

Hon'ble Union Sports Minister chairs Chintan Shivir

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Minister called for regular certification and upgradation of coaches, scientific training of athletes, and capacity building in sports administration.

Over 15 State Sports Ministers, along with eminent sports personalities including Adille Sumariwalla, Abhinav Bindra, Pullela Gopichand and Gagan Narang, attended the Chintan Shivir and shared their ideas with the stakeholders, reflecting a collective commitment towards strengthening India's sports ecosystem and advancing collaborative policy dialogue.

Sports Ministers from various States appreciated the initiative to build a consensus around an athlete- and player-centric approach. They emphasized that this model can be replicated across different regions of the country to strengthen and develop a robust sporting ecosystem in India.

The deliberations emphasised strengthening infrastructure, enhancing coaching systems, improving Centre-State convergence, ensuring ethical and safe sporting environments, and building a scientific, technology-driven talent pipeline integrated across schools, academies, and elite training centres.

These sessions also underscored the importance of structured pathways and institutional convergence to ensure continuity in athlete development, from identification to high-performance training.

Registered beneficiaries under PM-KISAN Scheme.....

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30.4.2026 in each Panchayat to ensure completion of these requirements by the beneficiaries.

It is therefore requested, that all eligible PM-KISAN beneficiaries who have not yet completed their land seeding, Biometric e-KYC and Bank Account seeding with Aadhaar is requested to complete the process before 30th April, 2026.

For any further queries related to the Scheme, the beneficiaries may contact the concerned Zonal Agriculture Office/ Field Extension functionaries of Agriculture Department.

The farmers have been advised to use only the official website of PM-KISAN portal & PM-KISAN app and not to download any other app for e-KYC authentication, a press release from Deptt. of Agriculture said.

SEVA SUCHNAYEIN

ALL THE SAILINGS ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

NOTE: FOR SHIPPING RELATED QUERIES PLEASE DIAL TOLL FREE NUMBER 18003452714.

SHIPPING HELPLINE

NO. 245555

Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules of Foreshore/Inter Island Sector vessels is being issued to the general public from 24.04.2026 (Friday) at 0900 Hrs onwards.

Tickets can be booked through the DSS e-Ticketing Portal at <https://dss.andamannicobar.gov.in/eticketing>, which is available 24*7 on all days. For user convenience, a QR code linking directly to the portal has also been provided.

Tickets can also be booked from the STARS Ticketing Counter on all working days from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.



