6% of goods are to be phased out over a period of 3, 5, 7, and 10 years; this includes petroleum oils, malt extracts, vegetable oils, and select electrical and mechanical machinery, peptones, etc.
- **Post-Study Work Visas in New Zealand:** Student mobility will be promoted through professional channels. There is no numerical cap. Students holding Bachelor's and Master's degrees in STEM fields will be granted post-study work rights for up to 3 years, while doctoral researchers will receive such rights for up to 4 years.

### A special quota of 5,000 'Temporary Employment Entry Visas' for Indian professionals.

- Agricultural productivity partnerships and 'Centers of Excellence' for apples, kiwifruit, and Manuka honey to boost productivity, enhance farmers' incomes, and facilitate knowledge exchange.
- Protection for domestic producers will be ensured through agricultural productivity cooperation, as well as through controlled market access mechanisms involving quotas and Minimum Import Prices.

### Recognition of Inspections

To strengthen India's position as a reliable supplier of affordable medicines, provisions include zero tariffs and fast-track approvals for pharmaceuticals and medical devices, alongside the recognition of inspections conducted by regulatory bodies in the US, EU, UK, and Canada.



Following five formal rounds of negotiations and several interim meetings, both sides agreed on December 22, 2025. Union Minister Piyush Goyal stated that the India-New Zealand FTA was finalized in just nine months. This ranks as one of the fastest-concluded FTA India has ever signed with a developed nation. It marks a significant step in India's growing

engagement with developed economies, aligning with the vision of Developed India 2047. Over the past three and a half years, India has concluded its seventh FTA. In total, India has finalized nine FTAs, which will encompass 38 developed economies. Collectively, these agreements will cover approximately 65 to 70 percent of the global GDP. ●



# India

## A Key Pillar of the Global Economy

*India and Korea share cultural ties that go back thousands of years. With the aim of giving a new direction to the bilateral relations between the two nations, Korean President Lee Jae-Myung visited India from April 19 to 21. During this visit, agreements were reached between the two countries on several key issues, including shipbuilding, maritime logistics, and the environment, and a decision was taken to move forward together.*

This visit of the president of Korea to India after a gap of eight years, which was also President Lee Jae-myung's maiden visit to the country. During the visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that democratic values, a market economy, and respect for the rule of law are embedded in the DNA of both nations. Both countries also share common interests in the Indo-Pacific region. Building upon these foundations, the relationship between the two nations has become more dynamic and comprehensive over the past decade. Through this visit by the Korean president, this trusted partnership is now set to evolve into a futuristic partnership. From chips to ships, from talent to technology, and from the environment to energy, new opportunities for cooperation will be realised across every sector.

Korean President Lee Jae-myung remarked that India, as the world's fourth-largest economy and home to 1.4 billion people, stands as a key pillar of the global economy. The bilateral trade between India and Korea

## Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)

- Cooperation in the ports sector.
- Establishment of an Industrial Cooperation Committee.
- Cooperation in the fields of technology and trade for the steel supply chain.
- Cooperation in the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector.
- Cooperation in the field of maritime heritage.
- Agreement between NPCI International Payments Limited and the Korea Financial Telecommunications and Clearing Institute (KFTC).
- Cooperation in the fields of science and technology.
- Framework for the India-Korea Digital Partnership.
- Cooperation in the fields of climate and environment.
- Cultural exchange between India and South Korea for the period 2026–2030.
- Cooperation in cultural and creative industries.
- Cooperation in the sports sector.

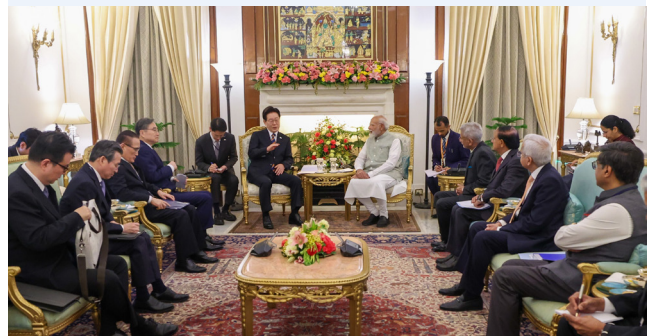


## Announcements...

- Launch of an economic security dialogue.
- Establishment of a Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP).
- Launch of a dialogue between the two foreign ministries on global themes, including climate change, the Arctic, and maritime cooperation.
- South Korea's participation in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- South Korea's participation in the International Solar Alliance, and India's membership in the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).
- Observance of the year 2028–29 as the India-South Korea Friendship Year.

