

INTRODUCTION

The Census of India is a very large administrative exercise, possibly the largest such operation in the entire world. In addition to bringing out the population figures, it is the most credible source of information on various social, cultural, economic, migration and fertility aspects of the population. This exercise is being carried out since 1872 without a break. India is among the few countries in the world, which have had a unique record of an unbroken series of decennial censuses spanning over a hundred years. The Census of India 2011 represents the 15th such operation (since 1872) and the seventh after Independence.

Organisational Setup

The decennial population Census is organized by the Government of India under the Census Act, 1948 and is carried out in close cooperation with all the State Governments. At the apex of the administrative pyramid is the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. He is in overall charge of the conduct of Census Operations all over the country. In each State and Union Territory, the Census Operations are under the charge of the Director of Census Operations. In Tamilnadu, the Commissioner of Revenue Administration has been designated as the State Coordinator in respect of Census Operations. In the districts, the Collectors who head the district administrative machinery have been designated as Principal Census Officers. In the ten Municipal Corporation areas, the Commissioners of Corporations have been designated as the Principal Census Officers. In Chennai, however, the Collector is not designated as the Principal Census Officer and the Commissioner of the Corporation bears the overall responsibility for Census work. A number of officers are designated as Census Officers at various sub-district levels to assist the Principal Census Officers in the conduct of Census. At the cutting edge is the Charge Officer who is the Tahsildar or the Municipal Commissioner in the case of Taluks and Municipalities respectively. There is yet another category of Special Charge Officers who are drawn from the Defence and Para-military forces who conduct the Census enumeration in areas which are not under the administration of civilian authorities. The Supervisors and Enumerators mostly teachers, are the critical field level operators. A diagram depicting the Organizational structure can be seen in Chart No. 12.

Jurisdictional Changes

The planning and preparatory works for the Census of India, 2011 commenced as early as 2007 - 08 and gained momentum in 2009. The administrative changes that have taken place since the last Census were noted and carried out. The broad changes are as follows :

Tamil Nadu-Jurisdictional changes since 2001

	2001	2011	Variation
1. Districts	30	32	+2
2. Taluks	201	215	+14
3. Towns	832	1097	+265
a) Statutory	721	721	0
b) Non-Statutory	111	376	+265
4. Villages	16317	15243	-1074
5. CD Blocks	385	385	0
6. Village Panchayats	12618	12620	+2

Districts

In 2001 there were 30 districts in the State of Tamil Nadu. In 2011, two new districts were created by reorganizing the territorial jurisdictions. Krishnagiri District was carved out of the erstwhile Dharmapuri District. Similarly Tiruppur District was formed out of areas from erstwhile Coimbatore and Erode districts. The list of districts in 2001 and 2011 is given in [Annexure-I](#).

Taluks

The State Government created 14 additional taluks since the last Census taking the total number of taluks in Tamil Nadu to 215. The list of new taluks is given in [Annexure-II](#). Position of Tamil Nadu in India and Administrative Divisions of Tamil Nadu by Taluk are shown in Map No. 1 and 2.

Villages

For Census enumeration, the basic unit is the Revenue Village. Each Revenue Village is assigned a distinct Location Code. In the past, the number of villages listed has been higher, because in some cases hamlets of some villages have been treated as separate villages. Similarly, in some other cases, single villages divided among many village officers for administrative ease, had been treated as separate villages. Therefore, to reconcile this, in 2008-09, the list of villages were obtained from each taluk and thoroughly compared with the list of

villages of 2001. In all, 15243 Revenue Villages and 736 Reserve Forests Villages were finally listed in consultation with the district officials. These were assigned specific codes and identified for enumeration. This will not include revenue villages entirely falling inside urban bodies.

Urban frame

In Census, Urban classification includes all statutory towns (Corporations, Municipalities & Town Panchayats) and village panchayats that satisfy certain demographic and economic criteria (thereby treated as Census Towns). As per this definition there are 1097 urban bodies in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu-Urban Frame 2011

Category of Urban Body	Number
1. Corporations	10
2. Municipalities	148
3. Cantonment Board	2
4. Town Panchayats	561
5. Census Towns	376 #
Total	1097

Including two Townships

In 2011 Census, the concept of “Outgrowth” has been used. It refers to the areas that may not satisfy the criteria to qualify as an independent urban unit but may qualify to be clubbed with the existing nearby towns as their continuous urban spread. 14 Revenue Villages have been identified as Outgrowths (OGs) of various Statutory Towns for 2011 Census. Besides these, certain Village Panchayats, which satisfy specific demographic and economic criteria, were categorized as urban 'Census Towns'.

