

Current Affairs - 31 October 2024

CENTRE TO BEGIN CENSUS FROM 2025

The Centre is reportedly preparing to conduct the Census, which was delayed in 2021 due to Covid-19. Although official confirmation is pending, **the Census is expected to begin next year.**

This exercise is crucial as it ties into **two major issues**: delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies, stalled for five decades, and the implementation of women's reservation in Parliament.

India's Census, which has followed a decadal schedule since 1881, missed its 2021 mark for the first time. While the pandemic was largely over by 2022, allowing a Census in 2023 or 2024, the government appears to have postponed it to align with planned constituency reorganisation.

Census in India

- Population Census provides basic statistics on state of human resources, demography, culture and economic structure at local, regional and national level.
- Beginning in the year 1872, when the first census was conducted non-synchronously, the census enumeration exercise in India is carried out in every 10 years.
 - The first synchronous census was taken under British rule in 1881, by W.C. Plowden, Census Commissioner 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.
- **Legal/Constitutional basis of Census**
 - Population census is listed in **Union List (entry 69)** of Seventh Schedule in Indian Constitution.
 - Census is conducted under the provisions of the **Census Act, 1948.**
- **Process of census enumeration**

Current Affairs - 31 October 2024

- The Census Operations in India have been carried out in two phases:
 - Houselisting and Housing Census and
 - Population Enumeration.
- The Population Enumeration follows the Housing Census within a gap of six to eight months.
- In Population Enumeration phase each person is enumerated and her/his individual particulars like Age, Marital status, Religion, mother tongue etc.

Census and delimitation

- **Delimitation and Its Suspension**

- Delimitation, mandated by the Constitution, adjusts the number of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies based on population, ensuring equal representation.
- It ensures a fair division of geographical areas so that all political parties or candidates contesting elections have a level playing field in terms of a number of voters.
- However, this process has been suspended since 1976 due to political disagreements.
- As of the **84th Constitutional Amendment (2001)**, delimitation is postponed until at least 2026, thus making 2031 the earliest opportunity for it if based on the Census.

Demand for Caste Data in Upcoming Census

- **The demand**

- There is a growing expectation that the next Census may include caste data, addressing demands from some political parties for a caste census.
 - Caste census means inclusion of caste-wise tabulation of India's population in the Census exercise.

- **Background**

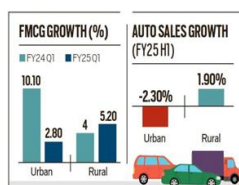
- Caste was enumerated in British India Censuses (1881-1931).

Current Affairs - 31 October 2024

- Post-Independence, the 1951 Census excluded caste enumeration except for SCs and STs, who continue to be counted.
 - Caste data were collected for the 2011 census but the data was never made public.
- In 1961, the GOI recommended states conduct their own surveys for state-specific OBC lists, as there were no central reservations for OBCs at that time.
- Though Census is a Union subject, **the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008** allows States and local bodies to gather necessary data, as seen in Karnataka (2015) and Bihar (2023).

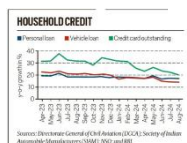
NAVIGATING INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH CHALLENGES

- India's economic growth faces a **slowdown in urban demand**, with **rural resilience offering partial balance**.
- While rural areas show increasing consumption, **urban centres experience demand softness** due to **high food inflation, weakened credit growth, and increased household expenses**.
- **Urban demand challenges:**
 - **Softening demand in consumer goods:**



- **Major fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies**, such as Tata Consumer Products and Nestle India, signal a decline in urban demand due to high food inflation, especially in metropolitan regions.

- **Auto companies** also report demand slowdown, exacerbated by seasonal factors like monsoon rains and election-related spending restrictions.



- **Decline in economic indicators:**

- **GDP:** India's Q1 FY25 GDP growth moderated to 6.7%, with projections for further decline in Q2 due to weakened urban investment and consumption.

