

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

ज्येष्ठ ८ शक संवत् १९४७  
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PRESS NOTE

**Results of Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom, 2025  
(January – March, 2025)**

**Key highlights:**

- ✓ In rural areas, approximately 96.8 percent of persons in the age group 15-29 years used mobile phones at least once during the last three months for making personal calls and/ or accessing the internet. The use of mobile phones is estimated at 97.6 percent in urban areas.
- ✓ In the age group 15-29 years, around 95.5 percent of persons own a smartphone among those persons who own a mobile phone (including smart phone) in rural areas. In urban areas, about 97.6 percent persons own a smartphone in the same age group.
- ✓ In rural areas, approximately 92.7 percent persons in the age group 15-29 years used the internet at least once during last three months. Whereas, in urban areas, about 95.7 percent persons of the same age group used the internet.
- ✓ Among the persons in the age group 15-29 years who reported the ability to perform online banking transactions, about 99.5 percent persons reported to have the ability to perform online banking transactions through UPI.
- ✓ In India, approximately 85.5 percent of households possessed at least one smartphone.
- ✓ Around 86.3 percent households in India have access to internet within the household premises.

As a part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS), the Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom (CMS: T) was conducted from January to March, 2025. This initiative marks a significant step by National Statistics Office (NSO) towards implementing short-duration, focused surveys. This survey was undertaken with the primary objective to meet the requirements of the line ministry/ department of Government of India and there was no State participation in CMS: T. This survey was conducted along with the ongoing ‘Household Social Consumption: Health’ survey of NSS 80<sup>th</sup> round. The survey collected data on various aspects of mobile and internet usage at both the household and individual levels. Additionally, information on selected ICT skills was also captured. In this survey, data was collected through CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews). The report is available on the Ministry’s website (<http://www.mospi.gov.in>).

Among the individuals in the age group 15-29 years, approximately 97.1 percent persons reported using a mobile phone (including smartphones) during the last three months from the date of survey.

### **Sample Design:**

In this survey, a two-stage stratified sampling design was used, where First Stage Units (FSU) were villages/sub-units/sub-divisions in rural areas and Urban Frame Survey (UFS) blocks/sub-units/ sub-divisions in urban areas. The FSUs were allocated to States and UTs in proportion to the projected population figures as on 1st October 2024 as available from the report, ‘Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036’ of the Technical Group on Population Projections, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The Second Stage Units (SSUs) were households in both rural and urban areas. The selection of FSUs and SSUs was done using Simple Random Sampling without Replacement (SRSWOR).

### **Survey Coverage:**

The survey covered the whole of the India Union except for some villages of Andaman and Nicobar Islands which were difficult to access. At the all-India level, the total number of first-stage units (FSUs) surveyed was 4,382 (2,395 in rural areas and 1,987 in urban areas). The total number of households surveyed was 34,950 (19,071 in rural areas and 15,879 in urban areas) and the total number of persons enumerated was 1,42,065 (82,573 in rural areas and 59,492 in urban areas).

### **Important Caveat:**

The primary objective of the CMS: T was to generate national-level estimates of telecom and ICT skills related indicators. However, state-level estimates based on the available sample observations have been generated and presented in this report. Therefore, users should interpret the survey results at the sub-national level with careful consideration of the associated sample size in the domain and Relative Standard Error (RSE). The information on the execution/ability to perform the ICT skills was collected based on the reporting of the informant only. While collecting this information, no tests of the ICT skills of the informants were performed. Furthermore, with reference to the information collected on online purchases, only goods have been taken into account, while services have been excluded.

In rural area, around 92.7 percent persons in the age group 15-29 years used internet during last three months preceding the date of survey. In urban areas the use of internet, in the same age group, estimated at 95.7 percentage.

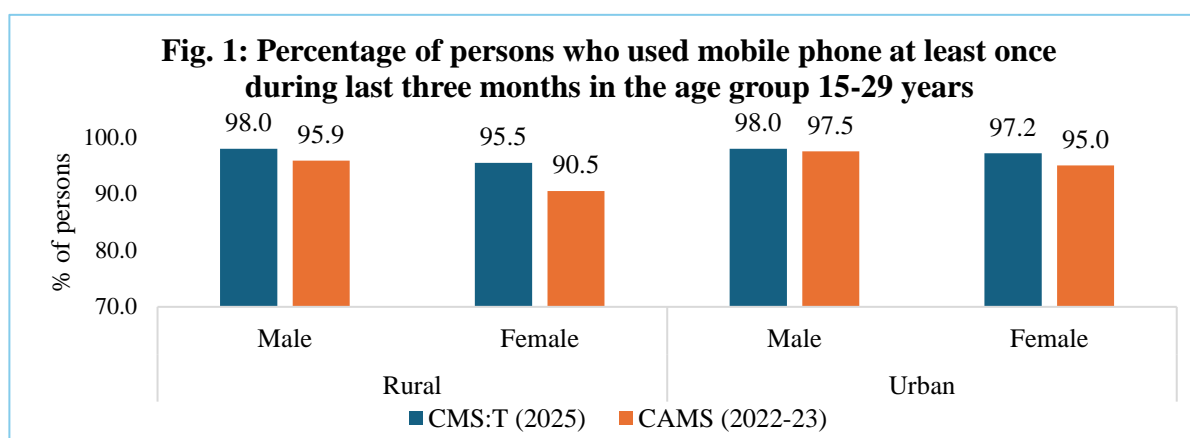
It is also important to note that the survey-based estimated totals were used exclusively for calculating rates and ratios. These totals are not intended to serve as definitive population-level counts. Therefore, using these totals to directly interpret the estimates in absolute terms or for extrapolation, may lead to