Location Codes

As was done in 2001 Census, Permanent Location Codes have been assigned to all the villages. Location Codes have also been assigned to State, Districts, Taluks and Towns.

Census Questionnaire

The development and finalisation of the Census and National Population Register (NPR) schedules was done by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India. The schedules were pre-tested in the field during July - August 2009 before finalisation. A copy of the Schedule canvassed in the

Houselisting as well as Population Enumeration is given in Annexure - III and Annexure -IV.

Houselisting Operations

The first phase of the Census Operations viz. Houselisting was conducted in Tamil Nadu from 1st June to 15th July, 2010. During the same period the National Population Register (NPR) schedules were also canvassed alongside the Houselisting Operations. During this operation, all the buildings and Census houses were listed along with the purpose for which the Census house was used. The house listing schedule is very similar to the schedule which was canvassed in 2001. However, questions about the availability of computer / laptop / mobile phone in the households, and drinking water information on treated / un treated Tap Water and covered/uncovered well were also included in the questionnaire. Further, slight modifications were made regarding the question on the materials used for wall/roof and the availability of the latrine and kitchen in the premises. The Bar Code and Unique Number for each form were introduced for the first time in 2011 Census. In cases where the entry details of a single household continues to the next sheet, an additional box has been provided at the bottom of household schedule to write the last three digits of the next form

Population Enumeration

Population Enumeration, the second phase of the Census Operations, was taken up from 9th to 28th February, 2011 all over the country. The reference date for the Census of India 2011 is the 1st March, 2011. The houseless population was enumerated on the night of 28th February, 2011. Revisional round was conducted during the period 1st to 5th of March, 2011 during which the population was updated by taking note of births and deaths that have taken place subsequent to enumeration but before 00.00 hours of 1st March, 2011. The improvements and modifications made in respect of the household schedule used in the current Census are - canvassing of date of birth in addition to age, having separate codes for divorced and separated, more options under the disability question, a separate code for marginal workers who had worked for less than three months under the worker category and in non-economical activity separate code for rentier was added.

Enumerators and Supervisors

As in the previous Census, one Enumerator was appointed for an Enumerator Block, which consists of about 120-150 households or about 600 - 750 persons. For every six Enumerators, a Supervisor was appointed. The Enumerators and

Supervisors were paid an honorarium of Rs. 4,450/- for Houselisting and Rs. 4,050/- for Population Enumeration which includes TA/DA for attending the training classes. In all, 1,20,090 Enumerators and 19,105 Supervisors were appointed for Houselisting Operations, and 1,15,000 Enumerators and 19,166 Supervisors (provisional) were appointed for the task of Population Enumeration in Tamil Nadu. This variation arises because the inputs from the Houselisting phase are used to refine the enumeration blocks for population enumeration phase.

Training

A strategic training regime was drawn up to train the Enumerators and Supervisors for the Houselisting and Population Enumeration Phases. With the coordination of UNICEF, an Alliance of NGO workers was lined up to assist in the training delivery. Two senior officers from the Directorate and a couple of persons from the Alliance were identified as National Trainers (NTs). These National Trainers in turn trained forty MTFs - Master Trainer Facilitators (twenty officials from DCO and twenty from the Alliance). Master Trainer Facilitators then trained around three thousand Master Trainers (MTs) who were identified by the Charge Officers from various Departments. The task of training around 1,40,000 Supervisors / Enumerators was shouldered by these Master Trainers under the supervision of DCO officials.

Tools & Techniques adopted for Training

Three day training programme was designed to train the NTs/MTFs/MTs/ Supervisors / Enumerators using various tools like Video Films, Power Point Presentation, Mock Interviews, Role Play, Quizzes etc. Initially, two days consecutive training programme was organized covering the Census concepts and then the third day training was arranged before the start of Census work for clarifying on issues and distribution of the materials.

For Houselisting and Housing Census EDUSAT Centers were utilized. At the Block Level, the facilities at the Block Resource Centre (BRCs) were engaged for broadcasting the Census Training Films. The advantage with using EDUSAT is, that the doubts raised at one BRC can be observed by all other BRCs and the clarification given from the studio by the DCO officials can be viewed by all the BRCs. The drawback with the BRCs is that each centre can accommodate about 50 trainees only in a session.

NGOs such as Ability Foundation and Vidyasagar have actively participated in arranging Seminar/Rally / Pamphlet distribution to create awareness on disability questions among the general public. They also played a critical role in

preparing the disability component of the training and publicity films.