SRI VIJAYA PURAM – MAYABUNDER & DIGLIPUR							
Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules w.e.f. 27 th April, 2026 onwards is being issued from 24.04.2026.							
Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Hut Bay	27.04.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	28.04.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
2.	MV Baratang	29.04.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	30.04.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
3.	MV Sentinel	30.04.2026 1830 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	01.05.2026 1700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
4.	MV Rani Lakshmi	01.05.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	02.05.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
SRI VIJAYA PURAM – LITTLE ANDAMAN							
Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules w.e.f. 28 th April, 2026 onwards is being issued from 24.04.2026.							
1.	MV Bharat Seema	26.04.2026 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	26.04.2026 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
2.	Sindhu	28.04.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	28.04.2026 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
3.	Nalanda	30.04.2026 2100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	01.05.2026 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
4.	MV Sentinel	03.05.2026 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	03.05.2026 2000 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
SRI VIJAYA PURAM – CAR NICOBAR via LITTLE ANDAMAN							
Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules w.e.f. 29 th April, 2026 onwards is being issued from 24.04.2026.							
1.	MV Bharat Seema	29.04.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Katchal via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra and Teressa	02.05.2026 0600 Hrs	Katchal	Sri Vijaya Puram via Teressa, Chowra, Car Nicobar and Little Andaman
2.	MV Kalighat	01.05.2026 1800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar	02.05.2026 1400 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram
SRI VIJAYA PURAM – CAMPBELL BAY VIA ALL PORTS							
1.	MV Bharat Seema	14.05.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal, Nancowry, Makachua & Afra Bay	17.05.2026 2100 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Afra Bay, Makachua, Nancowry, Katchal, Teressa, Chowra, Car Nicobar & Little Andaman.
SRI VIJAYA PURAM - CAMPBELL BAY – NANCOWRY – KATCHAL							
1.	MV Kalighat	28.04.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry & Katchal	30.04.2026 0600 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal & Nancowry Berthing at Katchal Port is subject to fair weather conditions.
2.	Sindhu	30.04.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry	02.05.2026 0800 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Nancowry
3.	Sindhu	05.05.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry and Katchal	07.05.2026 0800 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal and Nancowry Berthing at Katchal Port is subject to fair weather conditions.
4.	Sindhu	12.05.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry	14.05.2026 0800 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Nancowry
Note: Embarkation of passengers will commence 02 Hours prior to the scheduled departure time of the vessel and boarding will be closed 30 Minutes before departure time. Passengers arriving late will not be allowed to board the vessel. The vessel will sail only after completion of survey procedure which will commence on completion of embarkation of passengers for issuance of 'B' Certificate as per MS Act. Further, with regard to cargo all the consigners are hereby advised to book actual quantity of cargo to be transhipped, as no excess cargo will be allowed.							
FORESHORE SECTOR							
26.04.2026 (SUNDAY)							
1.	MV Bambooka	26.04.2026 0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island	26.04.2026 1200 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island & Swaraj Dweep
2.	MV Strait Island	26.04.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	26.04.2026 0830 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
3.	MV Hut Bay	26.04.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	26.04.2026 0845 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
4.	MV North Passage	26.04.2026 1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	26.04.2026 1300 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Swaraj Dweep
		--	--	--	26.04.2026 1430 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram

DRDO unveils Advanced Armoured Platforms (Tracked & Wheeled)

New Delhi, Apr. 25 (PIB)

The Advanced Armoured Platforms (Tracked and Wheeled), designed and developed by Vehicles Research & Development Establishment, were unveiled by Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) & Chairman, DRDO, Dr. Samir V Kamat at the premises of the DRDO's laboratory in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra today. The platforms have been developed to meet the emerging operational requirements of the Defence Forces.

Both the platforms have been integrated with indigenously designed & developed 30 mm Crewless Turret, with advanced features to meet the mobility, fire power and protection requirements. Integrated with high power engine and automatic transmission, these



platforms possess a high power to weight ratio, higher speed capabilities, gradient and obstacle negotiating capability, STANAG level 4 and 5 protection with modular blast and ballistic protection all around. Amphibian with improved water obstacle crossing capability by incorporating hydro jets provides operational flexibility.

The 30 mm crewless turret along with the 7.62 mm PKT gun is configured to launch Anti-Tank Guided Missiles as well.

The base design has the capabilities to be configured for multiple roles. The indigenous content is to the tune of 65% with plans to increase it to 90%.

The manufacturing of the platforms has been carried out by two industry partners - TATA Advanced Systems Limited and Bharat Forge Limited supported by many MSMEs. This collaboration has resulted in strengthening the evolving defence ecosystem.

District Police Cup-2026 concludes at Mayabunder, promoting youth fitness, discipline, and sporting spirit

Mayabunder, Apr. 25

The North & Middle Andaman District Police successfully organized the District Police Cup-2026 Cricket Tournament at Netaji Stadium, Mayabunder, from 11th to 24th April, 2026. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 160 players, showing remarkable talent, discipline, and a strong competitive spirit.

In an exciting grand finale, Forest-XI narrowly defeated



Police-B to lift the championship title, while all participating teams were appreciated for their commendable performance and true sportsmanship. Beyond competition, the tournament served as a platform to

encourage youth towards physical fitness, teamwork, discipline, and a positive lifestyle, steering them away from drugs and harmful habits through active engagement, a press release from SP, (N&MA) said.

Valedictory function of World Book and Copyright Day observance held at State Library

Sri Vijaya Puram, Apr. 25

The three-day celebration of World Book and Copyright Day - 2026, organized by the State Library, Sri Vijaya Puram, concluded today with a valedictory function held at the State library at Middle Point.

