

Failing to prepare is
preparing to fail.

John Wooden

Important Issues of the Day

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – Page No.1 , GS 3**
- **Justice Varma – Page No. 1, GS 2**
- **Earth observation satellite – Page No. 5, GS 3**
- **India's AMR battle – Page No.6 , GS 2**
- **Household Consumption Expenditure – Page No. 7, GS 3**
- **Census – Page No. 12, GS 1,2**
- **Stray Dogs – Page No. 12, GS 2**
- **Greenland – Places in News**

Govt. pegs FY26 growth at 7.4% amid tariff concerns

Higher estimate comes amid uncertainties and 50% U.S. tariffs hitting labour-intensive sectors hard; with Q1 and Q2 growing at 7.8% and 8.2%, second half will see average growth slow to 6.8%

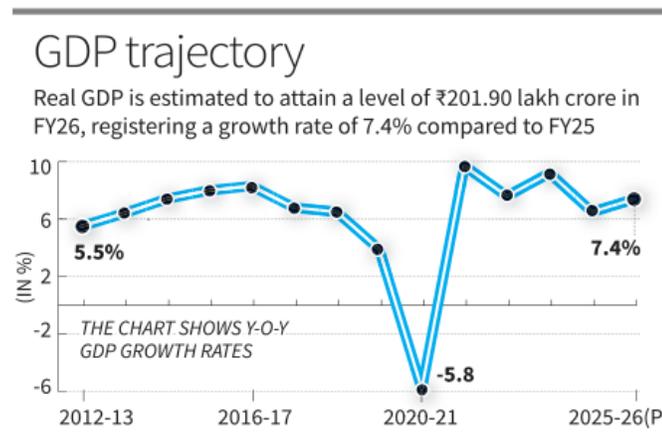
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Union government has estimated that real growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country will stand at 7.4% in the current financial year 2025-26, up from 6.5% recorded the previous year.

In the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of GDP for 2025-26, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Wednesday, the government said that nominal growth for the year would be 8%.

The FAE for any year is important as it forms the basis for various calculations and ratios used in preparing the Union Budget.

The First Advance Esti-



mates, and the Second Advance Estimates, which will be released on February 27, are forecasts of the full year's growth based on data available up to that point. The Provisional Estimates for 2025-26, based on the full-year's data, will be released on May 30.

Based on the Centre's assessment that the full

year's growth would be 7.4%, and the fact that Q1 and Q2 saw 7.8% and 8.2% growth respectively, the second half of the year would see average growth slow to 6.8%.

Braving headwinds

In December, the Reserve Bank of India had said that GDP growth in 2025-26

would be 7.3%, with Q3 growing at 7% and Q4 at 6.5%.

These projections come at a time when India's economy is facing several headwinds. The 50% tariff levied by the U.S. on imports from India has hit several labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, textiles, and engineering goods. The government has tried to boost consumer demand through both direct tax and indirect tax rate cuts, but the data show it nevertheless expects Private Final Consumption Expenditure, a metric that captures consumer spending, to grow at 7% in 2025-26, marginally slower than the 7.2% recorded last year.

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- **GDP measures the value of a country's final goods and services (those purchased by the final user) generated in a specific time period (say, a quarter or a year). It includes all of the output produced within a country's borders.**
- **$\text{GDP} = \text{Private consumption} + \text{gross investment} + \text{government investment} + \text{government spending} + (\text{exports} - \text{imports})$**
- **Private Consumption Expenditure refers to the value of all goods and services purchased for consumption by households.**
- **Government Consumption Expenditure refers to the value of all goods and services purchased for consumption by the government.**
- **Gross Investment refers to the total value of all capital investments made in the economy.**

Consider the following statements:

- 1. Tax revenue as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.**
- 2. Fiscal deficit as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

When the Reserve Bank of India reduces the Statutory Liquidity Ratio by 50 basis points which of the following is likely to happen?

- (a) India's GDP growth rate increases drastically**
- (b) Foreign Institutional Investors may bring more capital into our country**
- (c) Scheduled Commercial Banks may cut their lending rates**
- (d) It may drastically reduce the liquidity to the banking system**

Mains Question

Analyse the role of public capital expenditure in driving India's economic growth in recent years. How far can this strategy crowd in private investment?

