

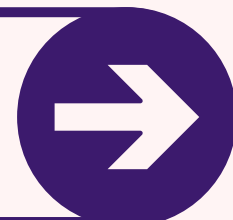


India's First Digital Census is (Finally) Happening

India's last Census took place in 2011 after the 2021 Census was delayed. A new Census is crucial for policies based on updated population data.

With **optional self-enumeration**, Indian residents can now record their household information by themselves on an online platform fifteen days before an enumerator makes a house visit.

Here's what you need to know



Census 2027 is happening in **two phases**:

Phase 1

House Listing &
Housing Census

(April-Sep 2026)

Phase 2

Population
Enumeration

(Feb 2027)

→ The government will collect information on **houses, amenities, and assets.**

→ You can also submit your information to a web portal **15 days before** an enumerator makes a house visit.

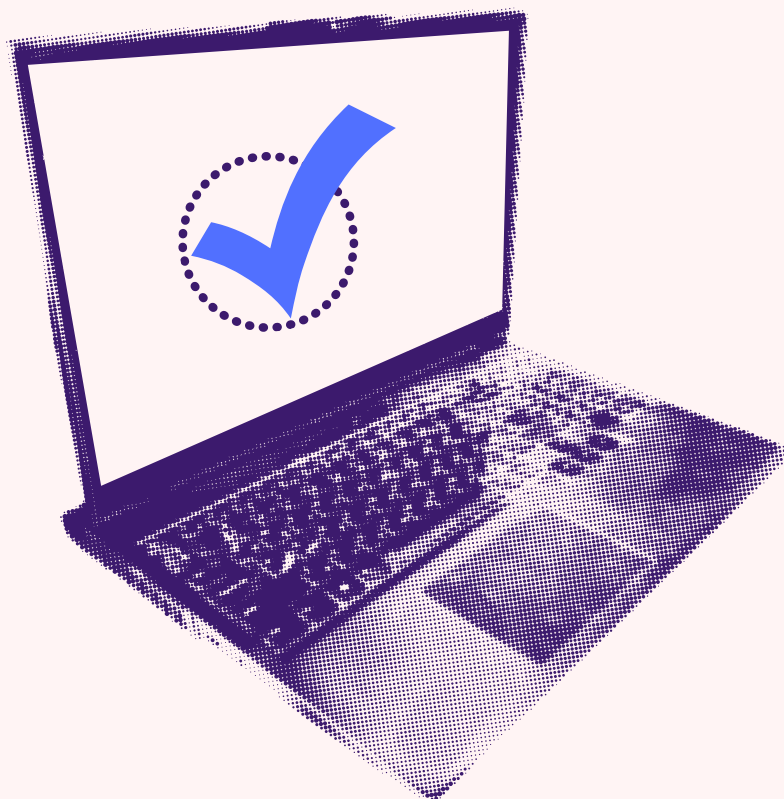
→ Information about **demographics, education, migration, fertility**—and for the first time, **caste identities**—will be collected.

Self-enumeration for Phase 1 will be staggered over the next six months.

So, what is self-enumeration?

India's **8th Census** since independence is about to begin—and for the first time, all information will be recorded digitally.

With self-enumeration, you can submit your household details by yourself on an online portal, before an enumerator visits. **Self-enumeration is optional, and is intended to simplify the process.**



How do you self-enumerate?

First, go to the web portal:
se.census.gov.in.

It is available in 16 languages.

The screenshot displays the web portal for the Census of India 2027. The header includes the Government of India logo, the text "Census of India 2027", "Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India", "Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India", and the date "10.04.2026". A red warning message states: "One Household should use only one Mobile number." On the right side, there are several navigation buttons: "स्व-गणना की अवधि/SE Period", "स्व-गणना प्रश्न / SE Questions", "SE Tutorial Video", "User Guide", "Flowchart", and "FAQs". The main content area features a "Self-Enumeration (HLO) Login" form with the instruction "Select your State/UT to begin." The form includes a "State/UT" dropdown menu with "Select State/UT" as the placeholder, a "Enter captcha" input field, a captcha image showing "Vx*xe5", and a "Verify & Proceed" button.

How do you self-enumerate (SE)?

- 1 Log on to the **SE portal** →
- 2 Select your **state/UT** and solve the captcha
↓
- 3 Add the name and **mobile number*** ←
- 4 Identify your **location** on the map
↓
- 5 Fill in **household details** (construction, assets, married couples in the house, source of drinking water etc). →
- 6 Submit your information and receive an SE ID
↓
- 7 Provide the SE ID to the enumerator when they visit your house

*The portal recommends using **one number per household**, ideally belonging to the 'head of household'

Key dates you need to know about

April

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands: April 1-15
- NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board: April 1-15
- Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim: April 1-15
- Gujarat*, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu: April 5-19
- Uttarakhand: April 10-24
- Madhya Pradesh: April 16-30
- Andhra Pradesh: April 16-30
- Arunachal Pradesh: April 16-30
- Chandigarh: April 16-30
- Chhattisgarh: April 16-30
- Haryana: April 16-30
- Bihar: April 17-May 1

**Subject to change*

Undecided: West Bengal

May

- Telangana (April 26–May 10)
- Punjab (April 30–May 14)
- Delhi MCD areas (May 1–15)
- Maharashtra (May 1–15)
- Meghalaya (May 1–15)
- Rajasthan (May 1–15)
- Jharkhand (May 1–15)
- Uttar Pradesh (May 7–21)
- Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Puducherry (May 17–31)

June

- Himachal Pradesh (June 1–15)
- Kerala (June 16–30)
- Nagaland (June 16–30)

July

- Tamil Nadu (July 17–31)
- Tripura (July 17–31)

August

- Assam (Aug 2–16)
- Manipur (Aug 17–31)

Digital Census 2027: Highlights

- **Couples in a live-in relationship will be counted as married** “if they consider their relationship a stable union”.
- **One phone number per household is recommended during SE, ideally that of the ‘head of the household’**— someone who manages daily affairs and makes decisions, and “can be of any gender.”
- First Census since 1931 that will systemically count caste.



Digital Census 2027

- What does such a digital census imply for **data privacy, surveillance and inclusion**?
- What does it mean for women's **autonomy and agency** if enumeration is done in the name of the 'head' of the household?
- How will **inter-caste, queer, and inter-religious** relationships be impacted by live-in laws that further empower the government?

Read our interview with scholar Trina Vithayathil about the histories of counting castes in India, and why Census 2027 should enumerate caste power alongside caste apartheid. Find it at behanbox.com

Behanbox Talkies [Caste Census](#)

'Census 2027 Should Enumerate Caste Power Alongside Caste Apartheid'

Saumya Kalia

New Delhi | August 18, 2025





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over the next few weeks**

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