The event marked the successful culmination of activities conducted from 23rd to 25th April, 2026, aimed at promoting reading habits and creating awareness about the importance of books and copyright. The Book Exhibition, which featured around 702 books across diverse categories such as novels, children's literature, personality development, competitive



examination guides, biographies, cookery, mythology, fantasy, science fiction and books on the history of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, received an encouraging response from the public, students and book enthusiasts.

As a part of three days celebrations, various competitions were conducted which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students. Winners were

felicitated with certificates and trophies during the function.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest, Smti. Archana Singh, Principal/Nodal Officer, State Library, Sri Vijaya Puram reiterated the commitment of the State Library towards promoting literacy, knowledge dissemination and community engagement, a press release from State Library said.

Hut Bay Police strike against drug menace; illegal cannabis cultivation unearthed

Hutbay, Apr. 25

The team of Police Station Hutbay has once again demonstrated its commitment and effectiveness in the ongoing fight against drugs, upholding a zero tolerance policy towards drug-related offenses. The police team successfully seized 8 Cannabis (Ganja) plants and arrested one individual under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

On 22/04/2026, acting on credible information

received by Inspector Pritam Behari, SHO, Police Station Hutbay regarding illegal cultivation of cannabis plants in the premises of the residence of Diganta Halder, R/o Katai Ward No. 11, R.K Pur, Little Andaman, a raiding team comprising of Inspr. Pritam Behari, SHO PS Hut Bay proceeded towards the location. Further, two independent witnesses, namely Shri S. Vijay Kumar (42 yrs), Up-Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Hut Bay and

Shri Binoy Das (45 yrs), Pvt. Worker R/o Ongi Tikery, Hut Bay also joined the team. During the search, 08 illicit cannabis plants were recovered from the house backyard of Diganta Halder. Each plant was measured and weighed total 43 grams. All plants were seized and accused Diganta Halder, S/o Late Gobinda Halder (23 yrs) was arrested after observing all codal formalities, a press release from SP (SA) said.

Island's biggest Chess Mahasangram 2.0.....

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event highlights chess as more than just a game, an art of patience, foresight, and strategy, bringing together the community in a shared pursuit of excellence.

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, inaugurated the event by making the ceremonial first move against Shri P. Tata Rao, the top seed of the tournament in the presence of senior officers of the A&N Administration. He also walked through the playing area, closely observing the ongoing matches and taking a keen interest in the players' performances.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary expressed his delight at the recent surge in sporting activities across the Islands. He noted that a T20 cricket tournament and a state-level football tournament for the Pre-Subroto Cup had been organized recently, followed now by Chess Mahasangram 2.0, an open rapid-format chess tournament. He stated that Chess is fundamentally a mental sport that enhances cognitive abilities and strategic thinking. He also expressed pride in the achievements of island players who have secured commendable FIDE ratings and performed well at the National School Chess Championship in Guwahati.

The closing ceremony of the tournament will be held tomorrow at 7.45 pm, during which prizes will be awarded to the winners, a press release from Directorate of Education said.

Deptt. of CS&CA to organize mega Aadhaar Camp in GSSS Boys on April 27 & 28

Sri Vijaya Puram, Apr. 25

The Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs in coordination with Department of Education, Health and Social Welfare will be organizing a mega Aadhaar Camp in Government Boys Senior Secondary School, Sri Vijaya Puram on 27.04.2026 and 28.04.2026 from 9.30 am onwards.

The camp is being organized to cover all children under the age group of 0-5 years, and for Mandatory Biometric Updation (MBU1 & MBU2) of 5 to 15 years and 15 -17 age band.

All have been requested to avail this opportunity and get the Aadhaar related work done during the Aadhaar Camp, a press release from Deptt. of CS&CA said.

General appeal for public support in.....

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water.

In this regard, it has been observed that several households possess borewells and dugwells with water availability exceeding their individual requirements. Therefore, the Administration appeals to all such well owners to extend their cooperation by allowing APWD-deployed water tankers to draw excess water for supplying to water-scarce areas.