misleading conclusions and is not recommended. Users of the data are requested to interpret the findings with due consideration of these statistical limitations.

## Major findings of the survey:

### (i) Use of mobile telephone:

In CMS: T, a person was considered as ‘used a mobile phone (smartphone as well as mobile phone other than smartphone)’ if s/he used it for the purpose of making personal calls and/or accessing the internet at least once during the last three months preceding the date of survey. Among youth aged 15–29 years, approximately 97.1 percent reported the mobile phone usage in the last three months. As per the findings of the Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS), 2022–23, conducted as part of the NSS 79th Round, the corresponding figure for this age group was estimated at 94.2<sup>1</sup> percent. Gender-sector-wise comparative estimates of percentage of persons used mobile in the age group 15-29 years are shown in Figure 1.



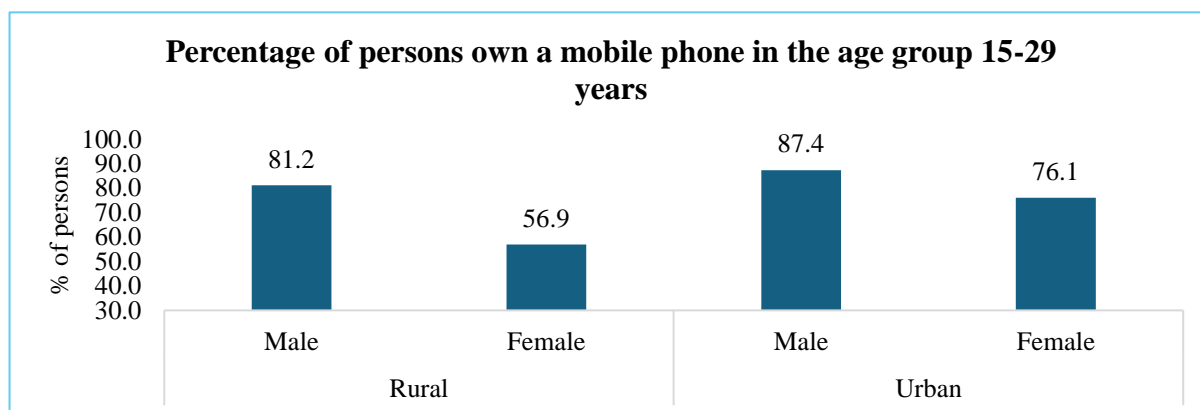
### (ii) Mobile ownership:

In this survey, mobile phone ownership was defined as having a device with an active SIM card for

In rural area around 79.2 percent males and 75.6 percent females in the age group ‘15 years and above’ own a smartphone among those who own a mobile phone. Whereas, in urban area the percentage estimated at around 89.4 and 86.2 percent for male and female, respectively, for the same age group.

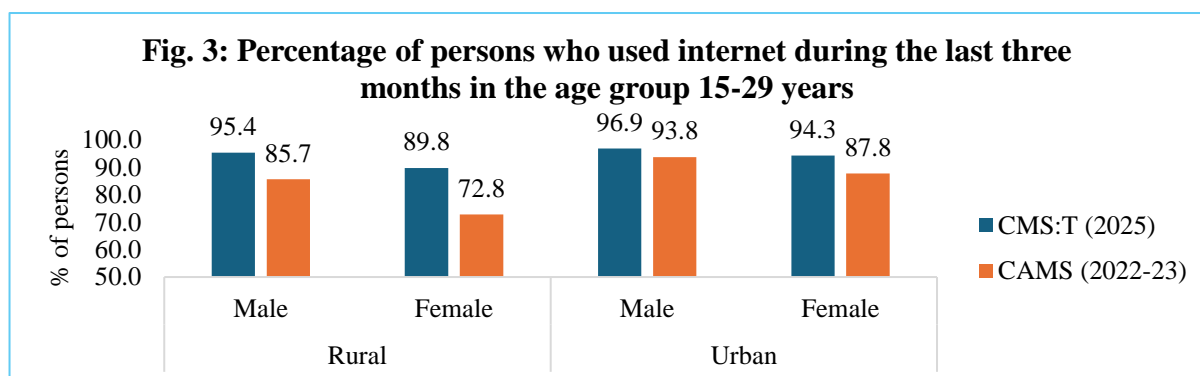
personal use, including employer-provided phones and those not registered in the user’s name. Individuals with only SIM cards were excluded. While determining ownership, joint ownership of a single mobile phone is not considered; in such cases, ownership is determined based on the majority use criterion. At the all-India level, in the age group 15-29 years, approximately 73.4 percent persons own a mobile phone. Gender-sector-wise estimates of mobile ownership for the persons in the age group 15-29 years are shown in Figure 2.