## Key Highlights...

- An Industrial Cooperation Committee has been constituted to facilitate trade cooperation.
- Korean industrial townships will be established to facilitate the entry of Korean companies, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) into India.
- The trade agreement between the two countries will be upgraded within the next year.
- An India-Korea Friendship Festival will be organised in India in 2028.
- Education, research collaboration, and tourism will be promoted to strengthen people-to-people ties.

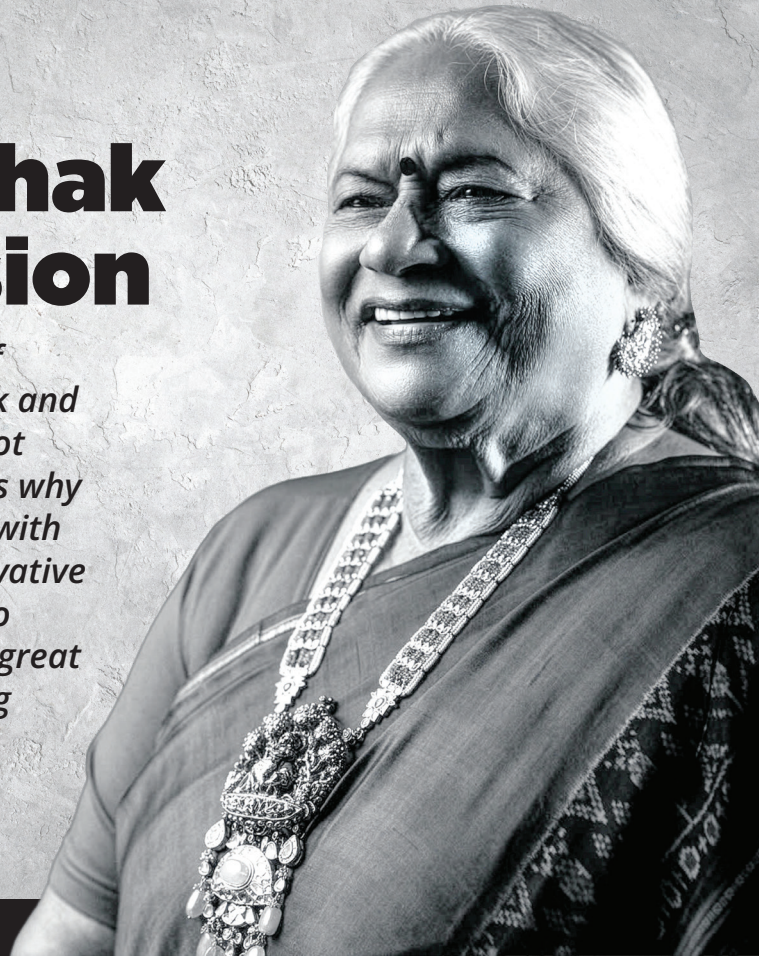


has currently reached \$27 billion, and a target has been set to expand this figure to over \$50 billion by the year 2030. Additionally, the India-Korea Financial Forum has been launched to facilitate economic relations between the two nations. ●

# Who Gave Kathak A New Dimension

*Going beyond the traditional boundaries of Kathak, Kumudini Lakhia gave it a new look and direction and dedicated her life to it. She not only learnt Kathak but also taught it. This is why her name is now regarded as synonymous with Kathak. Through her imagination and innovative presentations, she gave a new dimension to Kathak dance and is considered one of the great exponents of Indian classical dance, leaving behind a rich and lasting legacy...*

Born: May 17, 1930 | Died: April 12, 2025



India's renowned danseuse and the visionary who gave a new direction and dimension to Kathak, Kumudini Lakhia, was born on May 17, 1930, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. From her very childhood, she possessed a natural inclination toward the arts. Consequently, she began her training in Kathak at the age of seven and set forth on a path to become a leading artist in the field. She is credited with transforming Kathak in the 1960s, moving it beyond the confines of the solo dance category to evolve it into a group dance form as well. Furthermore, she revitalised Kathak by introducing innovations such as incorporating contemporary narratives into its performances.

Kumudini Lakhia, who endowed Kathak with a new form, philosophy, and aesthetic on the stage, founded the Kadamb School of Dance and Music in Ahmedabad in 1964, an institution dedicated to Indian dance and music. This institution devoted its entire focus and vision to the development of Kathak's technique, vocabulary, and presentation. Through this institution, she trained and mentored countless students. She gave a fresh perspective to Kathak performances through innovative contempo-

rary interpretations. For this reason, she is credited with pioneering innovative experiments within the realm of Kathak. Moreover, she also choreographed the Hindi film 'Umrao Jaan'.

