

Daily Current Affairs 21 May 2025



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Daily Current Affairs Quiz 21 May 2026

Q1. Which authority is responsible for conducting the Census in India?

- (a) Election Commission of India
- (b) Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) National Statistical Office

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is (B) Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India

Explanation:

- The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (ORGI) holds the exclusive legal and administrative mandate for executing, calculating, and publishing the decennial population census data in India. This highly specialized office operates directly under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.
- The statutory authority of this office is derived from the historic Census Act of 1948, which grants the central official the power to demand truthful information from citizens and penalize non-compliance, while simultaneously ensuring that all individual data remains strictly confidential and protected from judicial or tax scrutiny.
- Although the census is carried out once every ten years, the ORGI functions as a permanent central secretariat. Between census cycles, this authority is responsible for managing the vital statistics system, including the registration of births and deaths under the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, and maintaining the National Population Register (NPR).
- The administrative hierarchy flows downwards from the Census Commissioner to state-level Directors of Census Operations, and further down to District Magistrates who act as Principal Census Officers in their respective territorial jurisdictions.

Information Booster:

- Interestingly, until the 1951 census, a temporary Census Commissioner was appointed ad hoc for each specific decennial cycle, after which the operational machinery was disbanded. The permanent office structure under the Ministry of Home Affairs was institutionalized in 1961.
- The Census Act of 1948 was enacted by the constituent assembly before the formal adoption of the Indian Constitution, proving how critical population metrics were to the early architects of independent India.

Additional Knowledge:

- Election Commission of India (Option A): An independent constitutional body established under Article 324. It is strictly responsible for managing superintendence, direction, and control of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President.
- NITI Aayog (Option C): The premier policy think tank of the Government of India, which replaced the Planning Commission. It provides strategic and technical advice on macro-economic and development metrics but possesses no operational field mandate for population data collection.
- National Statistical Office (Option D): Formed by merging the CSO and NSSO under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The NSO conducts large-scale sample surveys (such as the Periodic Labour Force Survey and Consumer Expenditure Surveys) but does not handle the universal decennial population census.

Q2. Census 2027 will include caste enumeration for the first time since:

- (a) 1947
- (b) 1951
- (c) 1971
- (d) 1931

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (D) 1931

Explanation:

- The inclusion of caste enumeration within the upcoming demographic exercise marks a monumental socio-political turning point, as a comprehensive count of all castes and communities is being integrated into the main decennial framework for the first time since the pre-independence era of 1931.
- The last time a complete, full-scale mapping of all castes across the Indian subcontinent was published within a standard decennial census report was under the British Raj in 1931. While a census was initiated in 1941, the detailed tables regarding caste metrics were dropped due to severe resource reallocations and logistical constraints brought about by World War II.
- Following independence, the Government of India adopted a policy shift regarding demographic variables. From the first post-independence census in 1951 up until the 2011 cycle, the institutional policy strictly limited specific caste tracking to only Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to satisfy clear constitutional mandates.
- The inclusion of broader caste tracking parameters in the modern cycle responds to long-standing political demands and policy requirements. Proponents argue that precise sociological and numerical data regarding Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and various micro-communities is essential for tailoring effective reservation policies and socio-economic interventions.

Information Booster:

- The Government did conduct a separate exercise called the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) in 2011. However, SECC 2011 was handled under different ministries (Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation) rather than the standard Census Act framework, and its raw caste data was never fully made public due to structural data anomalies.
- Constitutional provisions under Article 341 and Article 342 govern the identification and modification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists, which have always been itemized in every post-independence census questionnaire.

Additional Knowledge:

- 1947 (Option A): Marks the year of India's partition and independence; no official national population census operations were active during this transitional year.
- 1951 (Option B): Represents the inaugural census of independent India. It was executed under the supervision of Census Commissioner M. W. M. Yeatts and established the policy of omitting general caste data columns to promote social cohesion.
- 1971 (Option C): This census marked the centenary of Indian census operations and was structurally famous for introducing the 'Intercensal Change' metrics and highly refined economic classification questions.

Q3. The Population Enumeration phase of Census 2027 is scheduled to be conducted in:

- (a) January 2026
- (b) September 2026
- (c) February 2027
- (d) April 2027

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (C) February 2027

Explanation:

- The conduction of an Indian census is an elaborately structured multi-phase operation. The final critical phase, known as the Population Enumeration phase, is slated to take place across the country in February 2027, maintaining the historical precedent for tracking national demographics during the winter season.
- Historically, the operational blueprint of the decennial census splits the task into two core operational blocks: Phase 1 consists of the Houselisting and Housing Census, which is executed months in advance to catalog structural assets, living conditions, and civic amenities. Phase 2 is the actual population count, which tracks individual citizen parameters.
- During the population enumeration phase in February, hundreds of thousands of trained government officials and enumerators visit every household to fill out individual slips covering questions on literacy, age, profession, migration, languages spoken, religion, and socio-economic markers.
- This phase concludes with a brief revision round in early March, which allows enumerators to adjust the database for any births or deaths that occurred after their initial household visit but prior to the official reference date, thereby ensuring absolute demographic accuracy.