Well owners willing to support may contact: Executive Engineer, PHED, APWD, Prothrapur, Phone: 03192-251185 / 9474261306 and Executive Engineer, RCD, APWD, Wimberlygunj, Phone: 9434281508.

Alternatively, information may also be shared with local public representatives for necessary coordination.

Further, all Pradhans, Panchayat Samiti Members, and Zilla Parishad Members are requested to identify such borewells and inform the concerned Executive Engineers to support the water supply system during this period.

The cooperation of the general public is earnestly solicited to ensure equitable distribution of safe drinking water during this time of scarcity, a press release from APWD said.

SSC to conduct Exam for Constable (GD) in CAPFs & SSF and Rifleman (GD) in Assam Rifles

Sri Vijaya Puram, Apr. 25

The Staff Selection Commission is going to conduct the Constable (GD) in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and SSF, and Rifleman (GD) in Assam Rifles Examination, 2026. The examination is scheduled to be held in multiple phase from 27th April, 2026 to 2nd May, 2026, 4th May, 2026 to 9th May, 2026, 18th May,

2026 to 23rd May, 2026 and 25th May, 2026 to 30th May, 2026. The e-Admit Card of the candidates appearing for the examination will be made available 3-4 days prior to the scheduled examination date on the website of the Commission (<https://ssc.gov.in/> [https://ssc.gov.in/], a press release from Deputy Secretary (R&E) said.

Anti-Poaching Operation successfully.....

(Contd. from page 1)

deliberate illegal exploitation of marine resources in Indian EEZ.

The apprehended personnel along with the seized vessel have been taken into custody for further legal action in coordination with local law enforcement agencies.

This successful operation highlights the Andaman & Nicobar Command's operational synergy and unwavering commitment to safeguarding India's maritime frontiers. The Command continues to maintain round-the-clock vigilance and remains resolute in its efforts to deter and counter all forms of illegal activities in the region while protecting the fragile marine ecosystem of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a press release from HQ ANC said.

Census 2027: India’s First Digital Enumeration Exercise

Key Takeaways
✓ *Census 2027 will mark India’s first digital enumeration, leveraging mobile-based data collection to enable faster and more efficient nationwide data availability.*
✓ *The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, in its meeting on 30th April 2025, decided to include caste enumeration in the Census 2027.*
✓ *Backed by a strong institutional framework and Rs. 11,718.24 crore outlay, extensive preparatory measures - including training, pre-test, and administrative readiness - to ensure smooth nationwide implementation.*
✓ *With secure Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)-designated data centres and a large workforce - Census 2027 will deliver reliable data for targeted and inclusive policymaking.*

Introduction
Census is the process of collecting, compiling, analyzing and disseminating demographic, social, cultural and economic data relating to all persons in the country or a designated area. The wealth of information collected through census makes it the richest source of data for planners, administrators, research scholars and other data users. Census serves as a critical foundation for governance, enabling informed decision-making across political, social, and economic domains. Census data enables informed policy making that are inclusive, targeted, and aligned with the diverse needs of the population.

The earliest references to conducting census in the country can be found in Kautilya’s Arthashastra (321-296 BC) and later in the writings of Abul Fazl in ‘Ain-e-Akbari’ during the days of Emperor Akbar. The first modern population census in India was conducted between 1865 and 1872, though it didn't happen simultaneously across all regions. India conducted its first synchronous census in 1881. Since then, the Indian census has been providing reliable, time-tested data on various aspects of the population through extensive exercises held every 10 years. Each successive census refined its methods, increased coverage, and modified questions to better understand the population.

