

## India: Most Populous Nation Soon

February 16, 2023

On 14 April 2023, United Nations has projected that India's population will be 1,425,775,850 and India will overtake China in population.

*(Reference: Please see the Reuter's Report by YP Rajesh and Rupam Jain at <https://tinyurl.com/mr23dpha> )*

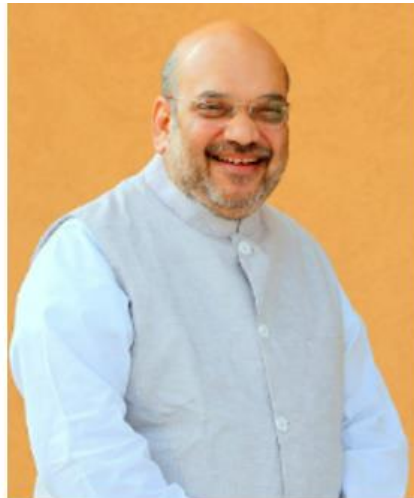
**The Significance of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in India:** It is the New Year Day of Year 2080 according to Hindu Solar Calendar called 'Vikrami Samvat – Anala', as celebrated in the State of Maharashtra\* and some other States.

Baisakhi, the major festival of Punjab, also falls on 14<sup>th</sup> April. The Baisakhi day in 1699, is considered to be the day on which Guru Govind Singhji established Sikhism.

INDIAN CENSUS: In India, the census takes place every 10 years. The last census took place in 2011 and it put India's population at 1.21 billion.

However due to the pandemic, the 2021 census was postponed.

According to the Rajesh & Jain's report, the time gained by the delay is being used to update the census process by using today's technology and by synchronizing it with the existing database, called Aadhaar.



*Union Home Minister: Amit Shah*

The Union Home Minister, responsible for the Census, says that the delay in census does not mean that the nation does not have any data about its population. In fact there are two other systems in the hands of Government of India:

1. ESTIMATE of POPULATION from the Sample Registration System (SRS): Pronab Sen, a former Chief Statistician of India, says that SRS, which estimates birth and death rates on the basis of sample surveys, shows the population growth rate of the whole of the country with reasonable accuracy. The Sample Surveys are being regularly done.
2. Aadhaar is the world's most technologically advanced database, under which 1.3 billion people are already enrolled as of 31 December 2022. According to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which manages the Aadhaar database, Aadhaar Has been designed to provide a "de facto real time" census, when it is fully implemented.

PROCESS of Indian CENSUS: The Census is conducted by 330,000 Government School Teachers. They visit every house twice.

- i. During the first visit all houses are tabulated.
- ii. At the second visit, about 24 questions are asked in 16 different languages.

Then, at the end of the 11-month long process, the tabulated results are published.

The Association of Government School Teachers is discussing with the Government revised rates of remuneration for conducting the census.

\*\*\*\*\*

*\*There is about six-months difference between the start of the Vikrami Samvat in different areas of India.*