NSO's first National Household Travel Survey

Indices & Reports · 6 October 2026 · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/06



News

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the results of **India's first National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)**, held from **July 2025 to June 2026** (Oct 2026). It was run as part of the **NSS 80th round** at the request of the **Railways Ministry**.

Key facts

Sample	**4.92 lakh** households, **20.34 lakh** persons; 14,274 villages, 10,377 urban blocks
Mode to work	**Two-wheeler 42.6%** (urban 52.3%, rural 37.1%)
Monthly commute cost	Average **₹785** (urban ₹1,044, rural ₹612); average time 25 minutes
Students	66.4% travel over 1 km; walking 37%, bus 29.5%, bicycle 15.8%; average 23 minutes
Overnight trips	**Bus 55.8% + rail 17.7% = 73.5%**; car 15.1%; purpose: social/religious 70.2%, leisure 7.4%

Background

- **Gender gap:** 61.9% of male workers but only 41.9% of female workers travel over 1 km to work, showing transport as a barrier for women's jobs.

- **Use:** data for planning public transport, railways, urban mobility and roads.
- **NSO:** formed in **2019** by merging the **Central Statistics Office (CSO, 1951)** and the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO, 1950)**. It publishes GDP estimates, the PLFS (jobs) and the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES).
- **P.C. Mahalanobis:** 'father of Indian statistics'; founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, in **1931**; his birthday, **29 June, is National Statistics Day**; author of the Second Five-Year Plan model.

Tamil Nadu link: Studies show **free travel for women in town government buses (since 2021, 'Vidiyal Payanam')** has increased women's travel to work in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu's State transport corporations run one of India's largest government bus networks, and **Chennai Metro** Phase II is under way.

Shanmugam IAS Academy – your next step

- **Courses:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **Free quiz + daily PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · All news of this day: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/06

Admissions – call / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in