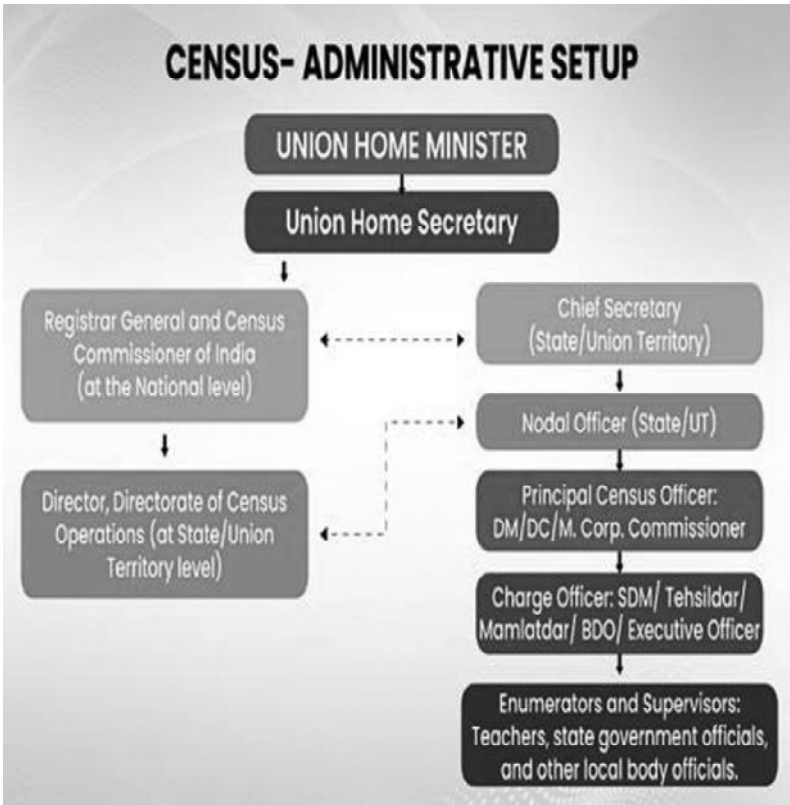
Census 2027 will be the 16th in the series of Indian census and 8th since independence. This will be the largest census exercise in the world and marks a major step forward with digital integration, strengthened data security, and streamlining processes, reinforcing evidence-based policymaking. It introduces several pioneering features, including mobile-based data collection, near real-time monitoring through the Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) portal, an optional self-enumeration facility, and extensive use of geo-referenced jurisdictions. Comprehensive caste enumeration will be done during the Population Enumeration phase.

Supported by advanced digital tools, the exercise aims to deliver faster, more accurate, and granular data while ensuring the highest standards of data security and public participation.

Historical Background of Indian Census

India’s Census has evolved into the world’s largest administrative and statistical exercise. The first population count was conducted during 1865-1872, followed by the first synchronous nationwide Census in 1881. Indian Census has since been conducted decennially. However, the Census due in 2021 could not be undertaken on schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Census 2027 will therefore mark the next enumeration in the series, and is the 16th Indian Census overall and the 8th since Independence.

Institutional and Legal Architecture of Census 2027



The Census 2027 is anchored in a robust institutional and administrative framework that ensures consistency, credibility, and nationwide uniformity in data collection. Post-independence, the Census is governed by the Census Act, 1948, and the Census Rules, 1990, ensuring a strong legal and institutional framework. The Census is a Union subject under the Seventh Schedule (listed at serial number 69) of the Constitution. As a Union subject, the exercise is centrally coordinated while implemented in close collaboration with State and Union Territory governments, enabling seamless execution across diverse regions.

The framework also guarantees strict confidentiality of individual data, reinforcing public trust and participation. The Census Act contains a significant provision - Section 15, under which personal information provided by people is treated as strictly confidential. It cannot be made public under the RTI Act, used as evidence in any court of law, or shared with any institution.

The intent of the Government to conduct the Population Census 2027 was notified in Gazette of India on 16th June, 2025. The Union Cabinet has approved a financial outlay of ₹11,718.24 crore for its implementation.

Two-Phase Enumeration Strategy and Reference Timeline

Census 2027 will be conducted in a structured two-phase format to ensure comprehensive and systematic data collection across the country.

✓ **Phase I:** Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) is scheduled between April and September 2026. It will be held in a period of 30 days in each State/ UT, as per the convenience of the State/UT Governments. There will also be an option of Self-enumeration during a 15-day period just before the 30-day period of house-to-house HLO work. This phase will gather detailed information on housing conditions, availability of amenities, and assets possessed by households, while also creating the essential frame for the subsequent phase.