In 1987, she was honoured with the Padma Shri by the Government of India, followed by the Padma Bhushan in 2010. In 2025, President Droupadi Murmu posthumously conferred upon her the Padma Vibhushan for her contributions to the field of arts. Her grandson accepted the award on her behalf. Over the course of a long and successful dance career spanning approximately seventy-five years, she gave performances in more than fifty countries.

She passed away on the morning of April 12, 2025, at the age of 94. She breathed her last at her home in Ahmedabad. Expressing his condolences on her passing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated, "Deeply saddened by the passing of Kumudini Lakhia ji, who made a mark as an outstanding cultural icon. Her passion towards Kathak and Indian classical dances was reflected in her remarkable work over the years. A true pioneer, she also nurtured generations of dancers. Her contributions will continue to be cherished. ●"



PMO India @PMOIndia

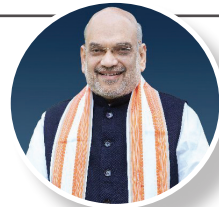
भारत को विकसित बनाने का मिशन अनवरत चल रहा है।

और जब मैं विकसित भारत की बात करता हूँ... तो उसका सबसे मजबूत स्तंभ भारत की नारीशक्ति है: PM @narendramodi



Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh

हमें AI का सिर्फ उपयोग ही नहीं, बल्कि उसे सही दिशा भी देनी है। सामूहिक प्रयासों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग से ही इसकी शक्ति का सार्थक उपयोग संभव है। भारत इस दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है। भारतीय अब केवल नए मॉडल ही नहीं बना रहे, बल्कि वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी और कई मामलों में बेहतर मॉडल विकसित कर रहे हैं।



Amit Shah @AmitShah

मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना-III को ₹83,977 करोड़ की लागत से जारी रखने की स्वीकृति दी है। इसमें ग्रामीण कृषि बाजारों (GrAMs), स्कूलों और अस्पतालों को कनेक्टिविटी से जोड़ने को प्राथमिकता दी गई है। इससे ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूती मिलेगी, रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ेंगे और यातायात भी अधिक सुगम होगा। #CabinetDecisions



Nitin Gadkari @nitin\_gadkari

आयुष्मान भारत संकल्पना स्वस्थ और सेहतमंद भारत की नींव है। प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी के नेतृत्व में देश में कार्यान्वित प्रधानमंत्री जन स्वास्थ्य योजना आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर लोगों के लिए वरदान साबित हो रही है। #AyushmanBharatDiwas #आयुष्मान\_भारत\_दिवस



Dharmendra Pradhan @dpradhanbjp

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @NarendraModi जी के मार्गदर्शन में देश आज अपनी विरासत को नए आत्मविश्वास के साथ पुनर्स्थापित कर रहा है और कारीगरों की प्रतिभा को वैश्विक पहचान दिलाने का संकल्प निरंतर सशक्त हो रहा है।

इस प्रेरक पहल के लिए आयोजकों को बहुत-बहुत बधाई, जो हमारे बुनकरों और कारीगरों को एक सशक्त मंच प्रदान करते हुए सराहनीय कार्य कर रहे हैं। ऐसे प्रयास 'विकसित भारत 2047' को नई ऊर्जा देते हैं।



Dr Mansukh Mandaviya @mansukhmandviya

'अत्योदय' के मंत्र और मोदी सरकार के संकल्प से, आज कश्मीर के श्रमिकों को मिला उनका पहला ESIC अस्पताल।

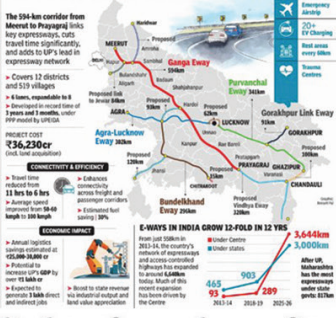
• ओमपोरा, बडगाम

ON THE DAY VOTING ENDED IN BENGAL, MODI SHOWCASED GANGA EXPRESSWAY AS UP'S DOUBLE-ENGINE GOVT

Modi: New way will be lifeline of UP's development

Lucknow: Talking about the greater reconstruction of the Ganga river after monsoon, PM said, "Wasteland. This is the state and part of work of the double-engine govt." ... Modi said that the Ganga Expressway will be a lifeline for the development of the state and part of work of the double-engine govt. ...

UP'S LONGEST EXPRESSWAY TO BOOST SPEED AND CONNECTIVITY



Modi urges citizens to actively participate in Census exercise

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to actively participate in the Census 2027, calling it a "shared responsibility of all", and appealed to people to make the ongoing exercise a success.