<sup>1</sup> Persons who used mobile telephones with an active sim card, at least once, during the last three months preceding the date of the survey.

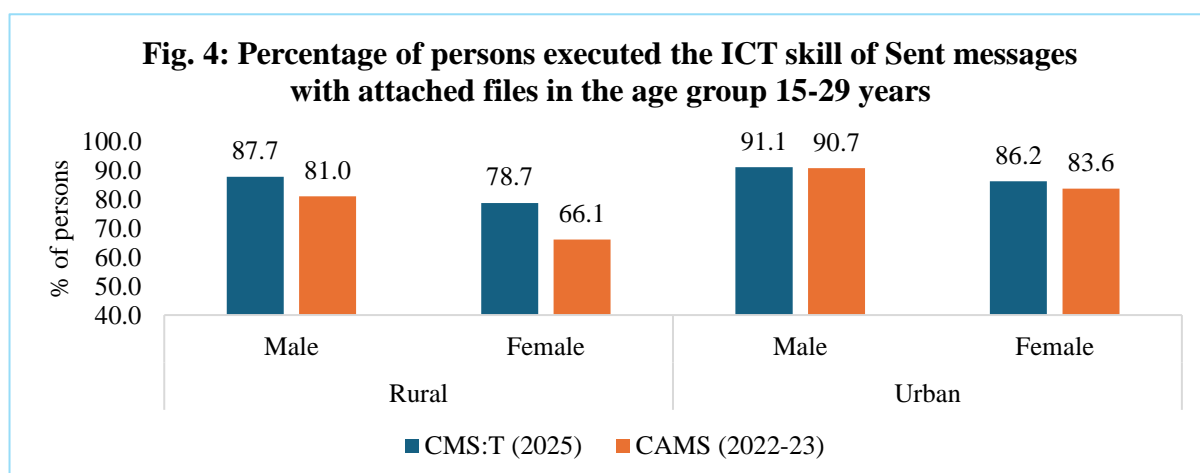


**(iii) Use of internet:**

In the survey, a person was considered as ‘used internet’ if s/he accessed internet at least once during last 3 months, from any location, for any purpose and using any type of device (e.g. mobile, desktop, laptop, tablet, etc.). In the age group 15-29 years, around 94.3 percent persons used the internet at least once during last 3 months preceding the date of survey. Gender-sector-wise comparative estimates with CAMS, 2022-23 for the percentage of persons used internet in the age group 15-29 years are shown in Figure 3.



Whereas, 77.7 percent persons in the same age group reported execution of the skill during 2022-23 (CAMS, NSS 79<sup>th</sup> Round). Figure 4 gives gender-sector-wise comparative estimates of the percentage of persons executed the ICT skill in the age group 15-29 years during 2025 and 2022-23.



	Indicator	Rural		Urban	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
15-24 years	Percentage persons used mobile during last three months preceding the date of survey	98.0	95.7	97.6	96.9
	Percentage of persons own a mobile phone	74.8	51.7	82.7	69.5
	Percentage of persons used the internet during last three months preceding the date of survey	95.7	91.1	97.0	95.0
	Percentage of persons sent messages with attached files during last three months preceding the date of survey	87.7	80.4	91.9	87.7
15 years and above	Percentage persons used mobile during last three months preceding the date of survey	89.5	76.3	95.0	86.8
	Percentage of persons own a mobile phone	80.7	48.4	90.0	71.8
	Percentage of persons used the internet during last three months preceding the date of survey	72.1	57.6	85.5	74.0
	Percentage of persons sent messages with attached files during last three months preceding the date of survey	67.2	50.9	79.1	65.8
households	Percentage of households possessed at least one smartphone	82.1		91.3	
	Percentage of households have access to internet facility within household premises	83.3		91.6	