✓ **Phase II:** Population Enumeration (PE) is scheduled for February 2027 and will focus on capturing detailed demographic, socio-economic, cultural, migration, and fertility-related information of individuals across households. As decided by the CCPA, enumeration of Castes will also be done during the second phase of Census. For UT of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, Phase II will be conducted during September 2026. Exact dates of the Population Enumeration and questions will be notified in due course.

Questions for the Houselisting and Housing Census

The Government has already notified a comprehensive set of questions for Phase I or the Houselisting and Housing Census phase in January 2026.

Houselisting and Housing Census Questions	
S No. Question	S No. Question
Condition of the House	1 Line Number
	2 Building number
	3 Census house number
	4 Predominant material of floor of the Census house
	5 Predominant material of Wall of the Census house
	6 Predominant material of Roof of the Census house
	7 Ascertain use of Census house
	8 Condition of the Census House
Household Information	9 Household number
	10 Total number of persons normally residing in the household
	11 Name of the head of the household
	12 Sex of the head of the household
	13 Weather the head of the household belongs to SC/ST/Other
	14 Ownership status of the Census house
	15 Number of dwelling rooms exclusively in possession of the household
	16 Number of married couple(s) living in the household
S No. Question	S No. Question
Amenities available to the household	17 Main source of drinking water
	18 Availability of drinking water source
	19 Main source of lighting
	20 Access to Latrine
	21 Type of Latrine
	22 Waste water outlet
	23 Availability of bathing facility
	24 Availability of kitchen and LPG/LNG connection
Assets possessed by the household	25 Main Fuel used for cooking
	26 Radio/Transistor
	27 Television
	28 Access to Internet
	29 Laptop/Computer
	30 Telephone/Mobile Phone/ Smartphone
	31 Bicycle and Scooter/ Motorcycle/Moped
	32 Car/Jeep/Van
Others	33 Main cereal consumed in the household
	34 Mobile number (For Census related communications only)

The Reference Date for Census 2027 has been fixed as 00:00 hours of March 1, 2027. For UT of Ladakh and snow-bound areas of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date will be 00:00 hours of October 1, 2026. This point of time is also referred to as Census Moment.

Flowchart: Alternate Process: Census Moment helps the enumerators to decide which persons are to be included in the census.

Salient Features of the Census 2027

The Census 2027 is set to introduce several significant administrative and technological advancements to enhance the accuracy, efficiency, transparency and speed of the enumeration process. These initiatives will modernize the census operations and generate more comprehensive and timely demographic data for evidence-based policymaking.

Caste Enumeration

Caste enumeration has emerged as a major feature of the Indian Census 2027. Until the 2011 Census, the exercise included the systematic enumeration of only Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). However, following the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs dated 30 April 2025, Census 2027 will also undertake caste enumeration.

First Census by Digital Means

Census 2027 will mark India’s first census by the digital means, and the government has already begun extensive preparations for its successful implementation.

Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) Portal

As part of these efforts, a dedicated portal, namely Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) portal, has been developed for managing and monitoring the entire Census process on a near real-time basis. Officers at Sub-district, District, State and National levels can track enumeration progress, field performance, and operational readiness through an integrated dashboard.

Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) Mobile Application

This is a secure offline app for enumerators to collect and upload houselisting data, accessible only to those registered on the CMMS portal. It enables direct field-to-server data transmission, eliminating paperwork. It will work on Android and iOS platform in 16 regional languages.

Houselisting Block Creator (HLBC) Web Mapping Application

Another innovation for Census 2027 is HLB Creator web mapping application to be used by the Charge Officers. It will facilitate digital creation of Houselisting Blocks using satellite imagery, ensuring geographic coverage across the country without omission and duplication.

Self-Enumeration Portal

An optional 15-day Self-Enumeration period will precede the house-to-house field visit. The Self-Enumeration Portal is a secure web-based facility that allows eligible respondents within a household to submit their household information online prior to field operations. Upon successful submission, a unique Self-

Enumeration ID (SE ID) will be generated. This SE ID is to be shared with the enumerator, on the basis of which enumerator will be able to confirm the information.

