

17 January 2025

English

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## **United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

### **2025 session**

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries  
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names**

## **Report of the Republic of India**

### **Summary \*\***

India is a multilingual nation with 22 scheduled languages (Included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India), 99 non-scheduled languages (with more than 10,000 speakers in India) and several other languages (with less than 10,000 speakers in India) and dialects, representing the complex socio-cultural structure of the country.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India is the National Names Authority and Survey of India, the National Geospatial and Mapping Organisation, is responsible for the transliteration of the geographical names from Vernacular Scripts to Roman and Devanagari Scripts, thereby standardizing the place names in English and Hindi languages. Further, the National Geospatial Policy, 2022 of India has entrusted the Survey of India for the implementation of the global fundamental geospatial data theme of Geographical Names.

This report will outline the complex linguistic population distribution in India (indicative of the rich history and cultural legacy of India), the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholder government agencies in the process of standardization of Geographical Names, Survey of India's initiatives in the creation and maintenance of the database of Geographical Names in all the 22 scheduled languages of India – the traditional methodology, current practice in digital environment for collection of audio bytes and the future roadmap.

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1.

\*\* The full report was prepared by Survey of India, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/137/CRP.137, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th\\_session\\_2025/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/)