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# Camel count in state down by 35%

**LIVESTOCK CENSUS** Experts cite reduced dependence on animals for transportation

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**CHENNAI:** The state's camel population has declined by 35 per cent in the last seven years due to a drop in demand for the 'ships of the desert' as a primary mode of transportation, according to the 20th Livestock Census report released recently. The total camel population in the state, which was 3.26 lakhs in 2012, has now reduced to 2.13 lakhs. The total camel population in the country has also increased by 37.1% over previous Livestock Census (2012). It is estimated that the total camel population in the country at present has come down to 0.25 million from 0.40 million. While male camel population in the country has decreased by 40 per cent, female camel population has decreased by 19.46 per cent.

Male camel population in the country was 0.19 million in 2012, now 0.08 million. Similarly in 2012, female camel population in India was 0.21 million and it is now 0.17 million. Apart from Rajasthan, camel population has also declined in Gujarat, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Data shows that in Gujarat, camel population has come down by 9.91 per cent that is from 28,000 in 2012 to 25,000 now.

Similarly, in Haryana, camel population in 2012, was 19,000 which is now merely 5,000 reduced by a significant 72.65 per cent. In Uttar Pradesh, camel population reduced by 69.45 per cent, from 8,000 in 2012 to 2,000 now. According to Livestock report released on October 17, the total camel population in the country in 2019 is 192.49 Million. The

share of cattle have increased marginally by 0.8% from the previous 2012 census. While female cattle population increased by 18.0% the share of male cattles decreased by 30.2% over the previous census. Cattle accounts for 36% of the total household livestock.

In Rajasthan, cattle population has increased by 4.41 per cent. The population which was 13.3 million as per the 2012 census has now reached 13.9 million.

Samir Kumar Ghoru, principal scientist, National Research Center on Camel (NRCC) in Bikaner attributed the reason for the declining camel population to the reduced dependence on the animals for transportation as people now have alternative means of travel.

"At NRCC we are exploring new ways to promote camel rearing. Camel milk is one such idea. Until camels become a means of income for the people, they will not rear it, said DR Samir."

The Livestock census also gives an overview of other animal population in the country. Some of them are as follows: Total buffalo population in the country in 2019 is 109.85 million. Buffalo population increased by 1.1% over the previous 2012 Livestock Census report. Female buffalo population increased by 8.61% while male buffalo population declined by 42.35% from the previous census. Buffaloes constitute around 20.5% of the total livestock.

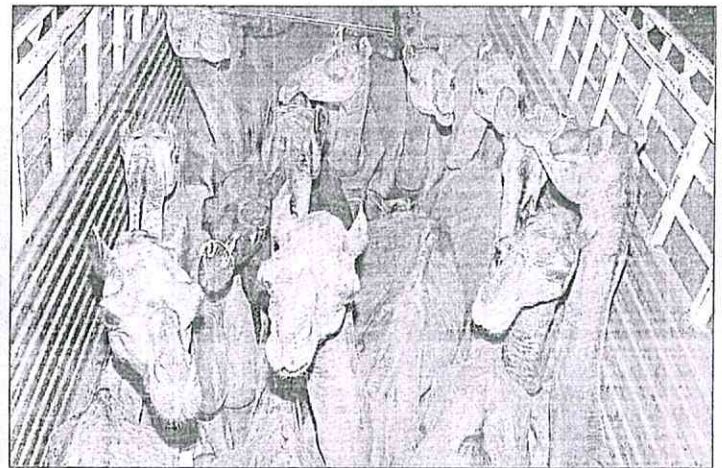
Against the national average of 1.1%, in Rajasthan, buffalo population has been increased by 5.53 percentages. Earlier in 2012 census it was 13.0 million. This is now 13.7 million.

## WHAT THE 20TH CENSUS DATA REVEAL

- The total Livestock population is 535.78 million in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census-2012.
- Total Bovine population (Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun and Yak) is 302.79 Million in 2019 which shows an increase of 1.0% over the previous census.
- The total number of cattle in the country is 192.49 million in 2019 showing an increase of 0.8% over the previous census.
- The Female Cattle (Cows population) is 145.12 million, increased by 18.0% over the previous census (2012).
- The total Buffalo population in the country is 109.85 Million showing an increase of about 1.0% over previous census.
- The total sheep in the country is 74.26 Million in 2019, increased by 14.1% over previous census.
- The Goat population in the country in 2019 is 148.88 Million showing an increase of 10.1% over the previous census.
- The total Pigs in the country is 9.06 Million in the current Census, declined by 12.03% over the previous census.
- The total Mithun in the country is 3.9 Lakhs in 2019, increased by 30.0% over previous census.

Total Sheep Population in the country is 74.26 million. The population of sheep increased by 14.13% from the previous Livestock Census (2012). Contrary to national figures, sheep population in Rajasthan decreased by 12.95 per cent. It was 9.1 million in 2012, but has come down to 7.9 million now.

The total goat population in the country is 148.88. The goat population increased by 10.14% over previous Livestock Census



Camels rescued from traffickers in Rajasthan.

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- The total Yak in the country is Fifty Eight Thousand in 2019, decreased by 24.67% over previous census.
- The total Horses and Ponies in the country is 3.4 Lakhs in 2019, decreased by 45.6% over previous census.
- The total population of Mules in

the country is Eighty Four Thousand in 2019, decreased by 57.1% over previous census.

- The total population of Donkeys in the country is 1.2 Lakhs in 2019, decreased by 61.23% over previous census.
- The total Camel population in the country is 2.5 Lakhs in 2019,

decreased by 37.1% over previous census.

- The total Poultry in the country is 851.81 Million in 2019, increased by 16.8% over previous Census.
- The total Commercial Poultry in the country is 534.74 Million in 2019, increased by 4.5% over previous Census.

(2012). About 27.8% of the total livestock is contributed by goats. In Rajasthan, goat population decreased by 3.18 per cent. Earlier, in 2012 census it was 21.67 million which has now reduced to 20.84 million.

As the latest census total population of horses, ponies, mules & donkeys in the country is 0.55 Million. Their population has decreased by 51.9% from the previous livestock census.

Donkey population in India

has reduced by 61.23 per cent. As per the 2012 census, it was 0.32 million which is now 0.12 million. During the past seven years, donkey population in India is reduced by 52.67 per cent. In Rajasthan donkey population is decreased by 71.31 per cent. Earlier, as per the 2012 census, donkey population in Rajasthan was 81,000 which is now 23,000.

Livestock census is one of the main sources of data in the country. The census have been con-

ducted across the country periodically since 1919. The census usually covers all domesticated animals and head counts of these animals are taken. So far, 19 livestock censuses have been conducted in participation with the state government and Union Territory administrations.

The 20th Livestock Census was launched during the month of October, 2018. The enumeration was done in both rural and urban areas.