

National Household Income Survey (NHIS), 2026

Release of Pre-Testing Report and Feedback on Draft Schedule

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The **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, is conducting large-scale household surveys on diverse social and economic subjects, undertaken regularly since its inception in 1950. Over the years, the **National Sample Survey (NSS)** has emerged as a vital source of official statistics for evidence-based policymaking, capturing household welfare, consumption, employment, health, assets, indebtedness and related aspects of socio-economic development.

Among the forthcoming surveys, a major new initiative is the **National Household Income Survey (NHIS)**, scheduled to be launched in February, **2026**. This will be the **first-ever pan-India** survey focused on measuring **household income**, representing a significant step toward filling a long-standing data gap in India's socio-economic statistics system.

National Household Income Survey (NHIS), 2026

National Household Income Survey (NHIS) provide information on people's living conditions and income/expenditure patterns. Data from NHIS are used for rebasing consumer price index, in the preparation of National accounts and to analyse poverty and hardship in communities in countries across the world.

In many countries, including developed countries like Canada, United States of America and United Kingdom and less developed countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China and Malaysia, household income data is collected through household surveys. Estimates of household incomes (or income accruing to the household sector) can also be derived from National Accounts Statistics (NAS). The merit of household survey data on incomes compared to NAS based estimates is that household survey data allows for inter-personal comparison of incomes and the analysis of sources and patterns of income generation. The survey will cover the whole country and strive to generate estimates of total household income.

With a view to provide necessary guidelines in conduct of the survey in India, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has constituted a Technical Expert Group (TEG) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla, Former Executive Director of India, International Monetary Fund. As per the recommendation made by the TEG, a **pre-testing exercise** of the draft schedule for the NHIS 2026 was conducted during **4–8 August 2025** to evaluate the **clarity, comprehension, interpretability, and acceptability** of the questionnaire. The exercise was carried out across **15 Regional Offices (ROs)** of the **Field Operations Division (FOD)** of NSO, MoSPI covering all **six Zones**—including **Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad**. In each selected Regional Office, **two urban and two rural localities** were chosen, covering both affluent and non-affluent segments.

Pre-testing of data collection instruments is a standard practice in large-scale socio-economic surveys to identify issues related to clarity, flow, structure, and respondent burden before final field deployment. The exercise helped NSO to refine the NHIS questionnaire and ensure that the final instrument is robust, reliable, and user-friendly.

Subsequent to the completion of the pre-testing, a **Report** has been prepared covering the experience gathered during the pre-testing exercise of the survey and the same was uploaded on the **Ministry's website** (www.mospi.gov.in) for reference.

The **Draft Questionnaire/Schedule** of the **National Household Income Survey (NHIS), 2026** has been prepared incorporating the recommendations of the pre-testing exercise and **uploaded on the Ministry's website** (www.mospi.gov.in) for wider consultation and feedback. Researchers, policymakers, institutions, and the general public are invited to provide their suggestions and comments on the draft schedule.

The Pre-Testing Report and the Draft Schedule of National Household Income Survey (NHIS), 2026 can be accessed directly through the following link:
https://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/announcements/Pre-Testing_Report_ScheduleNHIS-2026.pdf

Suggestions may include modifications to existing questions or proposals for new items, particularly on various sources of household income, wages and salaries, self-employment earnings, property income, remittances, or any other relevant component of household income. These inputs will help enhance the quality, coverage, and policy relevance of the forthcoming **National Household Income Survey (NHIS), 2026**. Suggestions and comments may be sent to the email IDs nssocpd.coord@mospi.gov.in and [tc.sdrd-mospi\[at\]gov\[dot\]in](mailto:tc.sdrd-mospi[at]gov[dot]in) by 30th October 2025.

Samrat / Murali / Allen

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