

# NEWS ALERT

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## GRIM REALITY

### BP Fined \$20 Billion, Bhopal Gets 25 Years

Days after the Obama administration coerced BP into setting up a \$20-billion fund to compensate mainly shrimp farmers affected by the two-month-old Gulf of Mexico oil spill, a group of ministers in New Delhi will dust up the Bhopal gas tragedy files today to see how justice can finally be delivered to tens of thousands of victims of the world's biggest industrial disaster — caused by an American corporation a quarter century ago. This group will report back to the Union Cabinet in a few days on the steps to be taken.

### Tech it! GIS, 3D Imaging and Scanners to Ensure Error-Free Census 2011

The agency conducting Census 2011, the world's largest data collection exercise, is making use of advanced mapping technology to reduce the errors of omission and duplication that have on earlier occasions reduced its reliability.

In urban India, the Census Commissioner's Office is using three-dimensional geographical information system (GIS) maps to earmark blocks, making it easy for enumerators to cover all the units in their domain. In rural areas, on the other hand, two dimensional maps will help supervisors mark out the territory to be covered by enumerators.

GIS is a system of hardware and software for storage, mapping and analysis of data. Over 25 lakh officials are involved in capturing the socioeconomic-cultural profile of Indian citizens in the 15th National Census.

Meant to be a physical count of all households and citizens, the census is often critiqued for erroneous data collection and assimilation methods. During the 2001 census, the Office claims to have missed out 2.3% of households and citizens, especially people living in slums. Nearly 1.8% of citizens were omitted in 1991. The omission rate was higher in urban areas at 4%, and 1.7% in rural India. Double-counting and erroneous classification are also reported to have crept in.



MR OBAMA,  
WHO'LL PAY FOR  
BHOPAL?

We will fight this spill with everything we've got for as long it takes. We will make BP pay for the damage their company has caused. And we will do whatever's necessary to help the Gulf Coast and its people recover from this tragedy. PRESIDENT OBAMA SPEAKING ON THE BP OIL SPILL



Send across your feedbacks to Dilpreet Kaur at [dilpreet.kaur@jimsindia.org](mailto:dilpreet.kaur@jimsindia.org)