

CENSUS OF INDIA

**Census is the *biggest* and
the *only* source of
size and distribution of
population and its growth trends
across all geographical and
administrative units**

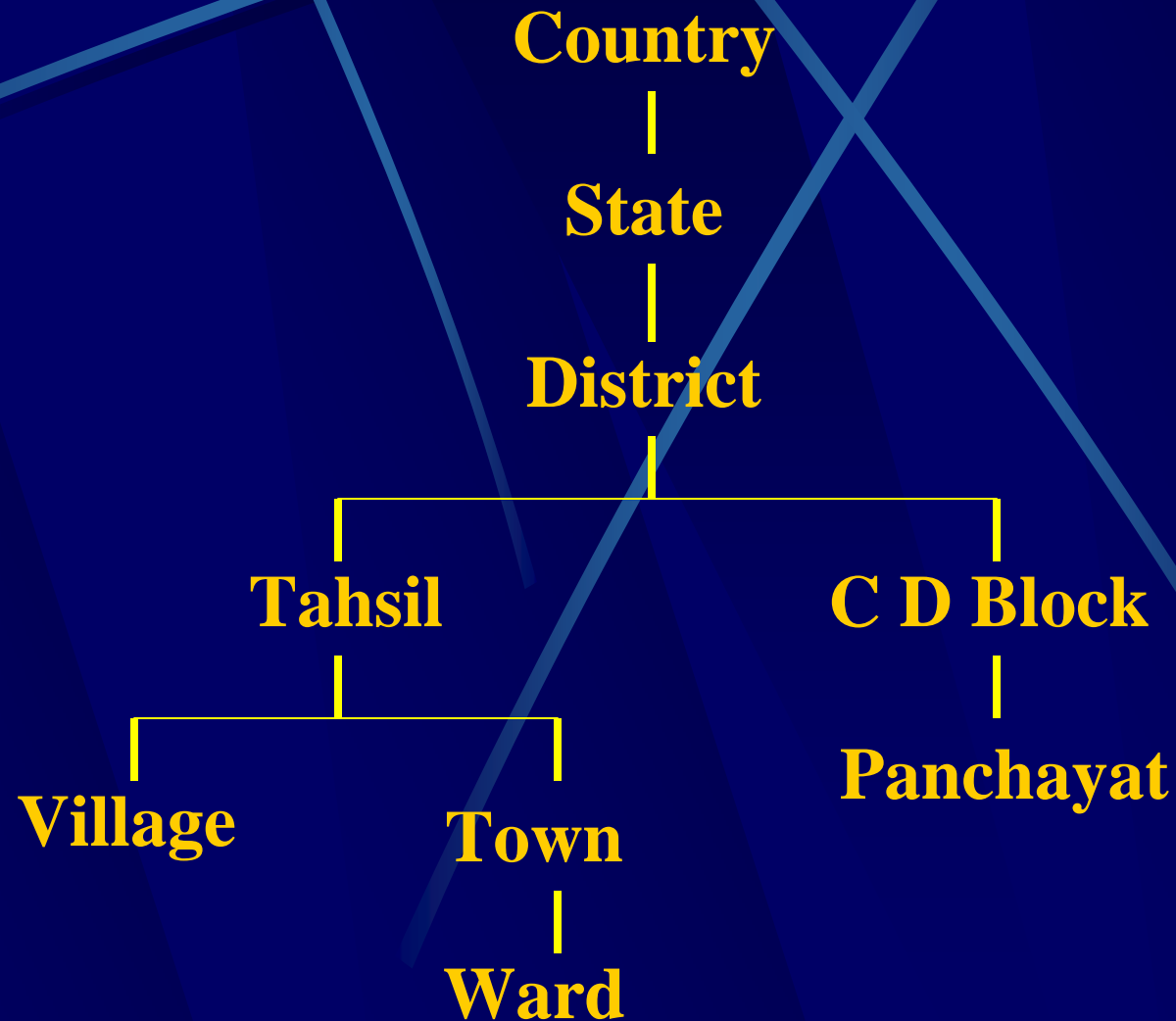
WHY CENSUS ?

Census - Not merely a head count.

