

Census 2026 in Manipur

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Polity & Governance

Why in News?

A recent high-level meeting in Delhi agreed to defer the Census exercise in the State, taking into account the feelings and aspirations of the people of Manipur.

- **Demands** - First, conduct the State's National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise with 1951 as the base year.
- The demand has been raised by sections of:
 - Meiteis
 - Pangals (Meitei Muslims)
 - Naga groups

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Different groups have different views	
Group/Stakeholder	Position
 Sections of Meiteis, Pangals and Nagas	 NRC should be updated before Census
 Manipur Government	 Supports NRC
 Kuki-Zo Council	 Opposed/dismissed the NRC demand and welcomed the Census exercise

- **Legal intervention** - Petitions filed before the Manipur High Court have sought directions to:
 - Update or revise the NRC using 1951 as the base year.
 - Address concerns about illegal migration from Myanmar.
 - Conduct the Census only after resolving these issues.

- **Key Issues** - The Census is increasingly associated with broader societal concerns, including:
 - Migration
 - Identity
 - Demographic change
 - Citizenship
 - Ethnic tensions
 - Political representation

Census

- The Union Government has the power to order a census via a notification in the official Gazette.
- **Operationalisation** - Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Legal framework**
 - Census Act, 1948
 - Union List as per the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

National Register of Citizens (NRC)

- **NRC** - It is an official record that documents individuals recognised as Indian citizens or residents based on established eligibility criteria.
- **Historical background**
 - The origins of the NRC can be traced to India's first Census conducted after Independence in 1951.
 - All Indian states were initially expected to compile similar registers.



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 CENSUS	NRC 
 Counts and collects demographic information about the population	 A register related to citizenship/residency eligibility under applicable laws and procedures
 Focuses on population characteristics	 Focuses on identifying eligible citizens/residents
 Conducted periodically by the Union Government	 Has specific legal and administrative processes
 Includes information such as age, sex, occupation, etc.	 Citizenship-related verification becomes important

All States were mandated to compile an NRC, but it was done only in Assam.

Reference

[The Hindu | Census in Manipur](#)



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