



Caste Census in Jharkhand | Jharkhand | 19 Feb 2024

Why in News?

Jharkhand will soon see a [Caste Census](#) in the state on the lines of neighbouring Bihar.

Key Points

- The CM has directed the personnel department to prepare a draft (SoP for conducting the survey) and place it before the cabinet for approval.
- The caste-based survey will be conducted in Jharkhand based on data collected between 7th January and 2nd October 2023.

Census

- The origin of the Census in India goes back to the colonial exercise of **1881**.
 - Census has evolved and been used by the government, policymakers, academics, and others to capture the Indian population, access resources, map social change, **delimitation exercise**, etc.
- **First Caste Census as SECC (Socio-Economic and Caste Census):**
 - **SECC** was conducted for the **first time in 1931**.
 - **SECC** is meant to canvass every Indian family, both in rural and urban India, and ask about their:
 - **Economic status**, so as to allow Central and State authorities to come up with a range of indicators of deprivation, permutations, and combinations of which could be used by each authority to define a poor or deprived person.
 - It is also meant to ask every person their **specific caste name** to allow the government to **re-evaluate which caste groups** were economically worse off and which were better off.
- **Difference Between Census & SECC:**
 - The Census provides a **portrait of the Indian population**, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
 - Since the **Census falls under the Census Act of 1948**, all data are considered confidential, whereas according to the SECC website, "all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households."