

Time to count: On government's delay in conducting census

The Census is too **vital** for the government to delay it any further

The **importance** of the **decennially** conducted Census **cannot** be **overstated**. As it **tallies** data on several **features** of the Indian population, such as basic **demography**, **literacy** levels, caste status, educational levels, spoken languages, religion, marital status, **occupation**, and **migration** status among others, the Census is vital to administrative functions and planning of **welfare schemes**. Census data are also critical as they are used as a frame to **underpin** other sample surveys that are representative of the whole population. The national Census is utilised by international agencies to **project** the world's population as well. India has conducted the Census every 10 years since 1881; only **2021**, a pandemic-affected year, **was** an exception as the exercise was postponed. With the **deadline** for **freezing of boundaries** further extended to June 30, 2023, the Census can effectively be conducted only some months after this event. Census **enumeration** is **preceded** by activities such as house-listing. Most States were **in line** to begin this in early 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. But the repeated postponement and, **consequently**, the **undue** delay in the Census's **commencement** will **severely** affect the availability of vital information on population numbers at district and other lower levels.

The pandemic has been **cited** as a reason for the delay. **The fact** that lockdowns and physical distancing **norms are** now **a thing of the past** and infection **levels** in the country **have** remained relatively low ever since the last Omicron variant wave happened in early 2022 suggests that this is no longer a **valid** excuse. In fact, Census data should **validate** the various estimates on **mortality** based on 'excess deaths' analyses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, it is **imperative** that **decadal changes** in India's demography related to **urbanisation** and migration of people across States **are** captured **adequately**. **Welfare schemes** such as the **targeted Public Distribution System** under the National Food Security Act **depend** on population estimates, and the government continues to **rely on** Census 2011, which is now clearly **outdated**. **Inter-State disparities** in population growth rates **could** also **impinge upon debates** on the **prospective delimitation** of electoral boundaries and **apportioning** of seats across States. **Considering** these and other imperatives for the smooth planning and implementation of administrative, welfare and statistical management for **governance**, the Union government must show **alacrity** in **commencing** the Census. **[Practice Exercise]**

- **Adequately** (adverb) – Sufficiently, satisfactorily, amply पर्याप्त रूप से
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Census** (noun) – an official count or survey, especially of a population.
जनगणना
2. **Vital** (adjective) – Absolutely necessary; essential, crucial, key महत्वपूर्ण
3. **Decennially** (adverb) – Consisting of or lasting for 10 years दशकीय रूप से
4. **Overstated** (adjective) – exaggerate, overdo, overemphasize, overplay,
5. **Tally** (verb) – calculate the total number of. गणना करना
6. **Feature** (noun) – Characteristic, attribute, quality, property, trait विशेषता
7. **Demography** (noun) – the changing number of births, deaths, diseases, etc. in a community over a period of time; the scientific study of these changes जनसांख्यिकी
8. **Literacy** (noun) – the ability to read and write. साक्षरता
9. **Occupation** (noun) – Job, profession, work, career, business, vocation व्यवसाय
10. **Migration** (noun) – Movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions.
देशान्तरण
11. **Welfare scheme** (noun) – initiatives set up by the government to support poor, developmentally challenged, and disadvantaged groups.
12. **Underpin** (verb) – support, buttress, shore up, prop up सहारा देना, समर्थन करना
13. **Project** (verb) – Predict, Predict, Envisage, Foresee अनुमान लगाना
14. **Deadline** (noun) – Time limit, cut-off date समयसीमा
15. **Freezing of boundaries** (noun) – The freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, and police stations, happens between two consecutive censuses as State administrations often create new districts or merge, or reorganise the existing units.
16. **Enumeration** (noun) – List, listing, record, account, detail गणना, सूची
17. **Precede** (verb) – Come before (something) in time. आगे जाना
18. **In line** (phrase) – in a queue
19. **Consequently** (adverb) – as a result फलस्वरूप
20. **Undue** (adjective) – excessive, extreme, immoderate, intemperate, अनुचित
21. **Commencement** (noun) – the beginning of something; Start, onset शुरुआत

