

Chief Secretary reviews Preparations for Census 2027 Phase-II Population Enumeration in Ladakh

Leh, August 5, 2026: Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness for the Phase-II (Population Enumeration) of Census 2027 in the Union Territory.

The meeting reviewed the operational framework, digital readiness, training strategy and awareness initiatives to ensure the smooth and effective conduct of the population enumeration exercise.

At the outset, Amit Sharma, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Ladakh, gave a detailed presentation on the roadmap for Phase-II of Census 2027. The presentation covered self-enumeration and population enumeration processes, coverage of House Listing Operations (HLO) in the Union Territory, administrative units identified for the second phase, the training cascade for census functionaries, digital tools for population enumeration, enumeration in special areas, key features of Census 2027, publicity and awareness strategies, the scope of the exercise in snow-bound regions and the likely challenges in implementation. He informed the meeting that the self-enumeration facility will be available from August 17, 2026, allowing residents to voluntarily submit their household and individual details through the designated digital platform before the commencement of the population enumeration phase.

Reviewing the preparedness, the Chief Secretary held detailed deliberations on the self-enumeration module and its integration with the population enumeration process. He sought updates on the data collected during the House Listing Operations and enquired about the mechanism for verification, correction and updation of records during the population enumeration phase.

Emphasising the importance of technology-driven implementation, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to ensure that the digital platform for self-enumeration is user-friendly and accessible to all eligible residents. He also sought details regarding the mobile application, its features and the process through which households would complete self-enumeration.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for a comprehensive awareness campaign to encourage maximum participation in self-enumeration. He suggested involving schools, educational institutions, teachers, community leaders and local representatives in creating awareness about the census process. He observed that digital communication platforms and social media should be effectively utilised to disseminate information and educate the public, supplementing conventional publicity methods.

He also reviewed the safeguards built into the digital system to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of self-enumeration. The Chief Secretary sought clarification on the mechanisms to prevent duplication of records, verify household identities and link self-enumeration data with the information collected during the House Listing Operations. He emphasised the need for robust validation processes and unique identifiers to ensure the integrity of census data.

The Chief Secretary further directed the Directorate of Census Operations to ensure that all field functionaries receive adequate training on the digital tools and operational procedures

well before the commencement of Phase-II. He emphasised that special attention should be given to remote and snow-bound areas to ensure complete coverage within the prescribed timelines.

Highlighting the importance of Census 2027, the Chief Secretary stated that accurate and reliable population data forms the foundation for evidence-based policy formulation, development planning and efficient delivery of public services. He directed all concerned departments to extend full cooperation to the Directorate of Census Operations for the successful conduct of the exercise across the Union Territory.

The meeting also discussed the infrastructure requirements of the Directorate of Census Operations, Ladakh. The Chief Principal Census Officer apprised the Chair of the need for a dedicated office building to facilitate the efficient functioning of the Directorate and the smooth conduct of Census 2027 activities.

Taking note of the requirement, the Chief Secretary directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Leh, to identify and allot suitable land on priority in or around Leh city for the establishment of a permanent office for the Directorate of Census Operations, subject to the applicable rules and procedures.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Planning Department, Himanshu Gupta; Chief Principal Census Officer and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Amit Sharma; Director, Planning; Chief Planning Officer, Konchok Gyalson; Superintending Engineer, PWD, Leh; Joint Director, Finance; Additional Deputy Commissioner; Under Secretaries and other concerned officers of various departments.

