

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Approves Caste Census 2nd State After Bihar To Approve It

Why In The News?

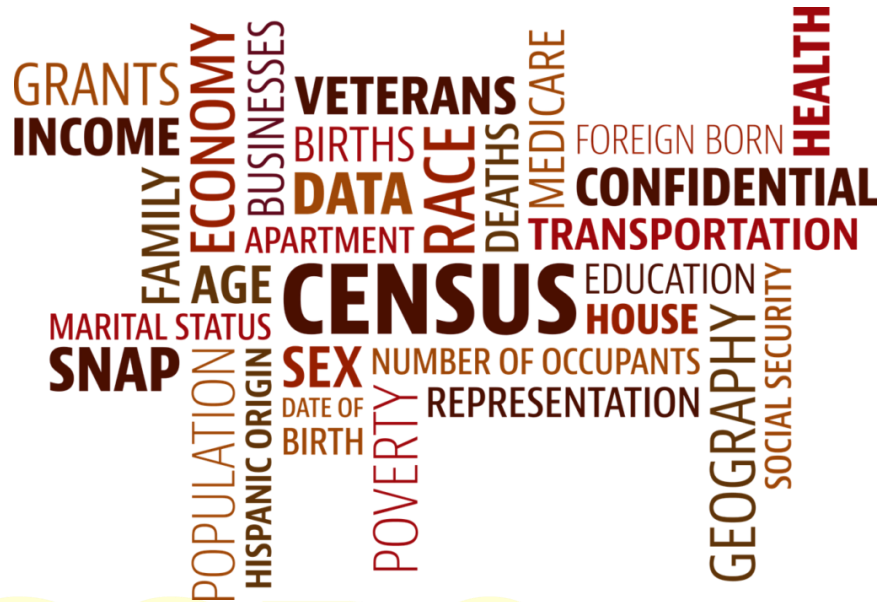
- AP State Cabinet On Friday Decided To Take Up **Caste Census** In The State. AP Is The 2nd State In India To Take Up Caste-based Census, After Bihar. The Aim Is To Calculate Economic, Social, Educational, Livelihood, And Population Data, With A Particular Focus On The **Welfare Of Marginalized Sections**.
- The Census Is Being Taken Up After **A Gap Of 90 Years In The State**. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Emphasized The Importance Of The Data In Advancing **Poverty Alleviation, Human Resource Development, And The Reduction Of Discrimination And Disparities**.
- Census Will Serve As A Vital Tool For Further Development, Economic And Social Uplift, And Improved Access To Government Schemes. This Data Is Expected To Ensure That **No Eligible Individuals Are Excluded From Government Schemes**, Benefiting The Most Vulnerable Populations.



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.”



Why Is There A Demand For Caste Census?

- It's Actually **An Old Demand**, Arising From The Fact That The Available Dataset Is 90 Years Old While Castes Are Often Taken As Bases For Several Welfare Programmes.
- Politically, **BJP Has Been Opposed To Caste Census**, Reportedly Fearing A Probable **Challenge To Its Hindutva Campaign** Ahead Of The 2024 Election. Caste-Based Parties Have Been Strong Advocates Of Caste Census.