22. **Severely** (adverb) – seriously, gravely, critically, grievously, acutely, गंभीर रूप से
23. **Cite** (verb) – refer to, make reference to, mention, allude to हवाला देना
24. **Norm** (noun) – standard, rule, criterion मानक, प्रतिमान
25. **A thing of the past** (phrase) – a thing that no longer happens or exists. अतीत की बात
26. **Valid** (adjective) – Logical, suitable, rational, sound, compelling जायज़, वैध
27. **Validate** (verb) – Declare or make legally valid मान्य करना
28. **Mortality** (noun) – death, fatality, dying, death rate मृत्यु दर
29. **Imperative** (adjective) – essential, necessary, vital, indispensable, crucial आत्यावश्यक, लाज़िमी
30. **Decadal** (adjective) – Of or related to a decade, दशकीय
31. **Urbanisation** (noun) – the process of making an area more urban. नगरीकरण
32. **Targeted** (adjective) – directed at a particular group or community लक्षित
33. **Public Distribution System** (noun) – a system of management of scarcity through distribution of foodgrains at affordable prices.
34. **Rely** (on) (verb) – Depend, count on , bank on पर निर्भर होना
35. **Outdated** (adjective) – out-of-date, outmoded, old-fashioned, archaic, antiquated पुराना, पुराने ढंग का
36. **Inter-state** (adjective) – in a different state from one referred to or understood. अंतरराज्यीय
37. **Disparity** (noun) – discrepancy, inconsistency, imbalance, inequality, incongruity, असमानता
38. **Impinge** (on/upon) (verb) – affect, have an effect on, have a bearing on, touch, influence प्रभावित करना
39. **Debate** (noun) – Discussion, argument, dispute, deliberation बहस
40. **Prospective** (adjective) – Potential, possible, probable, likely, future, eventual भावी, प्रत्याशित
41. **Delimitation** (noun) – the action of fixing the boundary or limits of something. सीमा-निर्धारण
42. **Apportion** (verb) – Allocate, allot, assign, distribute, dispense, share out, dish out, divide up बांटना
43. **Considering** (preposition) – bearing in mind, taking into consideration, taking into account ध्यान में रखते हुए

44. **Governance** (noun) – The action or manner of governing a state, organization, etc शासन

45. **Alacrity** (noun) – willingness, readiness, promptitude, preparedness, forwardness तत्परता

46. **Commence** (verb) – Begin, start, originate, inaugurate शुरू करना

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words [Editorial page]

1. It is **imperative** that decadal changes in India's demography related to urbanisation and migration of people across States are captured adequately.
 - A. Turmoil
 - B. Vital
 - C. Sentiment
 - D. Ties
2. Census data are also critical as they are used as a frame to **underpin** other sample surveys that are representative of the whole population.
 - A. Kickback
 - B. Incarceration
 - C. Inimical
 - D. Buttress
3. Inter-State disparities in population growth rates could also impinge upon debates on the prospective delimitation of electoral boundaries and **apportioning** of seats across States.
 - A. Alliance
 - B. Prompt
 - C. Condemn
 - D. Allocate
4. **Idioms & Phrase**

I know this data entry job isn't what you wanted for a career, but for the time being try and **make the best of a bad situation.**

 - A. Be able to understand or solve something
 - B. A purpose or goal desired for its own sake
 - C. To pay attention to a situation carefully
 - D. To make an unsatisfactory situation as pleasant as possible
5. **Direction: Two statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**
 - (i) Barring 13 states from the power exchanges till they clear (D)/ jolt states into getting serious about discom dues. (E)/ generation companies (gencos) should help (F)/ the current dues owed to (G)/
 - (ii) of penalties that kicks in in (A)/ this was the first step in a graded system (B)/ an automatic manner upon default.(C)/
 - A. ABC, EFDG
 - B. DGFE, BAC
 - C. BAC, FDEG
 - D. FDGE, CBA
 - E. None of the above

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. She enquired whether (A)/ anyone (B)/ has seen her baby (C)/ No Error.(D)
7. These are (A)/ his (B)/ conclusion remarks (C)/ No Error. (D)
8. The shopkeeper offered either to exchange (A)/ the goods (B)/ or refund the money. (C)/ No Error (D)
9. Churchill was (A)/ one of the greatest (B)/ war leaders. (C)/No Error. (D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
 - A. Expedient
 - B. Seductive
 - C. Turbulence
 - D. Abraptly

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Transfers unexplained – Nov 29, 2022)