Current Affairs - 31 October 2024

- **Corporate profits:** A review of listed companies' Q2 results shows slowing profit growth, largely due to rising input costs. Crisil noted this as the slowest growth in the last 16 quarters.
- **Real wages and spending:** Urban wages have also stagnated, with growth in salary outlays falling from 1.2% in Q1 to 0.8% in Q2 FY25, indicating reduced consumer spending capacity.
- **Inflationary pressures:**
 - **Persistent food inflation** has made the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cautious about rate cuts.
 - RBI Governor emphasises a flexible approach to inflation management, avoiding premature easing of monetary policy.
- **Rural demand resilience:**
 - **FMCG and auto sales:**
 - Rural consumption shows positive momentum, reflected in FMCG volume sales growth and rising tractor and three-wheeler sales.
 - Nielsen IQ data shows rural FMCG sales rose by 5.2% in Q1 FY25, compared to 4% the previous year.
 - **Agriculture and wage growth:** Real wage growth for agricultural and non-agricultural rural workers supports rising consumption, bolstered by a favourable monsoon season.

Conclusion:

- **India's economic outlook is mixed**, with rural resilience and government spending likely to stabilise growth despite urban demand challenges.
 - **High inflation and global uncertainties remain key concerns**, but fiscal policies and a strategic monetary stance from the RBI provide a foundation for sustainable recovery.
 - **The evolving economic environment** will require continued data-driven adjustments to maintain growth momentum.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 31 October 2024

LAND PORT AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Recently, the Union Minister of Home Affairs inaugurated a new Passenger Terminal Building and a Maitri Dwar in Petrapole, West Bengal built at a cost of Rs. 487 crore by the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI).



- It is an authority constituted under the **Land Ports Authority Act, 2010**.
- It was constituted for development and management of **facilities for cross border movement** of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India.
- **Mandate:** It is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing border infrastructure in India. It **manages several Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)** all across Borders of India.
- **Composition**
 - Chairperson and Members are appointed by the Central Government.
- **Tenure:** Both Chairperson and Members have tenure for a **period of five years** from the date on which he assumes office and till he attains the age of sixty years, whichever is earlier.
- **Functions:** It is mandated to develop, sanitize and manage the facilities for cross border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India.
- **Nodal ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs.

Key points about Petrapole

- Petrapole is the largest land port in South Asia and it is a vital gateway for trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh.
- It is also the **eighth largest international immigration port of India**, and facilitates the movement of over 23.5 lakh passengers annually between India and Bangladesh.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 31 October 2024

INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (I4C)



- I4C has been established under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** to deal with cybercrime in the country in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
- The I4C focuses on **tackling issues related to cybercrime for citizens**, including **improving coordination between various Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)** and stakeholders.
- The centre is located in **New Delhi**.
- **Functions:**
 - To act as a nodal point in the fight against cybercrime.
 - **Identify the research problems and needs of LEAs** and take up R&D activities in developing new technologies and forensic tools in collaboration with academia/research institutes within India and abroad.
 - To **prevent misuse of cyberspace** for furthering the cause of extremist and terrorist groups.
 - **Suggest amendments, if required, in cyber laws** to keep pace with fast changing technologies and international cooperation.
 - To **coordinate all activities related to the implementation of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT)** with other countries related to cybercrimes in consultation with the concerned nodal authority in MHA.
- **Components of I4C:**
 - **National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit (TAU):** For reporting threats pertaining to cybercrimes at regular intervals.
 - **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP):** To report various cybercrime complaints by citizens at all India levels on a common platform on a 24x7 basis from “anywhere, anytime”.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 31 October 2024

