



भारत सरकार / Government of India
गृह मंत्रालय / Ministry of Home Affairs
भारत के महारजिस्ट्रार का कार्यालय
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Census of India 2021 - Circular No. 2

Subject:- Rural-Urban Classification for Census - 2021

As the preparatory work for Census 2021, the first and foremost task to be handled by Directorates of Census Operation is the demarcation of places as rural and urban areas.

2. The first step in this direction has already been commenced by preparing an updated list of villages and towns after incorporating the jurisdictional changes that have taken place after Census 2011 and up to 31-12-2017. The next step is to identify the Census Towns by applying the urban criteria to all villages including the Census Towns and Out Growths of census 2011. The definition of an urban unit at the 2011 Census was as follows:-

- (a) All administrative units that have been defined by statute as urban like Municipal Corporation, Municipality, cantonment Board, Notified Town Area Committee, Town Panchayat, Nagar Palika etc. are known as Statutory Town. Further, Statutory Towns with population of 1,00,000 and above are categorized as cities.
- (b) All other places which satisfied the following criteria:
 - i) A minimum population of 5,000 persons;
 - ii) 75 per cent and above of the male main working population being engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and;
 - iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km. (1,000 per sq. mile)

3. It is proposed to retain the same definition for urban areas for Census 2021, as this will ensure comparability with previous Census and provide the basis for analysis of urbanization trends in the country. For the purpose of preparing the Rural-Urban frame for 2021 Census, the civic status of the places referred to in (a) of the urban unit definition is as on 31-12-2019 (i.e. the date on which all the administrative boundaries will be frozen). For

other places referred to in (b) of the urban unit definition, the fulfillment of criteria i.e. minimum 5,000 population is the expected population at 2021 census and the other two criteria of male main workers and density are as per 2011 census.

4 For the purpose of identification of urban units based on the demographic criteria as at (b) in para 2 (i.e., population size and proportion of workers) like in the previous censuses all rural units having a population of 4000 or more at the preceding census 2011 are required to be taken up for examination because a place having a population of 4000 or more in census 2011 is expected to cross the population mark of 5000 persons during the span of 10 years and by the next census 2021. For such cases the composition of work force and the density of population are required to be examined to see whether these qualify to be categorised as urban. While applying the test of main working population engaged in non- agricultural pursuits, only male main workers will be considered and the workers engaged in the agricultural activities, namely (a) Cultivators, (b) Agricultural Laborers and (c) Plantation, Livestock, Forestry, Fishing , Hunting and allied activities are to be excluded from the total male main workers for computing the percentage of male main workers engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.

5. All places which have been notified under law and have local bodies like municipal corporations, municipalities, municipal committees, municipal boards, municipal town committees, cantonment boards, notified areas, notified area committees, town committees, town areas, town boards, town municipalities, sanitary boards, Nagar Panchayats, etc., irrespective of their demographic characteristics must be included in the list of towns. It is to be noted that for this category of towns the criteria laid down in para 2(b) above will not be applicable.

6. A district/sub-division/tahsil headquarters, if not a statutory town, need to be treated as a census town only if it satisfies the demographic criteria mentioned in para 2 (b) above.

7. Jurisdictional changes, if any, of the towns and villages after the last census should also be noted and Notifications issued to this effect from time to time may be kept on record. An exercise may also be carried out to see if areas recognized as urban (Census towns and Out Growths) in the 2011 census satisfy the demographic criteria mentioned in para 2(b) above so as to be considered as independent census towns in 2021 census as well. While doing this exercise, care should be taken in respect of those Out Growths which were formed by taking a part of a village in 2011. In such cases, the urban criteria should be applied to the whole village.

8. For identification of 75% male main workers engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, coding of entries for other workers engaged in industrial category of live stock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation and orchards etc. as per National Industrial Classification, 2008 is being undertaken in various Data

Centres and the data would be made available to the Directorates by the Data Processing Division as and when the same is ready for identification of Census Towns for 2021 Census.

9. After identifying the urban units, the requisite particulars are to be furnished in the enclosed proformae I.1, I.2, II.1 to II.6 as on 31-12-2017 as early as possible but not later than 31-12-2018 in soft as well as hard copy in Excel format. **However, the final list of Urban Areas as on 31-12-2019 i.e. after the boundaries are frozen must be sent by 15-1-2020.** The Directorates should note that this is a continuous process and all changes in the Urban Units due to the issue of notifications by the respective State Governments subsequent to 31-12-2017 should be communicated to the Census Division of ORGI immediately.

10. The receipt of this circular may be acknowledged.

Sanjay

(Sanjay)

Dy. Director General

Encl: As above

To

The Controlling Officers of all Directorates of Census Operations.

Copy to:

1. All heads of Divisions of ORGI including Language Division, Kolkata
2. Assistant Director (OL) for immediate translation into Hindi.
3. PS to Secretary(OL) & RGI
4. PS to Addl. RGI
5. PS to DDG.
6. Guard File.