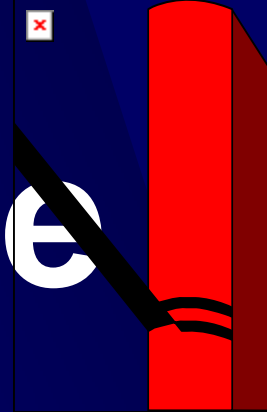
Biggest source of comprehensive data with information on

- ❄ Housing
- ❄ Household Amenities
- ❄ Marital Status
- ❄ Scheduled Castes
- ❄ Scheduled Tribes
- ❄ Mother Tongue & Language
- ❄ Religion
- ❄ Literacy & Educational Status
- ❄ Work Force & its Occupational Characteristics
- ❄ Fertility
- ❄ Mortality
- ❄ Ageing
- ❄ Migration

Provides basic data at all administrative levels



Historical Profile



- ★ *Attempts made since ancient times*
- ★ *The celebrated ARTHASHATRA, the Principles of Government, as evolved by one of the great genius of political administration, Kautilya, during the days of the Mauryas In the 3rd century B.C prescribed the collection of population statistics as a measure of state policy for the purpose of taxation.*
- ★ *AIN-E-AKBARI, a sixteenth century treatise on the Mughal administration, also lays emphasis on importance of census as a tool for decision-making*

Brief History of Census in India

- **First modern Census in India : 1872**
- **But it was not conducted simultaneously in the entire country**

**First
SYNCHRONOUS
CENSUS
CONDUCTED IN
1881**

There after:
every 10 years
without any break
i.e. 1891, 1901,until
2001

During the 2nd World War
also,
inspite of a lot of
administrative
difficulties, **CENSUS**
was taken
in 1941

Considered in terms of social perspective, the census in India has always been an effort to synthesize traditionalism with modernism and to bring out the quantitative indices of the shifts towards modernism of a traditional society. It is this character of the Indian Census that imparts to it a great flexibility, as reflected in the expanding scope of the census and also in the adjustments in the concepts, definitions and operational procedures that have taken place from decade to decade.

A. Chandra Shekhar
Census Commissioner, India
1971 Census

Much has been made of the Indian Census's pre-occupation with castes and tribes and cognate anthropological inquiries over the decades. While indeed a very large and valuable body of anthropological literature has grown round the Indian Census, it needs to be emphasized that the Indian Census has been primarily concerned with its legitimate tasks of demographic analysis and economic classification, of mathematical manipulation and even statistical ingenuity

**Indian Census in Perspective
Census Centenary Monograph No.1
1971**

Questions canvassed and definitions adopted in different Censuses

Age - since 1872

**1872- Age 'next birthday',
children below one year were entered as age '1'**

**1881- Age 'last birthday',
for children below one year, the age in number of
months was also recorded and the word 'month'
was also written**

**1891 - Age in completed years,
to for children below one year the word 'infant' was
1921 recorded**

Questions canvassed and definitions adopted in different Censuses (contd.)

- 931- Number of years completed to the nearest birthday, & for children less than 6 months old '0' was recorded**
- 941 and for children over six months but under one year '1' was recorded**
- 951- Age in completed years or in other words age o completed 'last birthday' was recorded. From 1961**
- 2001 onwards for children below one year '0' was recorded**

Questions canvassed and definitions adopted in different Censuses (contd.)

Marital Status - since 1881

881- Married, bachelor, spinster, widow or widower was recorded in respect of each person. Children who were married were entered as married even though they might not have actually begun to live with their husbands or wives.

901- Married, Unmarried and Widowed was recorded for each person. Children who were married were entered as married even though they might not have actually begun to live with their husbands or wives. Widowed included divorced

Questions canvassed and definitions adopted in different Censuses (contd.)

921- Same as 1911.

Addition- A prostitute or concubine was recorded as 'unmarried' even though she had children out of such quasi-marital relationship. On the other hand persons who were recognised by their community as married were entered as so even though they had not gone through the full ceremony.

931- Same as 1921.

Addition- Persons living together in such a manner as to get children and form a family were treated as married

Questions canvassed and definitions adopted in different Censuses (contd.)