Information Booster:

- The standard reference date for the census is traditionally midnight of March 1st of the census year. For snow-bound or structurally inaccessible regions (such as parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand), population enumeration is often fast-tracked or adjusted to fit local weather windows.
- The 2027 census rollout heavily relies on digital public infrastructure, permitting field agents to directly feed responses into a secured mobile application, bypassing the slow data-entry phase associated with legacy paper schedules.

Additional Knowledge:

- January 2026 (Option A): Corresponds to an early preparatory block where administrative boundaries at the district, tehsil, and municipal ward levels are frozen by state governments to prevent jurisdictional overlaps during field mapping.
- September 2026 (Option B): Fits within the typical timeline reserved for completing the primary Houselisting and Housing phase across various state blocks, providing the foundational grid upon which the subsequent individual counting rests.
- April 2027 (Option D): Serves as the operational window where the initial post-enumeration surveys (PES) are deployed to check for missing data blocks, alongside the preliminary tabulation of the raw field metrics.

Q4. Census 2027 will be India's ____ census since Independence.

- (a) 6th
- (b) 7th
- (c) 8th
- (d) 9th

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (C) 8th

Explanation:

- The upcoming Census 2027 marks the 8th decennial population enumeration exercise conducted by India since it gained independence from British rule in 1947. This exercise is one of the largest administrative undertakings in the world, capturing vital demographic data of over a billion citizens.
- Under normal institutional cycles, India conducts its census at the turn of every decade. The post-independence timeline features censuses conducted successfully in 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011. The eighth installment in this post-independence sequence was originally planned for 2021 but suffered unprecedented postponements.
- The long delay in executing the 2021 census cycle was primarily driven by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which paralyzed field operations and administrative machinery nationwide. Following the health crisis, logistical shifts and technological redesigns further extended the timeline, culminating in the formal rescheduling of the exercises to 2027.
- For general studies and competitive exams, it is crucial to recognize that while this is the 8th census since independence, it represents the 16th national census overall since the systematic tracking of population statistics began in the late 19th century under colonial administration.

Information Booster:

- The very first non-synchronous population census in India was initiated under the governorship of Lord Mayo in the year 1872. However, the first complete, synchronous, and uninterrupted decennial census was executed under the supervision of Lord Ripon in 1881.
- Demography data derived from the census forms the foundational matrix for the Delimitation Commission of India, which alters the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on changing population densities.
- Article 246 of the Indian Constitution places the subject of Population Census under the Union List (Seventh Schedule, Entry 69), making it the exclusive legislative and administrative domain of the Central Government of India.

Additional Knowledge:

- 6th Census (Option A): Refers back to the historic Census of 2001, which was the first census of the 21st century and mapped critical shifts in rural-to-urban migration pathways across the country.
- 7th Census (Option B): Refers to the Census of 2011, which serves as the base data for various ongoing public welfare schemes, allocation of resources, and institutional planning metrics till the new census results are compiled.
- 9th Census (Option D): Will correspond to the subsequent decade's census cycle, provisionally expected to be executed in the late 2030s, depending on the stabilization of institutional timelines by the union ministry.

Q5. Which of the following features has been introduced in Census 2027?

- (a) Blockchain voting
- (b) Geo-referenced jurisdictions and self-enumeration
- (c) Facial recognition census
- (d) Satellite-only population counting

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is (B) Geo-referenced jurisdictions and self-enumeration

Explanation:


- Census 2027 stands out as India's inaugural digital census, driven by technological updates designed to eliminate systemic human errors, minimize administrative lag, and maximize coverage across dense urban grids and isolated rural terrains.
- A central feature introduced in this cycle is the structural implementation of geo-referenced jurisdictions. By embedding Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technologies into the census grid, the Office of the Registrar General can precisely demarcate and lock enumeration blocks (EBs). This completely eliminates the issues of overlapping territories or missed sub-localities that plagued legacy paper maps.
- Additionally, the introduction of a digital self-enumeration portal allows citizens to securely log in using validated mobile credentials and fill out their household census questionnaires independently. This modern approach reduces the need for physical visits by enumerators to every single household, making data collection more efficient.
- Data protection and privacy protocols have been updated to align with modern cyber-security standards. All inputs collected through self-enumeration or enumerator apps are encrypted end-to-end and saved directly on centralized national secure servers, preventing local data leaks.

Information Booster:

- The integration of a dedicated mobile application for field enumerators allows for offline data logging. This feature helps ensure that agents working in deep tribal belts or regions with weak telecom connectivity can save records locally before syncing with central databases.
- Section 15 of the Census Act of 1948 guarantees that census records are not open to inspection or admissible as evidence in a court of law, ensuring that self-enumeration cannot be weaponized for punitive civic tracking.

Additional Knowledge:

- Blockchain voting (Option A): This technology pertains to electoral reforms aimed at secure remote voting systems being explored by election management bodies worldwide; it plays no part in the demographic enumeration matrix of the census.
- Facial recognition census (Option C): This is not implemented due to severe individual privacy laws, regulatory boundaries, and the high margin of error in unmanaged biometrics across vast heterogeneous populations.
- Satellite-only population counting (Option D): While remote sensing and ISRO satellite imagery are heavily utilized for preparatory mapping of geographic terrain and spatial expansion analysis, they cannot replace the detailed socio-economic, linguistic, and cultural data obtained through direct interaction or self-reporting.



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