The list included three judges from the Telangana High Court, and two each from the Madras and Andhra Pradesh High Courts.**(1)**/ A recent round of transfers — among the dozens that have been effected in the last few years — has brought the controversial issue to the fore again. **(2)**/ The common criticism that the functioning of the Collegium system of judicial appointments is opaque, and sometimes arbitrary, seems to hold greater validity in the matter of transfers of judges from one High Court to another. **(3)**/ **Conspicuously** absent was the name of Justice Nikhil S. Kariel, a Gujarat High Court judge whose proposed transfer was strongly opposed by the bar in that State.**(4)**/ Lawyers took up the issue in support of Justice Kariel, as well as Justice A. Abhishek Reddy of the Telangana High Court, and the Chief Justice of India met with representatives of the Bar from both States. Yet, the transfer of Justice Kariel alone did not materialise, while the transfers of other judges were notified. If reports that the Gujarat High Court Chief Justice was unaware of the _____(a)_____ transfer of Justice Kariel are correct, it bodes ill for the legitimacy of transfer proposals. No good message is being sent if it is _____(b)_____ that the Collegium heeds the demand made by one set of lawyers, but ignores that of another group.

Transfer of judges may be **needed (A)** for exchange of **talent(B)** across the country and to **cliques(C)** the emergence of local **prevent(D)** in the judiciary. However, the power of transfer has always been seen as a possible threat to judicial independence. Even under the Collegium system, **(A)**/ it seems it is difficult to dispel **(B)**/ the impression that the threat **(C)**/ of transfer hangs in every judge's head.**(D)**/ The Memorandum of Procedure is clear that a judge's consent is not necessary to effect a transfer. The current norm is that all transfers ought _____(c)_____ be in public interest, that is, for better administration of justice throughout the country. It also says the personal factors of the judge, including his preference of places, should invariably be taken into account. No one knows if these requirements are fulfilled in each case. Why a puisne judge should be shifted to another State without being made a Chief Justice is seldom explained. Usually, it sets off _____(d)_____ that the reasons are either allegations against the judge or the discomfiture that his judicial orders are causing to the government.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. If reports that the Gujarat High Court Chief Justice was unaware of the _____(a)_____ transfer of Justice Kariel are correct, it bodes ill for the legitimacy of transfer proposals.

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

- (i) Abandon
- (ii) Proactive
- (iii) Uninterrupted
- (iv) Impending

- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

12. No good message is being sent if it is _____(b)_____ that the Collegium heeds the demand made by one set of lawyers, but ignores that of another group.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Generic
- (ii) Rough
- (iii) Meagre
- (iv) Perceived

- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iv) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

13. The current norm is that all transfers ought _____(c)_____ be in public interest, that is, for better administration of justice throughout the country.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) To
- (ii) In
- (iii) Into
- (iv) Of

- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (ii) E. None of the above

14. Usually, it sets off _____(d)_____ that the reasons are either allegations against the judge or the discomfiture that his judicial orders are causing to the government.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Remittance
- (ii) Speculation
- (iii) Onset
- (iv) Gloom

- A. Only (i) B. Only (iv) C. Only (ii) D. Both (iii) and (ii) E. None of the above

15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**

Even under the Collegium system, (A)/ it seems it is difficult to dispel (B)/ the impression that the threat (C)/ of transfer hangs in every judge's head. (D)/

- A. (A)

- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. No Error

16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**

The list included three judges from the Telangana High Court, and two each from the Madras and Andhra Pradesh High Courts.(1)/ A recent round of transfers — among the dozens that have been effected in the last few years — has brought the controversial issue to the fore again. (2)/ The common criticism that the functioning of the Collegium system of judicial appointments is opaque, and sometimes arbitrary, seems to hold greater validity in the matter of transfers of judges from one High Court to another. (3)/ Conspicuously absent was the name of Justice Nikhil S. Kariel, a Gujarat High Court judge whose proposed transfer was strongly opposed by the bar in that State.(4)/

- A. 3214
- B. 1234
- C. 3241
- D. 2143
- E. 4321

17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

CONSPICUOUSLY

- (i) The temple's grand white arches rose **conspicuously** over the dirty decaying city.
- (ii) Ms Andrews was **conspicuously** absent from the event.
- (iii) The soldier received a dishonourable discharge for a **conspicuously** offence.

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. (ii), (iii)

18. **In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.**

Transfer of judges may be **needed (A)** for exchange of **talent(B)** across the country and to **cliques(C)** the emergence of local **prevent(D)** in the judiciary.

