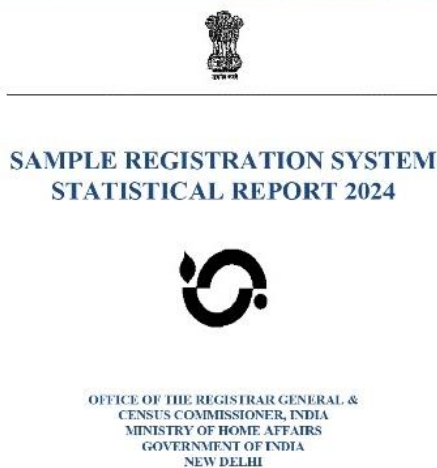




Date: 29/05/2026

Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2024

Context: The Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Home Affairs released the Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2024.



About The Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2024:

- The SRS is a large-scale, continuous, panel household demographic survey. It serves as **India's primary macro-source for reliable annual estimates of fertility, birth, and mortality** indicators at both sub-national and national levels.
- Published By: Office of the **Registrar General & Census Commissioner** of India, **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The 2024 report is **drawn from the Census 2011 sampling frame**, utilizing a massive representative sample covering approximately 8.9 million individuals across 8,839 sample units.

Key Findings of the 2024 Report:

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) Collapse:** India's national TFR has dropped to 1.9, firmly below the traditional societal replacement level of 2.1.
- Crude Birth Rate (CBR) Slide:** The national CBR exhibited a steady contraction, sliding down from 21.0 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024.
- Crude Death Rate (CDR) Stabilization:** The national death rate experienced a marginal drop, settling at 6.4 in 2024.
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) Improvement:** The IMR dropped to 24 deaths per 1,000 live births at the national level, down from 30 in 2019.
- Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) De-escalation:** The U5MR declined to 28 deaths per 1,000 live births, down from 29 in the preceding year.
- Shifting Age Demographics:** The share of young population aged 0–14 years fell to 24.0%, while the economically active working-age bracket (15–59 years) expanded significantly to 66.4%. Concurrently, the elderly bracket (60+ years) reached 9.7%.
- Delayed Effective Age at Marriage:** The mean age at effective marriage for Indian females rose to 23.1 years (22.6 in rural sectors versus 24.4 in urban blocks).
- Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) Recovery:** The national SRB registered a marginal tick upward, reaching 918 females per 1,000 males for the 2022–24 three-year average.

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

- **Widespread Institutional Delivery Access:** In 2024, 95.4% of live births were institutional, with mothers receiving care at government or private hospitals.

Source: From black to grey: on the Sample Registration System - Statistical Report, 2024 (The Hindu)

SARTHAK-PDS Scheme

Context: The Union Govt. has approved the SARTHAK-PDS Scheme to modernize the PDS via the use of AI, Machine Learning, Blockchain, and Natural Language Processing.



About SARTHAK-PDS Scheme:

- SARTHAK-PDS stands for “**Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS.**” It is an umbrella scheme to strengthen India’s Public Distribution System (PDS) under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.**
- It integrates two existing schemes:
 - Assistance for intra-State movement and FPS dealer margin under NFSA
 - SMART PDS (technology-driven reforms in PDS)

Objectives:

- **Tech-Driven PDS Reform:** Introduce latest technologies for monitoring and analytics and enable real-time tracking of foodgrain movement.

- **Reduce Leakages:** Help transparency, reduce diversion of food grains and strengthen supply-chain monitoring and beneficiary authentication.
- **Citizen-Centric Governance:** Develop interoperable and unified PDS governance to enhance grievance redressal and beneficiary feedback.
- **Strengthening Last-Mile Delivery:** Provide financial assistance for intra-State transportation, handling of food grains and improve FPS dealer margins for smoother functioning of ration shops.
- **Data-Driven Monitoring:** Establish State Command and Control Centres and enable predictive analytics and real-time decision-making.

India’s Public Distribution System (PDS)

- It is the mechanism through which **subsidized food grains** are distributed to eligible households via Fair Price Shops (FPS) established under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**
- It operates under the **NFSA, 2013** and ensures access to affordable food grains for vulnerable sections.
- The Act legally entitles up to **75% of the rural population**, and up to **50% of the urban population** to receive subsidized foodgrains through the Targeted PDS.
- Based on Census 2011, this covers around **81.35 crore beneficiaries.**
- The Union Govt., mainly through the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, is responsible for the procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of grains to States and UTs.
- State Govts. take care of operational activities such as Identification of beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards,

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

intra-state distribution and monitoring of Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

- Several States and UTs also distribute additional mass-consumption items through PDS outlets, including pulses, edible oils, iodized salt and spices.