- 941- Divorced persons were recorded separately. Other condition remained the same as in 1931**
- 951- This question was canvassed as 'Civil condition' and not 'Marital Status'. Definition and concept same as 1941.**
- 961- The term 'Unmarried' changed to 'Never Married'. 'Separated' was added to 'Divorced'. The marital status of prostitutes was recorded as declared by the**
- 971- Same definition and concept as 1961. The term 'Married' was replaced by 'Currently Married'.**

CENSUS OF INDIA 2001



लोकाभिमुख
PEOPLE ORIENTED

AN OVERVIEW

CENSUS OF INDIA 2001

is:

the 14th Census of
India,

6th in Independent India,

1st of the third Millennium
and the 21st Century

Legal Provisions

Census Act 1948
(37 of 1948)

&

Census Rules

Obligation of the Public (Sec. 8/9 of the Act)

- ✓ To allow entry to the Census staff in her/his house
- ✓ To allow painting of number on her/his house
- ✓ To give correct information to the best of her/his knowledge & belief

Punishment for violation:-

Fine upto Rs. 1000/- (Sec 11 of the Act)

Obligation of the Census Officers/Staff

- ❄ Cannot refuse duty
- ❄ Cannot obstruct anyone from performing duty
- ❄ Cannot put offensive, improper or unauthorised question(s)
- ❄ Cannot knowingly make a false return
- ❄ Cannot disclose any Census information

Punishment :- Imprisonment upto 3 years and/or fine upto Rs. 1000/- (Sec. 11 of the Act)

Confidentiality of Census Records (Sec.15 of the Act)

CENSUS RECORDS not open
to inspection nor
admissible in evidence

Sec. 15A of the Act

- Service interests of the members of the Census Staff are given due protection
- Census Duty is considered as
“On Duty”

Sec. 15B of the Act

Any act undertaken in
good faith by
the Census Staff
under the Census Act
and Rules is protected

Administrative Hierarchy

**Registrar General &
Census Commissioner, India**



**Director of Census Operations
(Chief Principal Census Officer)**



Principal Census Officer



Field Functionaries

Finalization of rural and urban frame

The boundaries of administrative jurisdictions like district, tahsils/talukas etc. villages and towns are changing continuously.

Therefore, there is need to freeze the boundaries before finalizing the frame that includes list of districts, sub-districts, villages and towns. The boundaries for the Census 2001 were frozen as on 1st January 2000. The list is finalized in consultation with the state/district administration

Finalization of rural and urban frame (contd.)

For the purpose of Census revenue villages are considered as the rural unit

The classification of urban unit in Census of India 2001 is based on the following definition

- a) All places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc.**
- b) All other places which satisfy the following criteria:**
 - i) A minimum population of 5,000;**
 - ii) At least 75 per cent of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and;**
 - iii) A density of population of at least 400 per square kilometre**

Two Phases of Census

1. HOUSELISTING OPERATIONS
between April-September 2000

2. POPULATION ENUMERATION
9th to 28th February 2001
with Revisional Round
from 1st to 5th March, 2001

THE OBJECTIVE OF HOUSELISTING OPERATIONS

**WAS TO NUMBER AND LIST OUT ALL
THE PHYSICAL UNITS OF
CONSTRUCTION WHICH ARE USED OR
LIKELY TO BE USED FOR DIFFERENT
PURPOSES, RESIDENTIAL OR OTHERWISE**



THE HOUSELISTING OPERATIONS PROVIDE A BASE FOR POPULATION ENUMERATION

Houselisting Operations provide

A COMPREHENSIVE DATABASE FOR ASSESSING

- THE LIVING CONDITIONS
IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
- POSSIBLE HOUSING DEFICIT
- FUTURE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS





IT ALSO PROVIDES
DATA ON
AMENITIES
AVAILABLE TO
THE HOUSEHOLDS

Phase - II

Population Enumeration
9th to 28th February
2001

Revisional Round
1st to 5th March
2001

HOUSELESS POPULATION WAS
ENUMERATED DURING NIGHT
HOURS

of

28th February 2001

WHEREVER THEY WERE FOUND

The persons who were to be enumerated

- 1. All those who normally resided and were present in that household during the entire period of enumeration, i.e. from 9th February to 28th February, 2001**
- 2. All those who are known to have normally resided and had actually stayed during a part of the enumeration period in the household but were not present at the time of visit**

