



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

# First Digital Census in India

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Context: The Union Cabinet on Friday approved the proposal for conducting Census of India 2027.

## Salient Features of Census 2027

### First-time Milestones

First Digital Census in India

First caste enumeration since Independence

Census-as-a-Service (CaaS) initiative launched

### Data Collection & Technology

Data collection via mobile applications

Real-time monitoring through:

Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) portal

Enhanced dissemination through:

Customised visualisation tools

### Census

A **decennial, comprehensive enumeration** of population and housing, providing official demographic, social and economic data of the country.

### Genesis

- First **non-synchronous census** conducted in **1872** (during British rule G.G Lord Mayo period).
- First **synchronous census** conducted in **1881**, establishing the decennial tradition. (G.G. Ripon period)

### Conducting Authority

- Conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India (RGI)**.
- Functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

### Legal / Statutory Framework

- Governed by the **Census Act, 1948**.
- Provides for:
- Appointment of census officers
- Confidentiality of individual information

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- Penalties for non-compliance or false information
- Census data **cannot be used as evidence in courts**.

## Frequency

- Conducted **once every 10 years** (decennial).

## Coverage / Parameters Collected

- **Demographic:** Population size, age, sex, marital status.
- **Social:** Religion, caste (SC/ST), literacy, education.
- **Economic:** Occupation, workforce participation.
- **Housing:** Housing condition, amenities, assets.
- Provides **micro-level data** up to **village and ward level**, crucial for planning and policy.

## Last Census

- **Census 2011:** 15th Census of India and 7th after Independence.
- **Census 2021:** Postponed due to the **COVID-19 pandemic** (yet to be conducted).

## National Population Register vs National Register of Citizens

| Aspect           | National Population Register (NPR)  | National Register of Citizens (NRC)                          |
|------------------|---|--|
| What it is       | Register of <b>usual residents</b> of India   | Register of <b>Indian citizens</b>                           |
| Objective        | Create a <b>comprehensive identity database</b> of residents  | Identify and document <b>citizens of India</b>               |
| Legal Basis      | Citizenship Act, 1955 & Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003 | Citizenship Act, 1955 & Citizenship Rules, 2003              |
| Prepared by      | Registrar General of India (RGI)  | Registrar General of India (RGI)                             |
| Conducted by     | Ministry of Home Affairs  | Ministry of Home Affairs                                     |
| Coverage         | Includes <b>citizens and non-citizens</b>   | Includes <b>only citizens</b>                                |
| Nature           | <b>Administrative database</b>  | <b>Citizenship determination exercise</b>                    |
| Proof Required   | Generally <b>no documentary proof of citizenship</b> required   | <b>Documentary proof mandatory</b>                           |
| Mandatory?       | Yes (for usual residents)   | Not conducted nationwide yet                                 |
| Current Status   | Prepared in <b>2010</b> and updated in <b>2015</b> ; proposed update aligned with Census                        | Conducted <b>only in Assam (2019)</b>                        |
| Outcome          | Basis for National Identity Cards (future)  | Identification of citizens & exclusion of illegal immigrants |
| Link with Census | Collected along with Census house-listing   | Independent of Census  |