Free Foodgrain Distribution under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):

- To reduce financial burden on poor households, the Govt. decided to **provide free foodgrains under NFSA** beginning in Jan 2023. It provides **5 kg of food grains over and above the quota under the NFSA 2013**.
- In 2024, the scheme was extended till January 2029 with an estimated financial outlay of ₹11.80 lakh crore, **fully funded by the Union Govt.**
- Beneficiaries are identified based on **2011 Census** (same as NFSA 2013).

Related Recent Developments:

- ✓ **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC):** Enables NFSA beneficiaries to access subsidized foodgrains from any FPS across the country. It uses Aadhaar-based biometric authentication, ensuring portability and transparency.
- ✓ **Mera Ration 2.0 App:** The app provides real-time entitlement details, FPS location services, and withdrawal history tracking. It has had over 1 crore downloads. It eases transparency and convenience for NFSA beneficiaries.
- ✓ **Anna Mitra App:** The App is designed to improve operational efficiency in the Public Distribution System (PDS). It helps officials and FPS dealers in stock tracking, inspection, compliance reporting, & beneficiary management.

Source: Cabinet approves technology-driven PDS scheme to strengthen food security (The Hindu)

PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme

Context: The Union Govt. issued a press release on the achievements of the PMFME Scheme related to improving rural livelihoods.



—सूक्ष्म उद्यमों का संबल—

About the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:

- It is a **centrally sponsored** scheme launched by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** in 2020 as part of the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- It has a budget outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore and has been approved from 2020-21 to 2024-25 and has been **extended till September 2026**.

Aims of the Scheme:

- **Modernize and enhance the competitiveness** of existing micro enterprises and ensure their transition to formal sector.
- Provide **support to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), & Agri-Cooperatives** along the entire value chain.

Key Components of the Scheme:

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

- **Credit-Linked Subsidy for Individual Enterprises:** A 35% subsidy (up to ₹10 lakh) to individuals for setting up or upgrading micro food processing units.
- **Credit-Linked Subsidy for Common Infrastructure:** FPOs, SHGs, and similar entities are eligible for a 35% credit-linked subsidy (up to ₹3 crore) to establish or upgrade common infrastructure facilities.
- **Seed Capital Assistance:** Support of ₹40,000 per SHG member engaged in food processing is available for working capital requirements and purchase of small tools/equipment.
- **Capacity Building:** Structured training programs, including Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) training for both individual and group applicants and specialized training for SHG members receiving seed capital assistance.
- **Incubation Centres:** Support for establishing and strengthening Common Incubation Centres that serve as local hubs for food processing, training, testing, and entrepreneurship development.
- **Branding & Marketing Support:** A 50% financial grant is available for branding and marketing initiatives for groups such as FPOs, SHGs, cooperatives, regional/state-level SPVs, and state agencies.
- **Handholding Support:** Dedicated resource persons at state and district levels assist applicants throughout the formalization process.
- **One District One Product (ODOP):** The scheme follows the ODOP approach to scale up procurement, services, and marketing. States identify products, with priority on perishables such as fruits,

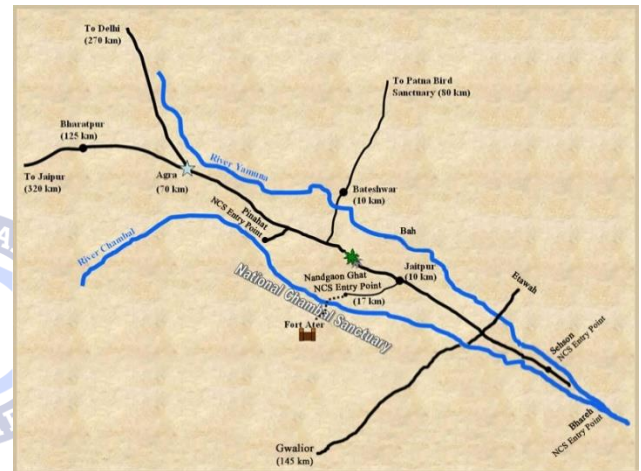
vegetables, spices, fisheries, and traditional foods like honey and turmeric.

- **Coverage:** 2 lakh micro food processing units will be directly assisted with credit-linked subsidies.