- A. A – D
- B. B – A
- C. C – D
- D. A – C
- E. No arrangement

19. In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer.

- (i) She has to check her son's extravagance.
(ii) He might turn out to be the proverbial 'prodigal son'
- A. Unlike
 - B. Though
 - C. Yet
 - D. Otherwise
 - E. None of these

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Noddy was annoyed _____ his friends on account of their misbehaviour.

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. With
- D. To

Answers

1. B 2.D 3.D 4. D 5. B 6.C 7. C 8.A 9.D 10.D 11.E
 12. C 13.A 14. C 15. D 16. A 17.D 18. C 19.D 20.C **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

- Imperative** (adjective) – essential, necessary, vital, indispensable, crucial आत्यावश्यक, लाज़िमी
 - Turmoil** (noun) – Chaos, Disorder, confusion, uproar, mayhem, tumult, commotion उथल-पुथल
 - Sentiment** (noun) – opinion, view, attitude भावना
 - Ties** (noun) – connection, relations, link, bond, association संबंध
- Underpin** (verb) – support, buttress, shore up, prop up सहारा देना, समर्थन करना
 - Kickback** (noun) –bribe, payment, reward, recompense, inducement घूस, रिश्वत
 - Incarceration** (noun) – imprisonment, custody, detention कैद /कारावास
 - Inimical** (adjective) – unfriendly, harmful, hostile, antagonistic शत्रुतापूर्ण
- Apportion** (verb) – Allocate, allot, assign, distribute, dispense, share out, dish out, divide up बांटना
 - Alliance** (noun) – association, coalition, union, treaty, pact गठबंधन
 - Prompt** (adjective) – done without delay; immediate, ready तत्पर /तुरन्त
 - Condemn** (verb) – censure, criticize, castigate, attack, denounce निंदा करना
- Make the best out of a bad/unfavourable situation** (Phrase) – to make an unsatisfactory situation as pleasant as possible एक असंतोषजनक स्थिति को यथासंभव सुखद बनाना
- DGFE, BAC**
 Barring 13 states from the power exchanges till they clear the current dues owed to generation companies (gencos) should help jolt states into getting serious about discom dues. This was the first step in a graded system of penalties that kicks in in an automatic manner upon default.
- 'has seen' के बदले 'had seen' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य Indirect Narration में है जिसका Reporting Verb 'enquired' Past Tense में है और Indirect Narration में यदि Reporting Verb Past Tense में हो तो Reported Speech में Present Perfect के बदले Past Perfect का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-
 Direct: She said "Has anyone seen my baby?"
 Indirect: She enquired whether anyone had seen her baby.

- 'had seen' will be used instead of 'has seen' because the sentence is in Indirect Narration whose Reporting Verb is in 'enquired' Past Tense and in Indirect Narration if Reporting Verb is in Past Tense then Present in Reported Speech Past Perfect is used instead of Perfect; As-

Direct: She said "Has anyone seen my baby?"

Indirect: She inquired whether anyone had seen her baby.

7. (C) 'conclusion' के बदले 'concluding' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'conclusion' एक Noun है जिसका अर्थ है 'निष्कर्ष, समाप्ति, अंत' किन्तु 'concluding' एक Adjective है जिसका अर्थ है 'अंतिम' और Noun 'remarks' की विशेषता एक Adjective बताता है, न कि एक Noun; जैसे-

- i. I did not hear the conclusion of his speech.
- ii. I did not hear the concluding part of his speech.

↓ ↓
Adj. Noun

- (C) 'concluding' shall be used instead of 'conclusion' because 'conclusion' is a Noun which means 'end' but 'concluding' is an Adjective which means 'final' and Noun 'remarks' The attribute of ' describes an Adjective, not a Noun; As-

- i. I did not hear the conclusion of his speech.
- ii. I did not hear the concluding part of his speech.

↓ ↓
Adj. Noun

8. (A) 'either' का स्थान 'to exchange' के पहले होगा क्योंकि प्रश्न में दिये गए वाक्य में 'either or' से दो Infinitives जोड़कर 'to exchange' और 'to refund' को जोड़ना पड़ेगा।

- The place of 'either' will be before 'to exchange' because in the sentence given in the question, 'to exchange' and 'to refund' have to be added by adding two Infinitives to 'either or'.

9. (D) No error.