(150 words / 10 marks)

“हाल के वर्षों में भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि को गति देने में सार्वजनिक पूंजीगत व्यय की भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए। यह रणनीति निजी निवेश को किस सीमा तक आकर्षित (क्राउड-इन) कर सकती है?

(150 शब्द / 10 अंक)

SC in 'disagreement' with Justice Varma's claims on LS Speaker

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Wednesday that it *prima facie* disagreed with Justice Yashwant Varma's claim that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had overstepped the statutory rigour of the Judges (Inquiry) Act by "unilaterally" constituting a committee to examine allegations about the sacks of half-burnt currency found on the premises of the judge's official residence in Delhi in March 2025.

The Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and S.C. Sharma orally expressed its *prima facie* disagreement with the contention raised by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Justice Varma, that the Deputy Chairman had no authority to "step into the shoes" of the Rajya Sabha Chairman and reject the



Justice Yashwant Varma

notice of motion submitted in the Upper House.

Justice Varma is currently a sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court. After a notice of motion was submitted by over 140 Lok Sabha MPs for the removal of Justice Varma in July 2025, Mr. Birla had constituted a three-member inquiry committee under the Act on August 12, 2025.

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- **Justice Varma is currently a sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court.**
- **After a notice of motion was submitted by over 140 Lok Sabha MPs for the removal of Justice Varma in July 2025, Mr. Birla had constituted a three-member inquiry committee under the Act on August 12, 2025.**

- **Judicial Impeachment:** The word "impeachment" isn't directly used in the Constitution of India for judges, it's the common term for the formal process to remove a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court for proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- The process is meant to protect judicial integrity without allowing political interference.
- **Constitutional and Legal Provisions:** Articles 124(4) of the Constitution of India, along with the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, provide the framework for removing judges of the Supreme Court. Article 218 extends these provisions to High Court judges.
- Judges can only be removed for Proved misbehaviour (serious ethical or professional misconduct) and incapacity (Inability to discharge duties due to physical or mental reasons).

- It must have the support of at least 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha or 50 MPs in the Rajya Sabha.
- The motion can proceed only if accepted by the Speaker or the Chairman.
- **Inquiry Committee:** A three-member committee is set up under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. It includes a Supreme Court judge (or the Chief Justice of India), the Chief Justice of a High Court, and an eminent jurist.
- The committee acts like a fact-finding body and holds a quasi-judicial inquiry into the charges.
- **Committee Report and Parliamentary Debate:** The committee submits its findings to the House that initiated the motion. If the judge is found guilty, the matter is debated in both Houses.
- Removal of a judge requires a special majority in both Houses of Parliament during the same session. This means the motion must be passed by an absolute majority (more than 50% of the total membership) and also by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- **Presidential Approval:** The Constitution provides that based on a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament, a judge can be removed only by an order of the President.

Consider the following statements:

- 1. The motion to impeach a Judge of the Supreme Court of India cannot be rejected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha as per the Judges (Inquiry) Act 1968.**
- 2. The Constitution of India defines and gives details or what constitutes 'incapacity and proved misbehaviour' of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India.**
- 3. The details of the process of impeachment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India are given in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.**
- 4. If the motion for the impeachment of a Judge is taken up for voting, the law requires the motion to be backed by each House of the Parliament and supported by a majority of total membership of that House and by not less than two-thirds of total members of that House present and voting.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2**
- (b) 3 only**
- (c) 3 and 4 only**
- (d) 1, 3 and 4**

Mains Question

Evaluate the role of the collegium system in preserving judicial independence in India.

(150 words / 10 marks)

“भारत में न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता को बनाए रखने में कॉलेजियम प्रणाली की भूमिका का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(150 शब्द / 10 अंक)

ISRO set to launch earth observation satellite on Jan. 12

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission on January 12.

The launch of the earth observation satellite (EOS-N1) satellite along with other payloads will take place from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Strategic use

EOS-N1 is an earth imaging satellite said to be built for strategic purposes. ISRO has not shared further details about the satellite. "The launch of PSLV-C62 Mission is scheduled on 12 January 2026 at 10:17 hrs IST," ISRO posted on X.