Self-Enumeration Facility

A major citizen-centric innovation in the Census 2027 is the introduction of self-enumeration facility with the following features:

- ✓ The facility is accessible via a dedicated online portal - <https://se.census.gov.in/>;
- ✓ It will be available in 16 languages (Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu);
- ✓ Respondents can fill details independently, after which a unique Self-Enumeration (SE) ID will be generated;
- ✓ User Guide, Flow chart, FAQs, necessary ‘Tool Tips’, Tutorial video and validation checks for questions are provided in the Self-Enumeration Portal itself to ensure accuracy of data.
- ✓ Data will be confirmed and integrated by enumerators during field visits.

Conduct in Shortest Possible Time

By leveraging technology at every stage from collection to data processing, the endeavor would be to make the Census data available at the shortest possible time across the country. Efforts will also be made to disseminate Census results with more customized visualization tools.

Comprehensive Preparatory Framework for Seamless Implementation

For providing a stable framework for enumeration activities, administrative units have been frozen as of 1 January 2026. A nationwide pre-test for phase-I covering around 5,000 census blocks was conducted in November 2025 to validate the methodology, digital tools and training systems.

To strengthen coordination and oversight, high-level meetings involving Chief Secretaries, State nodal officers, and Census officials were held in January 2026, alongside the completion of appointments of census functionaries at district and charge levels. Further, detailed instruction manuals have been prepared in 19 languages, supported by comprehensive guidelines and circulars to ensure consistency in implementation across regions.

In addition, a time-bound calendar of activities has been put in place to enable continuous monitoring and timely execution, thereby reinforcing the overall preparedness and administrative efficiency of the Census exercise.

Expansion of Administrative Units Census 2011–2027 Comparison		
Administrative Unit	Census 2011	Census 2027
State/UT	35	36
District	640	784
Sub-district	5,990	7,092
Statutory Town	4,041	5,128
Census Town	3,892	4,580
Village	6,40,932	6,39,902

Robust Data Security and Privacy Architecture

A comprehensive and multi-layered data security framework has been established for Census 2027 to safeguard the integrity and confidentiality of information at every stage. This includes:

- ✓ End-to-end encryption covering data collection, transmission and storage, along with secure transmission protocols to prevent unauthorized access.
- ✓ Data is hosted on certified and secure data centres, which have been designated as Critical Information Infrastructure (CII), ensuring heightened protection standards.
- ✓ Additionally, these systems comply with globally recognized ISO/IEC 27001:2022 standards, and are subject to regular security audits by reputed agencies.

Together, these measures ensure a resilient and secure data ecosystem for the Census exercise.

Capacity Building and Human Resource Preparedness

Human resource readiness forms a critical pillar of Census 2027, with extensive efforts directed towards training and capacity building. Approximately 31 lakh enumerators and supervisors, along with over 1 lakh census functionaries, have been mobilized to carry out the exercise efficiently. To equip them with the necessary skills, more than 80,000 training batches are being conducted for each phase, supported by phase-specific training modules. This structured approach aims to ensure high standards of data quality, accuracy, and operational efficiency throughout the Census process.

To complete various tasks for successful conduct of Census 2027, approximately 18,600 technical manpower will be engaged for about 550 days at the local levels. In other words, around 1.02 crore man-days employment would be generated.

Conclusion: Census as a Foundation for Future Governance

The Census remains a cornerstone of governance, providing reliable and comprehensive data for informed policymaking and inclusive development. It enables accurate assessment of population trends and ensures effective planning across sectors such as food, water, energy, and infrastructure. By offering granular insights at the local level, it helps in targeted delivery of government schemes and optimal resource allocation.

The upcoming Census 2027 is expected to further strengthen this framework by providing updated and detailed information. This will support more precise, data-driven planning and help address emerging challenges in a rapidly changing socio-economic landscape.

(Source: PIB)

