

## National Household Income Survey (NHIS)

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### Why in news?

*The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MosPI) said that it will launch India's first nationwide household income survey in February 2026.*

- **NHIS** - It will be the **first-ever pan-India survey** focused on measuring household income, expenditure patterns, and sources of income **across rural and urban India**.
- **Conducted by** - National Statistics Office (NSO), under the MoSPI.
- **Will be Launched in** - February, 2026.
- **Aim** - To generate direct, comparable estimates of income levels, unlike the periodic consumption and employment surveys.

### Key objectives & importance

- The NHIS marks a significant shift in how the country tracks household welfare and inequality.
- **Detailed income data** - It will collect information on various sources of household earnings, including wages, self-employment income, property income, pensions, stipends, gratuities, remittances, income from government schemes, etc.
- It will also gather details on household expenditure patterns, capturing both **food and non-food items**.
- **Understanding inequality** - It will offer a clearer picture of income distribution across regions and social groups and crucial for analyzing household welfare and inequality.
- **Informing policy** - Data from the NHIS will inform **evidence-based policymaking**, be used for rebasing the Consumer Price Index, and aid in the preparation of National Accounts.
- **Assessing technology's impact** - It will specifically investigate the effect of technology adoption on household wages and earnings.
- **Scope** - NHIS is designed to **cover the entire country**, providing a

comprehensive picture of total household income.

## Methodology and development

- **Best practices** - In preparing for the NHIS, MoSPI has incorporated international best practices from countries like the US, Canada, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, and Australia.
- **Expert guidance** - A Technical Expert Group (TEG) was constituted under the guidance of Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla to provide guidance on finalizing the survey's concepts, definitions, and methodology.
- **Pre-testing exercise** - A pre-testing of the draft questionnaire was carried out in August 2025 across 15 Regional Offices of the NSO to evaluate the clarity and acceptability of the questions.

*Pre-testing of data collection instruments is a standard practice in large-scale socio-economic surveys, helped NSO to refine the NHIS questionnaire and ensure that the final instrument is robust, reliable, and user-friendly.*

- **Public consultation** - Following the pre-testing, the refined draft was uploaded to the MoSPI website for wider consultation.

## References

1. [PIB | National Household Income Survey \(NHIS\), 2026](#)
2. [Economic Times | NHIS, 2026](#)
3. [Business Line | NHIS, 2026](#)