The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission is the first launch for ISRO in 2026 and comes within a few days of successfully launching the

U.S.'s BlueBird Block-2 satellite communication satellite in low earth orbit on December 24 onboard the LVM-3 launch vehicle.

Post glitch

The launch of the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission will be the 105th launch from Sriharikota.

It is also an important launch for the space agency as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV), which is ISRO's workhorse, had suffered a glitch during its previous attempt to launch a satellite.

On May 18, 2025, while ISRO attempted to launch the EOS-09 satellite aboard the PSLV-C61 it could not accomplish the mission due to an observation in the third stage of the rocket.

PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission will also launch payloads developed by start-up and academia from India and abroad.



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The terms 'WannaCry, Petya and Eternal Blue' sometimes mentioned in the news recently are related to

- (a) Exoplanets**
- (b) Cryptocurrency**
- (c) Cyber attacks**
- (d) Mini satellites**

Fine-tune this signal to sharpen India's AMR battle

Page No. 6, GS 2

Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on antimicrobial resistance, in his last 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast for the year 2025 be the anagnorisis that we have been waiting for to galvanise action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in India? Doctors feel that it might well be the one fell swoop to stop in its tracks what could easily be the biggest emerging health crisis of India.

In his address (129th edition) on December 28, Mr. Modi mentioned antimicrobial resistance as a "matter of concern for us." Quoting from the Indian Council for Medical Research's (ICMR) dataset, he mentioned that antibiotics are proving to be less effective against pneumonia and urinary tract infections. He went on to hit at the heart of the AMR crisis in India – "thoughtless and indiscriminate use of antibiotics by people". These were not medicines to be taken casually or without the advice of doctors, the Prime Minister stressed. "People have started believing that popping a pill will solve everything. But it is because of this that diseases and infections are overpowering antibiotics." Appreciably, he ended with a piece of advice that his listeners and followers will do well to religiously practise: "Avoid taking medicines by yourself, particularly antibiotics."

Mainstreaming the subject

It is, by now, common knowledge that while there are many prongs that contribute to the galloping AMR in the country, the biggest contributor is the irrational use of antibiotics. Commonly known as the 'misuse and overuse' problem, AMR however, has remained in the preserve of the infectious diseases experts and the corridors of hospitals, and in policy circles. Until now. That is where Mr. Modi's remarks will make a difference, coaxing AMR out of the rarefied domain into the mainstream, where there is awareness of the public risk it poses, along with the links to everyday behaviour.

By invoking national data and appealing directly to citizens to avoid over-the-counter



Ramya Kannan

The 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast of December 2025 will increase awareness, but expanding the surveillance network for AMR is crucial

antibiotics, the speech translates lab-based warnings into a public call to action, from the pulpit by the head of the government. This is why it is reasonable to expect it to have an impact on the population in a manner that no other intervention in the past in the sector – the first National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance or the ban on colistin use as a growth factor, for instance – has managed. Striking at the broadest base is where the success of this appeal lies, and public awareness will be absolutely key in deciding whether the AMR numbers see an upper trajectory or whether they go down south in the future.

But, merely at hitting the base will no longer be sufficient, at this stage of the AMR pathway in India. It has grown like a hydra-headed beast and it is a One Health approach that can behead the monster effectively. The need for a One Health approach has become current by force of circumstances where cognition of the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health now actively shapes solutions.

Most non-urban centres left out

At this juncture, enhancing the number of surveillance sites is a critical aspect to marking and following the trail of AMR in India, experts point out. They contend, that currently, while the network is steadily expanding, there is still no exhaustive dataset for India as a whole, representative of the wide variance in the country.

Surveillance sites are located largely in urban centres and tertiary care centres, and may drive up the average as the bulk of the non-urban centres are not even accounted for. The urgent need now is to expand the surveillance network in a manner that will provide a reasonably accurate position of community prevalence of AMR in India.

India's National AMR surveillance network (NARS-Net), which provides data to the World Health Organization's Global Antimicrobial

Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), currently stands at 60 sentinel medical college laboratories.

However, for the recent GLASS report (reporting period January to December 2023), information was gathered from 41 sites in 31 States/Union Territories. NARS-Net was established in 2013 to determine the magnitude and trends of AMR in different geographical regions of the country, and laboratories under this network include government medical colleges. These labs are required to submit AMR surveillance data on nine priority bacterial pathogens of 'public health importance' and some fungal pathogens as well.