- **National Cybercrime Training Centre (NCTC):** To impart training to government officials, especially state law enforcement agencies.
- **National Cybercrime Research and Innovation Centre:** To carry out research for the development of indigenous tools for the prevention of cybercrimes.
- **Platform for Joint Cyber Crime Coordination Team:** For coordination, sharing of modus operandi of cybercrimes, data/information among states/UTs LEAs.
- **Cybercrime Ecosystem Management Unit:** For creating mass awareness in cyber hygiene for prevention of cybercrimes.
- **National Cybercrime Forensic Laboratory (Investigation) Ecosystem:** For helping LEAs in cyber forensics investigation.
- I4C brings together academia, industry, public and government in the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of cybercrimes.
- I4C has envisaged the **Cyber Crime Volunteers Program** to bring together citizens with passion to serve the nation on a single platform and contribute in fight against cybercrime in the country.
- **Other Initiatives:**
 - **Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System:** For immediate reporting of financial cyber frauds and preventing the siphoning of funds by cyber criminals on a near-real-time basis.
 - **National Toll-Free Helpline number '1930'** has been operationalized to provide citizen assistance in lodging online cyber complaints.
 - **CyberDost** handle on various social media platforms to generate cyber awareness among citizens.



MOUNT FUJI

Mount Fuji, also known as Fuji-san, is the **highest mountain in Japan**, standing at 3,776 meters.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 31 October 2024

- It is situated **close to the Pacific coast** in the Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures in the heart of the large island of Honshu, about 100km to the southwest of the Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan area.
- Unlike other famous high-elevation mountains in the world, Mt. Fuji is **not part of a large mountain range**.
- It is a **stratovolcano** that has been dormant since its last eruption in 1707 but is still generally classified as active by geologists.
 - It has a **prominent summit crater** and is constructed from innumerable basaltic lava flows, each a few meters thick.
 - It has a **smooth slope and a wide, spreading base**, creating a beautiful skyline as it narrows to a magnificent peak.
 - It is said that the main cause of Mt. Fuji's volcanic activity is the Pacific Plate sinking under the bottom of the Philippine Plate.
- **On the northern slopes** of Mount Fuji lie the **Fuji Five Lakes** (Fuji Goko), comprising, east to west, Lake Yamanaka, Lake Kawaguchi, Lake Sai, Lake Shōji, and Lake Motosu, all formed by the damming effects of lava flows.
- Despite its active volcanic nature, its summit is **covered in snow most times of the year**. The mountain is the major **feature of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park**, and it is at the centre of a **UNESCO World Heritage** site designated in 2013.

THE UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE JUDICIARY

- The **lack of gender diversity within India's judiciary** is a persistent issue that has significant implications on the fairness and inclusivity of the justice delivery system.
- **Despite initiatives to increase women's participation** at entry levels, their **representation at higher levels of the judiciary remains disappointingly low**.
- Therefore, **it is important to analyse the multifaceted nature of the gender gap in India's judiciary, including issues of entry, retention, structural inadequacies, and policy gaps**.

Current Affairs - 31 October 2024

An Analysis of Gender Disparity in Judicial Representation

- The gender imbalance within India's judiciary begins at entry-level positions, although some improvements are evident.
- According to the Supreme Court of India's **State of the Judiciary report in 2023**, women account for **36.3% of the district judiciary**, and in 14 states, more than half of the new civil judges (junior division) are women.
- However, **this progress fades at higher judicial levels**, where, as of January 2024, only 13.4% of High Court judges and a mere 9.3% of Supreme Court judges are women.
- Moreover, **this disparity is accentuated in certain states, such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Tripura**, where women's representation is **minimal or non-existent**.
- Such skewed representation **creates a funnel effect, restricting the pool of women qualified for elevation to higher courts** and exacerbating the gender imbalance.

Reasons Behind Gender Imbalance in Judiciary

- **Entry Level Barriers**
- **Absence of Maternity Benefits and Minimum Stipends**
- **Work Culture and Social Expectations**
- **Unsupportive Policies**

Conclusion

- **The underrepresentation of women in India's judiciary reflects deeper systemic issues** that extend beyond entry-level recruitment.
 - **Bridging this gap requires a comprehensive overhaul of the judiciary's policies, infrastructure, and culture** to be more inclusive and gender-sensitive.
 - **Recognising and addressing women's unique needs through the female gaze would mitigate the unintended impacts of neutral policies** and foster an equitable work environment.
-