

FRONTLINE

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 • LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984 • WWW.FRONTLINE.THEHINDU.COM • ₹ 150

Bengal: BJP trips
on victory lap

POLITICS ► PAGE 53

What Meta
won't explain

CONTROVERSY ► PAGE 67

चालू वितरण
CURRENT ISSUE

MAKING
SENSE OF
THE CENSUS

FRONTLINE

Volume 43 – Number 16 – September 1-15, 2026 – ISSN 0970-1710 – www.frontline.thehindu.com – 116 pages



COVER STORY

A mammoth undertaking

14/ Post-Independence India has conducted regular decadal censuses until now with no interruptions. Delayed this time for six years, the next census is finally under way, India's first fully digital attempt and one that again enumerates caste after 1931.

RELATED STORIES

- 26/ New census, old problems
- 31/ Deepening the divide
- 36/ Why counting every migrant matters
- 42/ Caste, census, and the birth of 'data state'

Cover design: R. Inbaraj (image adapted from iStock)

POLITICS

- 48/ **Jharkhand:** A cautionary tale
- 53/ **West Bengal:** 100 days of disappointment

SPOTLIGHT

- 57/ The cost of cash transfers

POLICY

- 62/ The other ethanol crisis

CONTROVERSY

- 67/ What Meta won't explain

INTERVIEW

- 71/ 'Our social media is highly politically controlled'

FOCUS

- 78/ The wrong demographic question

WORLD AFFAIRS

- 85/ Makkah defence pact: Should India be worried?

ART

- 90/ Selves of the nation

BOOKS

- 97/ **Essay:** Toto, Anarkali, and the pearl
- 100/ In review



- 08/ The Fortnight

SHORT STORY

- 110/ The last show

COLUMNS

- 46/ Saba Naqvi
- 65/ Mani Shankar Aiyar
- 76/ C.P. Chandrasekhar
- 83/ Rajeev Bhargava
- 95/ Prathyush Parasuraman

- 07/ Letters

- 109/ On our bookshelf

- 112/ Staying in

- 113/ Stepping out

- 114/ Back Page



TRENDING WEB EXCLUSIVES



SPEAKEASY

Gen Z has lost faith in the system:
P. Chidambaram



HEALTH

A dangerous prescription



MALNUTRITION

Going hungry in Madhya Pradesh