'Include private hospitals'

Recently, in a letter to the Director of the National Centre for Disease Control, Professor, (Dr.) Ranjan Das, the nodal agency for AMR surveillance in the country, Dr. Abdul Ghafur, of the Chennai Declaration on AMR and an infectious diseases specialist, said, "... the only credible approach is to present true national data – data not limited to tertiary care hospitals, but inclusive of secondary and primary care centres across the country. If such data are included, the national resistance picture will naturally be more balanced and representative." He also makes the case for including private hospitals in the network too.

The 2015 WHO Global Plan on AMR recommended a blueprint addressing five objectives: raising awareness, strengthening surveillance and research, reducing infections, optimising antimicrobial use, and ensuring sustainable investment in new medicines, diagnostics and vaccines. Mr. Modi's speech will increase awareness, something that is essential, but expanding the surveillance network for AMR is a critical function that will require investments, strategies, monitoring and enforcement and as much political will.

- **Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on antimicrobial resistance, in his last 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast for the year 2025 be the anagnorisis that we have been waiting for to galvanise action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in India?**
- **It is, by now, common knowledge that while there are many prongs that contribute to the galloping AMR in the country, the biggest contributor is the irrational use of antibiotics.**
- **Commonly known as the 'misuse and overuse' problem, AMR however, has remained in the preserve of the infectious diseases experts and the corridors of hospitals, and in policy circles.**
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How every ₹100 is spent by Indian households

Indians are shifting from subsistence needs to aspirational and service-oriented spending

DATA POINT

K. Chandrasekar

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) captures spending pattern of Indian households across various consumption categories. Conducted every five years, the HCES provides granular estimates of Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) for both rural and urban populations, covering a wide range of goods and services.

The survey rounds for 2022-23 and 2023-24 represent the first comprehensive update to MPCE data in over a decade, offering valuable insights into India's shifting consumption landscape. These findings are central to revising poverty estimates, informing social sector policy, and understanding the lived realities of India's expanding middle-income population.

This article examines long-term MPCE trends from 1999-2000 to 2023-24, with a focus on six key expenditure categories. In this analysis, MPCE is expressed as the proportional expenditure on an item for every ₹100 of total spending.

Decline in MPCE share on food and beverages for both urban (from ₹48 to ₹39 per ₹100) and rural areas (from ₹59 to ₹47 per ₹100) confirms Engel's Law, which states that as real income rises, the proportion of income spent on food declines, even if absolute expenditure increases. (Chart 1)

Further, a fall in expenditure on cereals, alongside higher spending on fruits, eggs, fish, and processed foods, signals a shift from staple-heavy diets to more varied, protein-rich diets – albeit unequally.

Despite marginal increases, particularly in rural areas, spending on pan, tobacco, and other intoxicants remains a low share of MPCE, accounting for under ₹3.8 per ₹100 of spending. From a public

health perspective, the trend calls for targeted awareness programs in rural belts. (Chart 2)

The reduction in per capita spending reflects policy successes, such as Saubhagya (rural electrification) and PM Ujjwala Yojana (LPG access). Lower urban spending may also reflect the use of energy-efficient appliances and access to reliable power supply. Modern fuels, in place of biomass or kerosene, improve quality of life and are an example of expenditure substitution. (Chart 3)

The decline in spending on clothing, bedding and footwear is moderate and consistent with the transition from need-based consumption to periodic discretionary spending. Rising competition, fast fashion, and lower textile prices may also have contributed. Rural India's slightly higher or similar spending may indicate seasonal dependence and growing aspirations. (Chart 4)

The urban housing rent share rose significantly (₹4.46 to ₹6.58 per ₹100), aligning with urbanisation, rental stress, and migration to metropolitan hubs. Rural rent remains minimal due to widespread self-owned housing, informal tenure, or rent-free arrangements. (Chart 5)

The miscellaneous category includes aspirational expenses such as health, education, conveyance, consumer services, and other similar costs. Its rising share, particularly in rural MPCE (from ₹21.87 to ₹35.82 per ₹100), reflects a broadening of the consumption basket. This trend aligns with inclusive growth, deeper digital penetration, and echoes improved reach and quality of both public and market-based services. (Chart 6)

Taken together, these trends reflect that society is undergoing an economic transition, with consumption patterns gradually shifting away from subsistence needs toward more aspirational and service-oriented spending.

