



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Next census to conclude by March 2027, says govt.

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Context

• India will count its population by March 1, 2027, in a Census to be held **after an unprecedented 16 year gap**, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs announced on Wednesday. This will be the **country's first digital Census**, and the **first in Independent India to include an enumeration of castes** as well.

Census - History

- A census is a survey of the population of an area that includes collecting details of a country's demographics including age, sex and occupation.
- The **first non-synchronous** took place in **1872** under **Lord Mayo**.
- Under **W.C. Plowden**, the **Census Commissioner of India**, the **first all - india synchronous decennial** (every ten years) census was conducted in **1881**.
- **Independent India's first census was held in 1951** and since then it has happened in the first year of every decade.
- The Census is governed by the **Census Act of 1948**, introduced by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- The Constitution mandates that enumeration is carried out but the **Census of India Act of 1948 does not specify its timing or periodicity**.
- The population census is conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The **first Indian city census** was conducted in 1830 by Henry Walter in **Dacca**.
- Global comparison: Many countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, also conduct a census every 10 years, while some, like Canada and Japan, conduct it every five years.
- It is a **Union subject under Article 246** and is listed as item 69 in the **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution.
- India has conducted the Census **seven times since independence, yet only four delimitations (1952, 1953, 1973, and 2002)** have occurred.
- The **Constitution mandates that the first Census after 2026** can be used as the **basis to redraw Lok Sabha constituencies which are currently drawn on the basis of 1971 Census data**.

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**