

## Census, 2027

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### Why in News?

*The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RGI) announced that the Census 2027 will begin on April 1, 2026 with self-enumeration, followed by house-to-house listing.*

- **Census Definition** - Census is the process of collecting, compiling, and publishing the demographic, social, and economic data of a country's population.
- **Population Census** - Provides comprehensive data on population size, distribution, and characteristics.
- **Conducted by** - Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (ORG&CCI).
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Constitutional Provision** - Census is a Union subject, listed in the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule.
- **Legal Basis** - Census Act, 1948.
- **History of Census in India**
  - **1872** - First non-synchronous nationwide census.
  - **1881** - First synchronous census conducted by W.C. Plowden.
  - Since then, censuses have been conducted every 10 years.
  - Census 2027 will be the first delayed census (by six years).

### Registrar General of India (RGI)

- **Role Established in** - 1949 under Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Functions** - Conduct Housing & Population Census.
  - Civil Registration System (Births & Deaths Act, 1969).
  - National Population Register (NPR).
  - Mother Tongue Survey.
  - Sample Registration System (SRS).

### Census 2027 - Key Features

- **Phases**

- **Phase 1** - House Listing & Housing Census (HLO) - housing conditions, amenities, assets.
- **Phase 2** - Population Enumeration - demographic, socio-cultural, economic data.
- **Digital Census** - First time data will be collected via mobile apps and self-enumeration portals.
- **Coverage** - 28 States, 8 UTs, 784 districts, 5,127 statutory towns, 4,580 census towns, 6,39,902 villages.
- **Administrative Boundaries** - Officially defined territorial limits such as states, districts, towns, wards, and villages within which census enumeration is carried out.
- **Monitoring** - Census Management & Monitoring System - web-based platform for real-time supervision.
- **Data Collected** - 33 items including housing, assets, migration, fertility, religion, SC/ST, language, literacy, education, economic activity.
- **Verification** - Enumerators and supervisors deployed digitally.

## **Caste Census Context**

- **Caste Census** - Collects data on caste distribution for social justice policies.
- **Difference from SECC (2011)** - SECC focused on socio-economic data, not caste enumeration.
- **Historical Note** - India has not conducted a full caste census since 1931.
- **Significance** - Helps in targeted welfare, affirmative action, and equitable resource distribution.

## **Quick Facts**

### **National Population Register (NPR)**

- **Prepared under** - Citizenship Rules, 2003.
- **Records** - Details of all persons usually residing in India.
- **NPR vs NRC** - NPR is a database; NRC is a register of citizens. NPR is not automatically linked to NRC.

## **References**

1. [Indian Express | Census](#)
2. [Indian Express | Census](#)
3. [The Hindu | Census](#)



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