



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Office of Registrar-General of India

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Why is in news? Office of Registrar-General of India following 'obsolete' criteria to define Scheduled Tribes

The Office of the Registrar-General of India (RGI) is following the set of criteria set out by the **Lokur Committee**, 1965 nearly 60 years ago to define any new community as a Scheduled Tribe.

Approval of the Office of the RGI is mandatory for the inclusion of any community on ST lists, as per the procedure for scheduling tribes.

The **criteria set out by the Lokur Committee for defining a community as a tribe** are: indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, and backwardness.

The **proposed criteria under the government's consideration** included "socio-economic, including educational, backwardness, vis-a-vis, the rest of the population of the State; historical geographical isolation which may or may not exist today; distinct language/dialect; presence of a core culture relating to life-cycle, marriage, songs, dance, paintings, folklore; endogamy, or in case of exogamy, marital relationship primarily with other STs (This criterion is for scheduling of a community as ST and not for determining ST status of an individual)".

Office of Registrar-General of India:

The Census Organisation was set up on an **ad-hoc basis** for each Census till the 1951 Census.

The Government of India, in **1949** established an organisation in the Ministry of Home Affairs under **Registrar General and ex-Officio Census Commissioner**, India to develop systematic collection of statistics on the size of population, its growth, etc.

It arranges, conducts and analyses the results of the demographic surveys of India **including Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India**.

The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India was founded in 1961.

The position of Registrar is usually held by a civil servant holding the rank of Joint Secretary.

Apart from conducting the Population Census and monitoring the implementation of the **Registration of Births and Deaths** in the country, it has been giving estimates on fertility and mortality using the **Sample Registration System (SRS)**.

SRS is the largest demographic sample survey in the country that among other indicators provide direct **estimates of maternal mortality** through a nationally representative sample.

The Indian Census is the largest single source of a variety of statistical information on different characteristics of the people of India.

The responsibility of conducting the **decadal census** rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

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