The views expressed are personal.

Changing consumption basket

The data for the charts were sourced from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) for the period 1999-2000 to 2023-24.

The writer is a Deputy Director with the Ministry.



Chart 1: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Food & Beverages (₹ per ₹100)

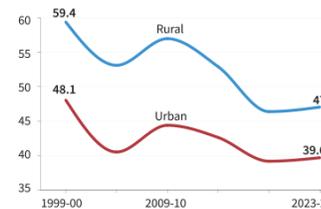


Chart 2: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Pan, Tobacco & Intoxicants (₹ per ₹100)

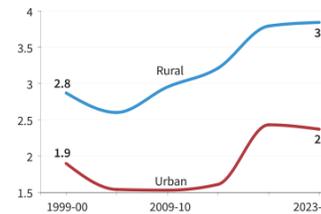


Chart 3: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Fuel & Light (₹ per ₹100)

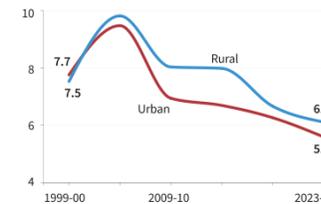


Chart 4: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Clothing, Bedding & Footwear (₹ per ₹100)

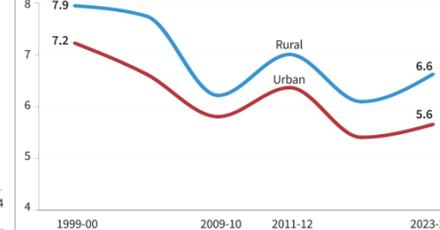


Chart 5: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Housing (Rent) (₹ per ₹100)

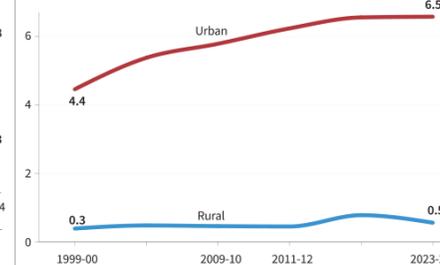
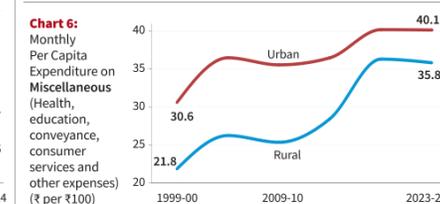


Chart 6: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Miscellaneous (Health, education, conveyance, consumer services and other expenses) (₹ per ₹100)



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- **Conducted every five years, the HCES provides granular estimates of Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) for both rural and urban populations, covering a wide range of goods and services.**
- **The survey rounds for 2022-23 and 2023-24 represent the first comprehensive update to MPCE data in over a decade, offering valuable insights into India's shifting consumption landscape.**
- **These findings are central to revising poverty estimates, informing social sector policy, and understanding the lived realities of India's expanding middle-income population.**

- **Decline in MPCE share on food and beverages for both urban (from ₹48 to ₹39 per ₹100) and rural areas (from ₹59 to ₹47 per ₹100) confirms Engel's Law, which states that as real income rises, the proportion of income spent on food declines, even if absolute expenditure increases.**
- **Further, a fall in expenditure on cereals, alongside higher spending on fruits, eggs, fish, and processed foods, signals a shift from staple-heavy diets to more varied, protein-rich diets — albeit unequally.**
- **Despite marginal increases, particularly in rural areas, spending on pan, tobacco, and other intoxicants remains a low share of MPCE, accounting for under ₹3.8 per ₹100 of spending. From a public health perspective, the trend calls for targeted awareness programs in rural belts.**

- **The reduction in per capita fuel spending reflects policy successes, such as Saubhagya (rural electrification) and PM Ujjwala Yojana (LPG access).**
- **Lower urban spending may also reflect the use of energy-efficient appliances and access to reliable power supply. Modern fuels, in place of biomass or kerosene, improve quality of life and are an example of expenditure substitution.**
- **The decline in spending on clothing, bedding and footwear is moderate and consistent with the transition from need-based consumption to periodic discretionary spending. Rising competition, fast fashion, and lower textile prices may also have contributed.**
- **Rural India's slightly higher or similar spending may indicate seasonal dependence and growing aspirations.**

