

A newsletter from East View highlighting census data from around the world

INDIA SURPASSES CHINA IN POPULATION... OR DOES IT?

Earlier this year, the United Nations announced that India would replace China as the world's most populous country once it surpassed 1,425,775,850 enumerated persons as anticipated at the end of April 2023. India's Ministry of Home Affairs contradicted this number, however, when it answered an inquiry of the Indian House of the People regarding this same population projection in July, 2023. The Ministry of Home Affairs response cited a Ministry of Health & Family Welfare report placing the figure at 1,392,329,000.

These contradictory recent projections and issues surrounding delay in the latest Indian census till 2024 underscores the value of referencing historical census data for analysis. Historical data reveal how India arrived at this population contradiction and can help predict what may lay ahead for the subcontinent.

Using the Global Census Archive

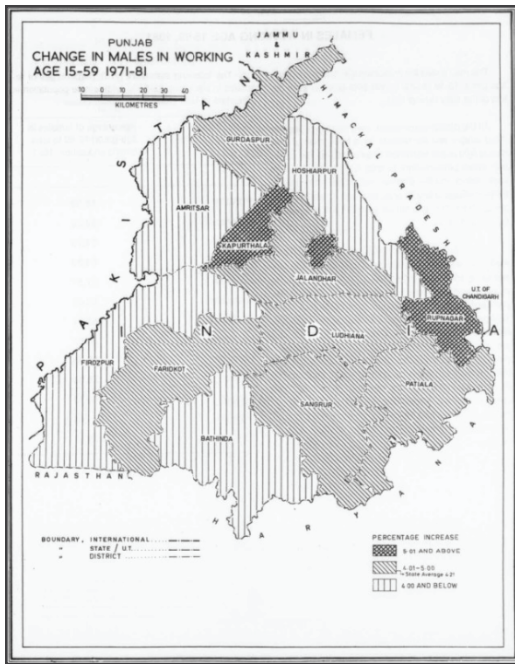
The **Global Census Archive**® (GCA) is an innovative program from East View Information Services to comprehensively collect official census data and publications from across the world, with deep historical access. GCA contains censuses of more than 175 countries, covering more than three centuries to the present day. GCA's unified platform experience allows researchers to explore the world's census publications: all countries and regions, the complete depth of published census materials, including original census publications in full image/full text, alongside tabular data in Excel and GIS files. With the power of full-text search, facet filters, and robust indexing, it has never been easier to access census content.

In this and future Global Census Archive Spotlight newsletters, we will explore how GCA supports research across various fields of study, focusing on issues both current and historical.

Read on below for more information on GCA's coverage of India.

| 3. Trading Castes. | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Baniya | 448,281 | 450,245 | 904,526 |
| Kumti | 1,512 | 1,445 | 2,957 |
| Muriyari | 2,951 | 2,046 | 4,097 |
| Nuniyar | 20,243 | 21,730 | 41,973 |
| Panwaria | 107 | 163 | 210 |
| Suratwala | 38 | 38 | 76 |
| Vaiya | 4,342 | 4,978 | 9,320 |
| Total ... | 476,574 | 486,585 | 963,159 |
| 4. Pastoral Castes. | | | |
| Bhartia | 74 | 67 | 141 |
| Gandhari | 1,559 | 1,553 | 3,112 |
| Gareri | 55,190 | 57,210 | 112,400 |
| Gordha | 1,487 | 1,363 | 2,850 |
| Gujar | 90 | 21 | 41 |
| Gwalla | 2,003,797 | 1,980,152 | 3,982,949 |
| Jat | 1,941 | 1,943 | 3,884 |
| Total ... | 2,064,068 | 2,051,309 | 4,115,377 |

From the Report on the Census of Bengal, 1881: Table displaying the enumeration of specific castes in the Bengal province in 1881. J.A. Bourdillon. *Report on the Census of Bengal, 1881*. First Publishing Date: 1883.



From the Census of India 1981: Series-17: Punjab: Part XII: Census Atlas: Map depicting the change in males of working-age (15 to 59 years old) from 1971 to 1981 in Punjab state. D.N. Dhir. *Census of India 1981: Series-17: Punjab: Part XII: Census Atlas*. First Publishing Date: 1988.

What Can GCA Reveal About India?

GCA provides access to content from every Indian census since 1881, totaling over 1 million pages. A researcher can access the first full-coverage census of India (1881), and all subsequent censuses of India up to the present day. GCA presents the tabular data and results, while full-text access to original publications gives insight to process and context like never before. Documents reveal how methodologies developed, including practices that impacted the historical understanding of various castes, of women in the workforce, and many other subjective aspects shaping the quantitative work. From the Himalayas to Kerala, and from the 19th century to the modern era, GCA puts hundreds of volumes of official census publications and thousands of tables with accompanying analysis and background at the fingertips of the contemporary researcher.

GCA makes it possible to compare Indian fertility rates between censuses, to narrow searches to specific regions, and conveniently browse. Almost any aspect of India's social, educational, economic, industrial, and cultural development can be studied through the lens of the Global Census Archive.

Further reading on the Indian population controversy:

- India's population to overtake China by mid-2023, UN estimates
<https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-have-29-mln-more-people-than-china-by-mid-2023-un-estimate-shows-2023-04-19/>
- India to overtake China as world's most populous country in April 2023, United Nations projects
<https://www.un.org/en/desa/india-overtake-china-world-most-populous-country-april-2023-united-nations-projects>
- India's projected population as on July 1 was 139 crore, less than China's, says govt
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indias-projected-population-as-on-july-1-was-139-crore-less-than-chinas-says-govt/articleshow/102119327.cms?from=mdr>
- Government of India Ministry of Home Affairs - Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 890
<https://www.mha.gov.in/MHA1/Par2017/pdfs/par2023-pdfs/LS-25072023/890.pdf>
- China and India have fewer people than the U.N. thinks
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2023/06/04/commentary/world-commentary/china-india-populations/>



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