Indian population hits 1.21 billion: census

NEW DELHI, — India’s population is now 1.21 billion — 623.7 million males and 586.5 million females — larger than the combined population of Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, the United States and Bangladesh, according to the latest Census report released Thursday.

This is an increase of 181 million people since the last census, which is equivalent to the population of Brazil, said the 2011 Census report released by Indian Home Secretary G.K. Pillai and the Registrar General of India in the capital.

The northern state of Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India, and the combined population ofMaharashtra is larger than that of the United States. The density of population is highest in the capital, followed by Chandigarh.

However, the population grew at a rate of 17.64 percent — the biggest reduction in growth rate ever. While the central-controlled Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Puducherry have the highest population growth rate of about 55 percent, the northeastern state of Nagaland has the lowest.

The census also shows that female literacy is higher than male literacy in India. (Xinhua)