10. **Abruptly** (adverb) – Suddenly, unexpectedly, rapidly, hastily, immediately, quickly, hurriedly

11. **Impending** (adjective) – about to happen, imminent, forthcoming निकटस्थ/ आसन्न

- **Abandon** (verb) – to stop doing something, especially before it is finished छोड़ देना, त्याग देना
- **Proactive** (adjective) – active, take-charge, enterprising, energetic, dynamic अग्रसक्रिय
- **Uninterrupted** (adjective) – continuous, constant, nonstop, continual निरंतर/ निर्बाध

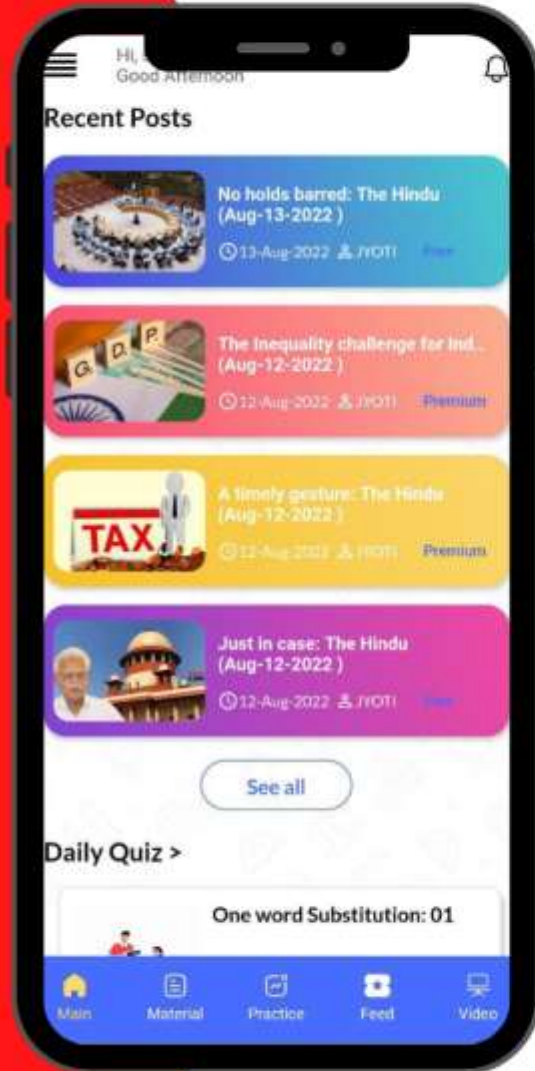
12. **Perceived** (adjective) – apparent, professed, supposed, seeming कथित

- **Generic** (adjective) – general, common, basic सामान्य
- **Rough** (adjective) – difficult, tough, hard, arduous, demanding कठिन
- **Meagre** (adjective) – Scanty, insufficient, inadequate, paltry, small मामूली

13. **Ought** (to) (modal verb) – should, must करना चाहिए

14. **Speculation** (noun) – supposition, guess, conjecture, hypothesis, surmise अनुमान, अटकलबाज़ी

- **Remittance** (noun) – a payment of money sent to a person in another place प्रेषण
 - **Onset** (noun) – start, commencement, beginning शुरुआत
 - **Gloom** (noun) – depression, gloominess, melancholy, despondency, dejection निराशा
15. 'hangs in every judge's head' के बदले 'hangs over every judge's head' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Hang over one's head' एक idiom है जिसका अर्थ है To be an imminent threat to or imposition on someone आसन्न खतरा मंडराना
16. (A) **3214**
The common criticism that the functioning of the Collegium system of judicial appointments is opaque, and sometimes arbitrary, seems to hold greater validity in the matter of transfers of judges from one High Court to another. A recent round of transfers — among the dozens that have been effected in the last few years — has brought the controversial issue to the fore again. The list included three judges from the Telangana High Court, and two each from the Madras and Andhra Pradesh High Courts. Conspicuously absent was the name of Justice Nikhil S. Kariel, a Gujarat High Court judge whose proposed transfer was strongly opposed by the bar in that State.
17. **Conspicuously** (adverb) – Noticeably, obviously, clearly, evidently स्पष्ट रूप से
According to the given options only (i) AND (ii) are contextually correct.
Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like
The soldier received a dishonourable discharge for a **disciplinary** offence.
18. Transfer of judges may be needed for exchange of talent across the country and to prevent the emergence of local cliques in the judiciary.
19. She has to check her son's extravagance **otherwise** he might turn out to be the proverbial 'prodigal son'.



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