- **The urban housing rent share rose significantly (₹4.46 to ₹6.58 per ₹100), aligning with urbanisation, rental stress, and migration to metropolitan hubs.**
- **Rural rent remains minimal due to widespread self-owned housing, informal tenure, or rent-free arrangements.**
- **The miscellaneous category includes aspirational expenses such as health, education, conveyance, consumer services, and other similar costs.**
- **Its rising share, particularly in rural MPCE (from ₹21.87 to ₹35.82 per ₹100), reflects a broadening of the consumption basket. This trend aligns with inclusive growth, deeper digital penetration, and echoes improved reach and quality of both public and market-based services.**

Census first phase to be held from April 1 to Sept. 30 this year

The houselisting phase will be conducted in each State over a 30-day period; second phase of the count will be carried out in February 2027

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The first phase of Census 2027, the houselisting operations (HLO) phase, will be conducted from April 1 to September 30 across all States and Union Territories, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India said in a notification on Wednesday.

This phase will be conducted in each State over a 30-day period, with the specific dates to be notified by the States.

The self-enumeration option will be available 15 days before the start of the phase.

“The houselisting operations of the Census of India 2027 shall take place between 1st April, 2026 and 30th September, 2026 in all States and Union territories in India during the period of thirty days specified by each State and Union territory. There shall also be an option for self enumeration which shall be conducted in fifteen days’ time period just before the start of house to



The pre-test for the first phase of the Census was held from November 10 to 30 in select areas across the country. FILE PHOTO

house houselisting operations of thirty days,” Census Commissioner Mritunjay Kumar Narayan said in a Gazette notification.

This will be the first digital Census and the first to enumerate caste in Independent India.

Household queries

The second phase of the Census is the population enumeration phase in February 2027.

Caste identities will be enumerated during this phase.

The pre-test or the preparatory exercise for the first phase of the Census

was held from November 10 to 30 last year in select areas across the country. It had sought household responses to 35 questions, including the composition of the floor and roof of the house, main cereal consumed, source of drinking water and cooking fuel, and the number of married couples in the house.

About 30 lakh field functionaries – including enumerators, supervisors, master trainers, charge officers, and Principal/District Census Officers – will be deployed for data collection, and supervision of Census operations.



- **The first phase of Census 2027, the houselisting operations (HLO) phase, will be conducted from April 1 to September 30 across all States and Union Territories, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India said in a notification on Wednesday.**
- **This will be the first digital Census and the first to enumerate caste in Independent India.**
- **The second phase of the Census is the population enumeration phase in February 2027.**
- **Caste identities will be enumerated during this phase.**

- **Census of India is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990.**
- **The census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- **Article 246 of the IC designates the Census as a Union subject (entry 69, 7th schedule).**
- **1st census in India was conducted in 1872 non-synchronously in different parts of India. Since 1881, censuses have been conducted every 10 years.**

Census is carried out in 2 phases:

- **House listing: Focuses on characteristics of buildings & households like use of building, materials used, number of rooms, ownership status, sources of water & electricity, etc.**
- **Population enumeration: captures demographic and socio-economic details like name, age, sex, date of birth, marital status, education, occupation, etc. that form the heart of the Census database.**
- **The population enumeration follows the Housing Census with a gap of 6-8 months.**
- **For the 1st time in post-Independence India, caste data beyond SC/ST categories will be collected. The last complete caste enumeration was conducted in 1931.**

- **The decennial Census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- **Until 1951, the Census Organisation was set up on an ad-hoc basis for each Census.**
- **Legal/Constitutional Backing:**
- **Census is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948.**
- **The bill for this Act was piloted by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the then Home Minister of India.**
- **The population census is a Union subject under Article 246 of India Constitution.**
- **It is listed at serial number 69 of the seventh schedule of the constitution.**

Mains Question

Evaluate how population pressure affects poverty alleviation efforts in developing countries, with special reference to India.