The persons who were to be enumerated

- 3. Also those who were known to have normally resided in the household and were not present at the time of the visit but were expected to return by 28th February, 2001**
- 4. Visitors who were present in the household and expected to be away from the place of their usual residence during the entire enumeration period**

The persons who were to be enumerated

Foreigners who were expected to stay within the geographical limits of the country throughout the enumeration period were counted wherever they were found

Foreigners and their families having diplomatic status were not counted

During Population
Enumeration
Household Schedule
with **23 Questions**
was canvassed

Household Schedule had
2 Sides - A & B
Side "A" had Questions 1 to 15,
while
Side "B" had Questions 16 to 23
and
Questions on
Households engaged in
Cultivation/Plantation

The Household Schedule had three parts

Part I - Location Particulars

Part II - Individual Particulars

**Part III - Questions for households engaged
in cultivation/plantation**

In the household schedule

Questions 1 to 15 dealt with

General and socio-cultural
characteristics



**Questions
1 to 15:**

✿ **Name**

✿ **Relationship to head**

✿ **Sex**

✿ **Age**

✿ **Marital status**

✿ **Age at marriage**



**Questions
1 to 15:**

- ✿ **Religion**
- ✿ **Scheduled Castes**
- ✿ **Scheduled Tribes**
- ✿ **Mother tongue**
- ✿ **Other Languages Known**



Questions 1 to 15:

- ✿ **Literate or illiterate**
- ✿ **Educational level**
- ✿ **Attending School, College etc.**
- ✿ **Disability and its type**



Questions 16 to 20 dealt with

**Characteristics of Workers and
Non-workers**



Questions 16 to 20:

- ❖ Main / Marginal or Non-worker
- ❖ Economic activity of the person
- ❖ Occupation
- ❖ Nature of Industry / trade or service



Questions 16 to 20:

- ❖ Class of worker
- ❖ Seeking/available for work
- ❖ Distance from residence to place of work
- ❖ Mode of travel from residence to place of work



Questions 21 & 22 dealt
with

Migration



Questions 20 & 21:

- **Birth place - State / Country, District**
- **Place of Last Residence - State/Country District**
- **Rural / Urban**
- **Reason of migration**
- **Duration of stay at the place of enumeration**

Question 23 dealt with

Fertility



Questions 23:

For ever married women:

- Number of surviving children
- Number of children ever born

For currently married women:

- Number of children born during last one year

Note:- Number of daughters / sons are to be recoded separately

For Households engaged in Cultivation / Plantation

- **Net area of land under cultivation/ plantation**
- **Net area of land under irrigation**
- **Tenure status: Owned / Rented / Owned and Rented**

New Features in Population Enumeration - Census of India 2001

- **Individual particulars collected in Household Schedule instead of Individual Slips**
- **Age at marriage collected for males also**

New Features in Population Enumeration - Census of India 2001

- **Type of educational institution attended by a person included school, college, vocational institute, other institute and literacy centre**
- **Information on type of disability collected**

New Features in Population Enumeration - Census of India 2001

- **The scope of the term “Cultivation” expanded included certain other crops such as tobacco, fruits and vegetables etc.**
- **Production of milk for self consumption be considered as an economic activity**

New Features in Population Enumeration - Census of India 2001

- **Question on seeking/available for work canvassed for marginal workers also**
- **Distance to the place of work and the mode of travel for “other workers” collected**
- **The number of children - males and females separately - born during last one year will be collected**

New Features in Population Enumeration - Census of India 2001

- **Question on households engaged in Cultivation/ Plantation**
- **Provision for the Respondent to sign the Household Schedule**
- **Slum enumeration blocks were carved for generating slum data**

The magnitude and sheer size
of population and
its growing divergence
has made the Indian Census as one of
the most challenging
and single largest
administrative exercise in the world

How large is the Indian Census

- **Households visited - 194 million**
- **Population enumerated – 1029 million**
- **Number of villages covered – 640 thousand**
- **Number of towns/cities covered - 5161**
- **Number of enumerators and supervisors appointed - 2 million**

How diverse is the Indian Census

- **Schedule Canvassed in 16 languages**
- **Instruction manual printed in 18 languages**
- **More than 3000 religions returned in 1991 Census**
- **More than ten thousand mother tongue returned in 1991 Census**