

Census 2027 will determine Ladakh's developmental trajectory, future prospects: LG Kavinder Inaugurates Office of Director of Census Operations & Citizen Registration in Leh Says Census must be conducted in transparent and efficient manner Emphasises upcoming Census must set a benchmark in Ladakh Commits UT Admin's full support in successful conduct of upcoming Census

Leh, January 6: The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder Gupta, emphasised the significance of the upcoming Census for Ladakh, stating that it will resolve critical issues in planning and resource allocation. He stressed that despite Ladakh's limited population scattered across a vast, challenging geographical expanse, accurate data compilation must be ensured, with focus on transparent and efficiency, as it will directly determine Ladakh's developmental trajectory and future prospects.

Shri Kavinder Gupta stated this after inaugurating the Office of Director of Census Operations and Citizen Registration, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, today at the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museum, in Leh.

In his address, Shri Kavinder Gupta congratulated the people and officials on the establishment of the Census Office post-2019 after the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh. He emphasised that the Census, approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, represents a vital step forward after the 2021 exercise was deferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Highlighting longstanding challenges from dependence on outdated 2011 Census data, the Lt Governor emphasised how the new Census will resolve critical issues in planning and resource allocation. He drew attention to past irregularities and malpractices during Census operations under the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, stressing that the upcoming Census in the new UT framework must set a benchmark. "This first Census for Ladakh as a Union Territory must be conducted with utmost transparency, reliability, and efficiency. There should be no compromise on constitutional mandates," the Lt Governor asserted. He reiterated the UT Administration's full commitment to facilitating a seamless process, positioning the Census as a cornerstone for effective governance backed by contemporary data.

Shri Kavinder Gupta linked the initiative to national ambitions, noting India's pursuit of Viksit Bharat 2047 through innovations like Artificial Intelligence and geo-tagged self-enumeration mechanisms- allowing citizens to submit data online via mobile apps and a portal.

Chief Secretary Shri Ashish Kundra congratulated the milestone, highlighting pioneering digital data collection tools being utilised in the upcoming Census and assuring comprehensive UT support for timely execution of the Census.

Shri Amit Sharma, Director of Census Operations and Citizen Registration, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, briefed on the two-phase process—Houselisting and Housing Census (April-September 2026) and Population Enumeration (September 2026 for snow-bound areas)—featuring 100% paperless digital tools, self-enumeration, caste data capture, and deployment of functionaries for rapid, actionable insights. He informed that the Houselisting and Housing Census is expected to be conducted between June 1-30 in Ladakh. He also requested for additional space for proper functioning of the office.

Shri Arun Kumar, Joint Director, Census Operations, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, delivered the vote of thanks.

Among those present during the event were Administrative Secretaries-Shri Sanjit Rodrigues and Shri PT Rudra Goud; Additional District Development Commissioner Leh Shri Sonam Nurboo; and senior government officials.