Source: Media Interaction on PMFME Scheme highlights achievements in empowering Micro Food Processing Enterprises, Women Entrepreneurs and Rural Livelihoods (PIB)

Places in news

National Chambal Sanctuary



- The Supreme Court expressed concern over illegal sand mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary.
- It lies at the **tri-junction** of three states - **Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.**
- It is also called the **National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- It is a protected riverine sanctuary along 425 km length of the **Chambal River and its ravines.**
- The main focus of the sanctuary is to protect the **critically endangered Gharial, Red-crowned roofed turtle & endangered Ganges dolphin.**
- It harbors nearly **90% of the world's remaining wild Gharial population** and

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

a significant number of endangered Ganges River Dolphins.

- It is also listed as an **important bird area (IBA)**.
- The topography is full of ravines, hills & sandy floodplains. It is part of the **Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forest** ecoregion.



The Chambal is a tributary of the Yamuna. It originates in the northern slopes of the Vindhyas and is bounded by the Vindhyan and Aravalli ranges. The Hadauti plateau in Rajasthan occurs in its upper catchment area. Its main tributaries are Banas, Kali Sindh, Shipra, and Parbati. Major Dams on the river include Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam, and Kota Barrage.

Terms in News

Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)



- The IACS recently commemorated 150 years of its establishment.
- IACS was founded in **1876** by **Dr. Mahendralal Sircar**. It is regarded as the first research institution in Asia established by Indians for the cultivation of modern science through original research.
- **Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar** and **Keshab Chandra Sen** were among the members of the first Trustee Board of

IACS, with Dr. Sircar himself as the first Honorary Secretary.

- IACS became associated with several leading Indian scientists, including **Jagadish Chandra Bose, Meghnad Saha, S.N. Bose and Sir C.V. Raman**.
- Sir C.V. Raman carried out his work on the **Raman Effect** at IACS. This discovery earned him the **Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930**, making it India's first Nobel Prize in Science.
- It is now a **public research university** for higher education and research in basic sciences under the **Department of Science & Technology**.

Bundibugyo Virus



- The WHO declared the **Ebola outbreak** caused by the **Bundibugyo virus** in **DR Congo and Uganda** as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
- There is currently **no licensed vaccine or specific therapeutic** for this virus.
- It is one of the species of the **Orthoebolavirus** genus that causes Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).
- It is a **zoonotic disease**, with **fruit bats** considered a common natural reservoir. Human infection occurs through **direct contact with infected wildlife** such as bats and primates.
- The disease further spreads through **contact with the blood, bodily fluids, secretions, or contaminated surfaces** associated with infected individuals.
- **Early symptoms** are **non-specific** and include fever, fatigue, headache, muscle

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

pain, and sore throat, making diagnosis difficult in the initial stages. As it progresses, patients develop gastrointestinal complications, organ failure, and hemorrhagic symptoms.

- Past outbreaks in Africa during 2007 and 2012 recorded case **fatality rates ranging from nearly 30% to 50%.**
- It **resembles other endemic illnesses such as malaria**, making lab confirmation essential. Detection is carried out through PCR testing and antigen or antibody-based diagnostic assays.

Practice Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana:

1. It provides 5 kg of food grains and pulses over and above the quota provided by the National Food Security Act of 2013.
2. Its beneficiaries are identified by the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES).
3. It is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Q2. This protected area is located at the tri-junction of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. It is part of the Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forests. It is famous for its conservation of critically endangered species such as the gharial and the red-crowned roofed turtle. It is often in news due to illegal sand mining that takes place within its boundaries.

Identify the protected area described above:

- (a) National Chambal Sanctuary
- (b) Keoladeo Ghana National Park
- (c) Sariska Tiger Reserve
- (d) Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the recently released Sample Registration System Report 2024:

1. India's total fertility rate (TFR) is below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman.
2. More than 95% of children born in India are institutional deliveries.
3. The working age bracket (15–59 years) accounts for almost two-thirds of India's population.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Bundibugyo Virus:

1. It is one of the viruses that causes the Ebola disease.
2. There is no licensed vaccine or specific medicine for this virus.
3. It is a zoonotic disease, with fruit bats often being a vector.

Which of the above statements are correct ?

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:

1. It was launched in 2021 based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.
2. Credit linked subsidy is provided for both individual enterprises as well as common infrastructure.
3. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) are provided financial support for branding and marketing.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answers:

1. D
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. B

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com