(150 words / 10 marks)

विकासशील देशों में जनसंख्या दबाव गरीबी उन्मूलन के प्रयासों को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करता है? भारत के संदर्भ में इसका मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(150 शब्द / 10 अंक)

Top court says presence of strays in public institutions poses a ‘danger’

Aaratrika Bhaumik

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the presence of stray dogs on the premises of public institutions posed a “danger”, even as animal welfare groups contended that its November 7 order directing their removal ran contrary to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

A three-judge Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N.V. Anjaria said that a recent spike in dog-bite incidents highlighted the need to ensure that high-footfall public institutions were made “dog-free”. The Bench also flagged the failure of municipal authorities to effectively implement the ABC Rules and



The Bench said that a recent spike in dog-bite incidents prompted the need to make public institutions ‘dog-free’. FILE PHOTO

comply with its earlier directives.

“As far as institutions are concerned, they are not streets. Why do you need dogs on court premises, schools?... It is not only the dog bites but also the roaming of stray animals on roads that are proving dangerous and causing accidents. No one knows which dog is in

what mood in the morning,” the Bench said.

Justice Mehta further pointed out that two judges of the Rajasthan High Court had met with accidents in the past 20 days, and one of the judges was still suffering from spinal injuries. “It’s a serious issue,” he told lawyers appearing in the matter.

Senior advocate Kapil

Sibal, appearing for an animal welfare organisation, however, contended that isolated incidents could not justify the *en masse* capture and removal of stray dogs, particularly when such measures were not supported by scientific methodology accepted worldwide for reducing animal-human conflict.

“First of all, this is not an adversarial issue, and we are here as dog lovers. If one tiger is a man-eater, we don’t kill all tigers. We must make sure that sterilisation takes place, and the population must come down,” he said.

The observations were made during the top court’s ongoing *suo motu* proceedings aimed at framing a national framework for stray dog management and ensuring compliance with existing statutory regulations.



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- A three-judge Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N.V. Anjaria said that a recent spike in dog-bite incidents highlighted the need to ensure that high-footfall public institutions were made “dog-free”.
- The Bench also flagged the failure of municipal authorities to effectively implement the ABC Rules and comply with its earlier directives.
- “As far as institutions are concerned, they are not streets. Why do you need dogs on court premises, schools?.... It is not only the dog bites but also the roaming of stray animals on roads that are proving dangerous and causing accidents. No one knows which dog is in what mood in the morning,” the Bench said.

- **Justice Mehta further pointed out that two judges of the Rajasthan High Court had met with accidents in the past 20 days, and one of the judges was still suffering from spinal injuries. “It’s a serious issue,” he told lawyers appearing in the matter.**
- **Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for an animal welfare organisation, however, contended that isolated incidents could not justify the en masse capture and removal of stray dogs, particularly when such measures were not supported by scientific methodology accepted worldwide for reducing animal-human conflict.**
- **“First of all, this is not an adversarial issue, and we are here as dog lovers. If one tiger is a man-eater, we don’t kill all tigers. We must make sure that sterilisation takes place, and the population must come down,” he said.**
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Greenland





- **The White House said on Tuesday: "The president and his team are discussing a range of options to pursue this important foreign policy goal, and of course, utilizing the US military is always an option at the Commander-in-Chief's disposal."**
- **Nato is a trans-Atlantic military group where allies are expected to go to each other's aid in case of external attacks.**
- **On Tuesday, six European allies expressed support for Denmark.**
- **"Greenland belongs to its people, and only Denmark and Greenland can decide on matters concerning their relations," the leaders of the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and Denmark said in a joint statement.**