Addressing the nation during his 133rd monthly radio programme, "Mann Ki Baat", the Prime Minister said citizens will have the option to self-enumerate using an app before enumerators visit households. He added that over 10 million households have already been covered in initial listing exercises.

Census 2027: PM assures citizens of data security, urges keen participation

Our Bureau New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured citizens that the information provided by the citizens for the ongoing Census will remain completely secure and confidential, protected by robust digital security.

In his monthly radio address Mann Ki Baat on Sunday, the PM urged citizens to participate in the process and make the Census 2027 a success. The PM said Census is a very important campaign currently underway in the country and every Indian must be aware of it.



PM Narendra Modi

The PM said Census is a very important campaign currently underway in the country and every Indian must be aware of it.

Modi highlights farm benefits as India, NZ sign free trade deal

Rajeev Jayaswal letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India and New Zealand on Monday signed a free trade agreement that Prime Minister Narendra Modi said would raise farmers' incomes, strengthen rural economies and attract billions of dollars in investment, as both countries outlined plans for agricultural partnerships, manufacturing linkages and joint exports to global markets.



Commerce minister Piyush Goyal with his New Zealand counterpart Todd McClay in Delhi on Monday.

Working on details of special visa for Indian skilled workers

NEW DELHI: New Zealand is putting in place details of an agreement to create a special three-year visa for skilled professionals from India, targeting areas such as healthcare, ICT, engineering

and construction as part of the free trade deal, the country's trade and industry minister, Todd McClay, told HT in an interview. The temporary agreement will be available to 5,000 Indian professionals.

Parliament in December last year gave the bill the green light. It helps our economy grow, India's nuclear energy laws. It places older laws from 1962

On a boat ride, Modi says Ganga flows 'through the soul of Bengal'

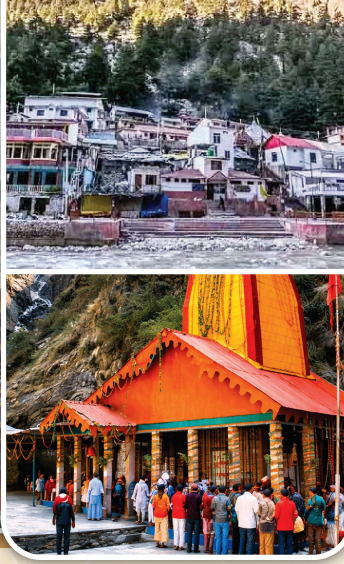
Dwaipayan Ghosh | IN

Kolkata: Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a short break from his hectic Bengal poll campaign schedule on Friday to enjoy an early morning boat ride on the Ganga, which he said, "flows right through the soul of Bengal".



PM Narendra Modi tries his hand at photography during a boat ride on the Hooghly river in Kolkata on Friday

purpose. It was only when we saw PM Modi descending the ghats that we realised the day was going to be special. It still feels unreal." The other boatmen said they were briefed by the PM's security personnel.



# Five resolutions for the Chardham Yatra

अग्निष्टोमादिभिर्यज्ञैरिष्ट्वा विपुलदक्षिणैः।  
न तत्फलमवाप्नोति तीर्थाभिगमनेन यत् ॥

*It means...we get immense virtues from big yajnas and donations, etc.  
However, we get more virtue from pilgrimages.*

*The Char Dham Yatra has commenced on the sacred land of Devbhoomi, Uttarakhand. This holy pilgrimage to the four shrines—including the darshan of Baba Kedar—stands as a celebration of India's eternal cultural consciousness. In view of this pilgrimage, Prime Minister Narendra Modi penned an inspiring letter to the citizens of the nation, urging them to "observe a digital fast" and "endeavor to truly experience the natural beauty." He called upon them to adopt the following five resolutions:*

- 1 Cleanliness Foremost:** Maintain cleanliness at pilgrimage sites and in surrounding areas. Contribute towards keeping the rivers clean.
- 2 Sensitivity Towards Nature and the Environment:** Remain sensitive to the divine Himalayas. Contribute to environmental conservation while upholding the balance of nature.
- 3 Service, Cooperation, and Harmony:** Pilgrims should make it a point to perform at least one act of service to others—in some form or another—every single day.
- 4 Promoting 'Vocal for Local':** Dedicate five percent of your total expenditure during the journey to purchasing local products.
- 5 Adherence to Discipline, Safety, and Restraint:** Strictly follow the pilgrimage regulations and traffic guidelines to ensure a safe and smooth journey.

**NEW INDIA  
SAMACHAR**  
FORTNIGHTLY

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