



## Updating Census Registers

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **Registrar General of India (RGI)** has written to all State coordinators to update the **census register**.

A **census** is the procedure of **systematically enumerating, and acquiring and recording information** about the members of a given population.

### Key Points

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- **The Order:** RGI has written to all State coordinators to **update names of an area, locality, colony or a building in the “charge register”**.
- **Charge register:** The charge register shows the distribution of work among enumerators and marks the **House Listing Blocks (HLB)** to be visited by each official.
  - **HLB is a primary unit** of collection of data.
  - **Use of Charge Register:**
    - It is an important census document that will **help enumerators to collect details during the first phase of census house listing and housing census and National Population Register (NPR)**.
    - The register will also be **used for the field work relating to the updating of NPR** since the same functionaries will be engaged.
- **Implication:**

The census exercise was **suspended indefinitely** owing to the **Covid-19 pandemic**. The communication from RGI may be an indication that the **census exercise may take off in the near future**.

### 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.
- Later, this office was also entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969** in the country.
- It **arranges, conducts and analyses the results of the demographic surveys** of India including **Census of India** and **Linguistic Survey of India**.
  - **Census of India:** It provides information on size, distribution and socio-economic, demographic and other characteristics of the country's population.
    - The decennial Census of India has been **conducted 15 times, as of 2011**.
    - While it has been **undertaken every 10 years**, beginning in 1872 under British Viceroy Lord Mayo, **the first complete census was taken in 1881**.
    - **Post-1949, it has been conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
  - **Linguistic Survey of India:** The primary objective of the present Linguistic Survey of India is to present an updated linguistic scenario.
    - It is conducted **along with the decennial Census exercise**.
    - It also provides necessary inputs to the social/educational planners in respective States for their planning to attain the envisaged goals.
    - First linguistic survey of India was published by **George Abraham Grierson in 1928**.
- The **position** of Registrar is usually **held by a civil servant** holding the rank of Joint Secretary.

### **National Population Register (NPR)**

- NPR is a register of the **usual residents of the country**. It is prepared at the local (village and sub-town), sub-district, district, state and national levels under provisions of the **Citizenship Act, 1955** and the **Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003**.
- It is **mandatory** for every **“usual resident of India”** to register in the NPR.
- The data for the NPR was **first collected in 2010** along with the house listing phase of Census 2011.
- In **2015, this data was further updated** by conducting a **door-to-door** survey.

**Source: TH**