



PRESS RELEASE

Union Cabinet approves Caste Census in the upcoming Decennial Census Enumeration exercise to be held in 2026

Hyderabad,
30th April 2025.



At the Union Cabinet meeting held today under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the Union Government has decided to conduct Socio-economic Caste Census (SECC) as a part of the upcoming 2026 Decennial Census.

CRFHGR supports this decision and is grateful to the cabinet because despite all the arguments against it, the fact so remains that the true and inclusive development of India is possible only when clear data is available with governments for efficient and effective policymaking and implementation coupled-with the necessary frameworks, methods and techniques to undertake periodic social impact assessments.

As on date, we do not have a clear data on the castes and socio-economic status of caste-based communities (as functional groups) in India despite the fact that it is one among the most significant political identities driving our political discourse along-with religion, language, gender and socio-economic identities. Hence, it is necessary and has always been necessary.

The last time SECC was held in 2011, the then United Progressive Alliance (UPA 2.0) under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh refused to release the data to public citing discrepancies in enumeration and logical classification / grouping of castes. I hope these mistakes do not occur again.

My sincere appeal to all Indian citizens,

Please share the facts and truth about your caste and socio-economic status with the enumerators who visit your home during any given census data collection



exercise. Despite your insecurities that government might tax you more (or) grab your money, it is our duty to uphold the integrity and sanctity of the census enumeration process which is a core characteristic of a democracy driven by an inherent trust between us (citizens) and the government (regardless of political party that is in power). Many of you might have a feeling that the system is corrupt and rotten to the core and that there is no point (or) even a fair degree of incentive in being honest, sincere and transparent. This is a flawed argument. Governments are as good (or) as bad as we are and they are reflective of our nature. Democracy helps us to become better citizens and seek better political / policy responses and reforms through dialogue and dissent, through activism and engagement.

Let us be conscious and mature citizens and hold all the governments (at national, state and local levels) accountable for their actions, particularly, for the actions related to increased tax rates be it income tax, property tax, wealth tax, goods and services tax (GST), commercial tax or any other type of direct / indirect tax while also being honest about our caste and economic status.



Yours sincerely,
Akhil Chirravuri
 (Chairman & MD)
 CRFHGR.