

# Pan-India Caste Census, Removal Of 50% Cap On Quota Among Congress Pitch For Lok Sabha Elections

## Why In The News?

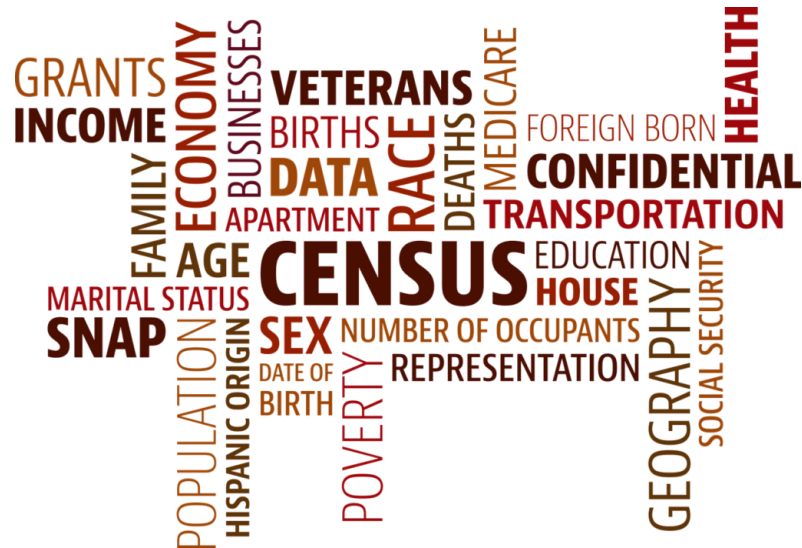
- The Congress Will Conduct **A Nationwide Caste Census** If Voted To Power And **Implement 33% Quota For Women** In National And State Legislatures At The Earliest, The Party's Highest Decision-making Body Announced.
- At A Meeting In New Delhi, The **Congress Working Committee (CWC)** Also Promised **Removal Of The 50% Reservation Cap** Through Legislation To Ensure Reservation To OBCs, Scheduled Castes And Scheduled Tribes In Line With Their Share Of Population.



## Census Vs Socio-Economic & Caste Census (SECC)

- The **Census** Provides A **Portrait Of The Indian Population**, While The **SECC** Is A Tool To **Identify Beneficiaries Of State Support**. The Origin Of The Census In India Goes Back To The Colonial Exercise Of 1881. The Socio-economic And Caste Census (SECC) Was Conducted In 2011 For The First Time Since 1931.

- 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.”



## 50% Ceiling Of Reservation

- The Judgement On **Indra Sawhney Case** Was Passed On 16 November 1992. It Was A Nine-judge Verdict Which Decisively Laid Down Several Landmark Propositions Such As **50% Threshold In Reservations**.
- The Concept Of '**Creamy Layer**' Also Gained Importance Through This Judgment And Provision That Reservation For Backward Classes Should Be Confined To Initial Appointments Only And Not Extend To Promotions.



- Earlier, The Reservation Was Meant To Be Only For SCs And STs. It Was The **Mandal Commission** Case That Brought Other Backward Classes (OBCs) Under Reserved Category.

- Reservation Beyond The Limit Will **Lead To The Ignorance Of Merit**, Which Will Disturb The Entire Administration. The Sole Purpose Of Reservation Is To **Address The Issue Of Historical Wrong Done To The Less-advantaged Communities** But The Merit Beyond A Certain Point Must Not Be Neglected.