GREENLAND (DENMARK) LOCATION MAP

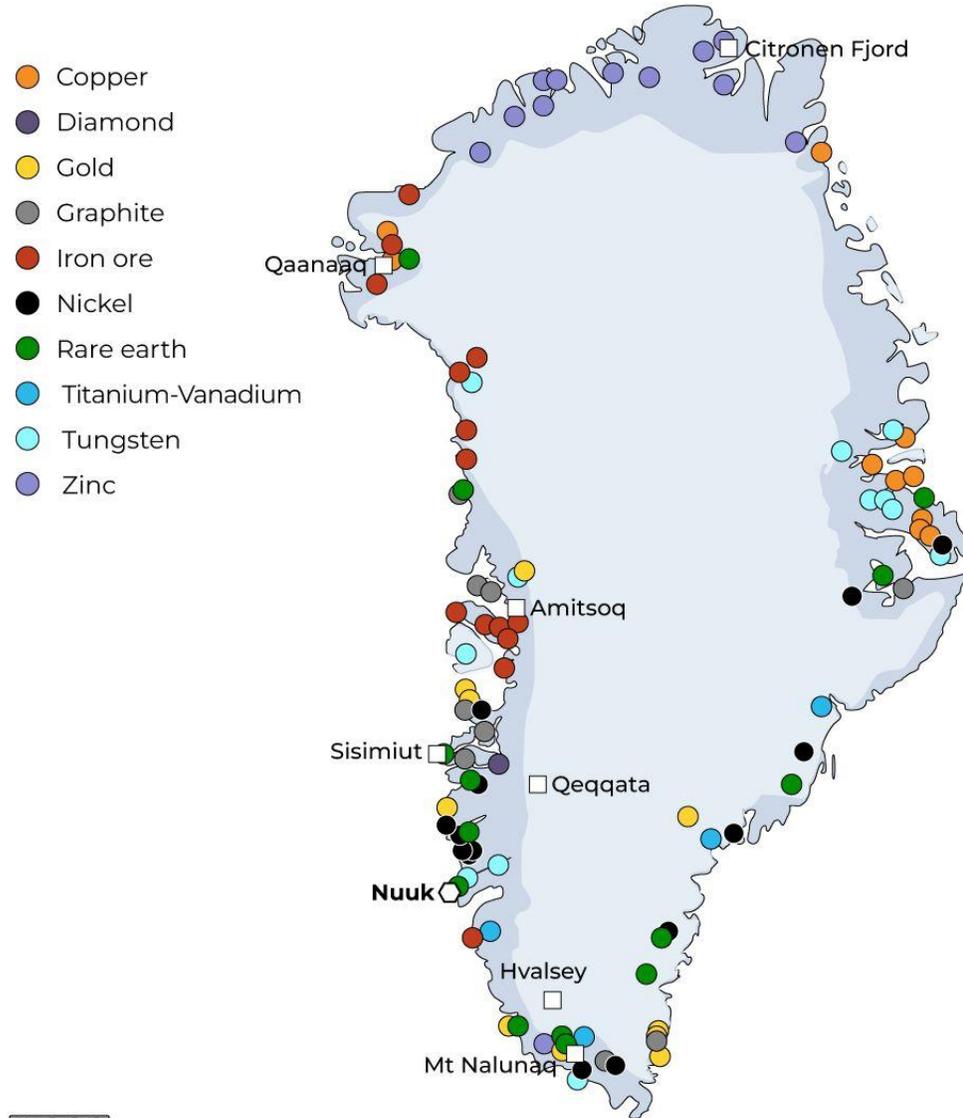


- **A number of European leaders have hit back at United States President Donald Trump's repeated calls for the US to take over Greenland, as reverberations from Washington's military attack on Venezuela and the abduction of its leader are felt across the globe.**
- **Seven European leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer, issued a joint statement on Tuesday saying the mineral-rich Arctic island "belongs to its people".**
- **"It is for Denmark and Greenland, and them only, to decide on matters concerning Denmark and Greenland," the statement added.**

GREENLAND

Greenland's mineral resources

A 2023 survey showed that 25 of 34 minerals deemed "critical raw materials" by the European Commission were found in Greenland.



- **Founded in 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty or Washington Treaty, with the aim of acting as a deterrent to the threat of Soviet expansion in Europe after World War II.**
- **Headquarters: Brussels (Belgium)**
- **Nature: NATO is a political and military alliance of 32 countries from Europe and North America.**
- **It is founded on the principle of collective defence (Article 5 of the Treaty), meaning that if one NATO Ally is attacked, then all NATO Allies are attacked.**
- **So far, Article 5 has been invoked once – in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.**

- **Founding members (12): Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.**
- **Finland joined NATO in 2023.**
- **Sweden has joined NATO as its 32nd member.**
- **Ukraine formally submitted application to join NATO, in 2022 and it received assurances at Vilnius Summit in 2023.**
- **EU members that are not a part of NATO are: Austria, Cyprus, Ireland and Malta.**

Thank You!

