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 7th 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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