Before the start of the Census Operations, the Directorate took special efforts to organize two Seminars (one day duration each in Phase I and Phase II) to sensitise the officials in the State Government. In both the events, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner delivered the key note address. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu chaired both the sessions. The Principal Secretary and Commissioner for Revenue Administration and State Census Coordinator helped in the conduct of the seminars. Eighteen Regional Workshops were also organized by the Director of Census Operations at select District Headquarters to sensitise about Houselisting and Census Operations to all the PCOs and senior officials in the Districts. This intensive training paid rich dividends during the Houselisting and Enumeration phases. The elaborate training calendar listing out the schedule for each and every training class to be held in each Charge also went a long way in carrying out the Operations smoothly.

Post Enumeration Survey

A 'Post Enumeration Survey' is proposed in selected sample blocks with the objective of finding out the extent of omission or duplication in the coverage of individuals (Coverage error) and also the error in the accuracy of information gathered in Census in regard to certain characteristics of the population (Content error).

Acknowledgements

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- Charge Officers-Tahsildars and Municipal Commissioners along with their staff who have directly been responsible for the conduct of the Operations.
- Enumerators and Supervisors, who conducted the door-to-door canvassing and who thereby formed the backbone of the entire exercise.
- The Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Public Department, and Principal Secretary

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- The Officers and Staff of the Directorate of Census Operations Tamil Nadu have indeed borne the brunt of the effort in monitoring every item of work, both at the Headquarters and in the field, to enable very quick compilation of the Provisional Population figures and release this booklet.
- The people of Tamil Nadu without whom this effort would not have been possible.

The Census of India 2011 has been a collective effort of a large team of dedicated and sincere persons in and out of the Government. Without the contribution of each and everyone, this monumental task could not have been fulfilled.

Provisional Population Total

This booklet contains the Census of India 2011 Provisional Population figures. The Male, Female and Total Population; Population in the age group of 0-6 years; Literates by sex at State / District level have been presented. These figures have been quickly extracted from the abstracts prepared by the Enumerators and Charge Officers so as to avoid any delay. The data therefore has its own limitations. The final figures will be available after detailed processing and tabulation. We hope these figures will be of immediate use to the Government Departments, Non Governmental Agencies and other data users.

BRIEF ANALYSIS OF PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS

As it will take time to release the final results after detailed processing of the Census Schedules, it is customary to release the provisional figures collected in Census immediately after the enumeration is completed. The Enumerator has prepared the basic totals for each Enumeration Block. These have been collated at each Charge level by the Charge Officers. The Principal Census Officers have collated the figures for each District and the Directorate of Census Operations for every State. Collating the State totals, the Office of the Registrar General India has arrived at the countrywide totals. Such a quick compilation of the provisional figures is unique given the massiveness of the operation but has been rendered possible thanks to a good system of communication right from the enumeration block upto the National Capital.

Provisional Population

The provisional population of India at 00.00 Hrs. of 1st March 2011 is 1,21,01,93,422 comprising of 62,37,24,248 males and 58,64,69,174 females. The Population of Tamil Nadu at the same reference date and time stood at 7,21,38,958 comprising of 3,61,58,871 males and 3,59,80,087 females. The population of Tamil Nadu constitutes 5.96% of the India's Population. It ranks 7 among the States/UTs. The States above Tamil Nadu are 1. Uttar Pradesh, 2. Maharashtra, 3. Bihar, 4. West Bengal, 5. Andhra Pradesh, and 6. Madhya Pradesh in that order.

Table-1 depicts Distribution of Population, Percentage share of Population, 0-6 Child Population and Literacy Rate by Sex in State/UT: 2011

Chart-1 depicts the Comparative Size of the Provisional Population of India and States/Union Territories.

Chart-2 shows Comparative Rate of Literacy and Gender Gap in Literacy of India and Tamil Nadu.

The population, which was 6,24,05,679 in 2001, has gone up by 97,33,279 over the last ten years. This represents an increase of 15.60% during the period 2001-2011 as against the growth rate of 11.70% during the period 1991-01.

Distribution of State's Population, Decadal Growth Rate, Sex Ratio and Density among the Districts.

The distribution of the State's population among the 32 districts is furnished in Table 2. It may be seen that most populous district in the State is Chennai, which is co-terminous of Chennai Corporation followed by Kancheepuram. Chennai district has reported a population of 46.81 lakhs while Kancheepuram has reported a population of 39.91 lakhs.

The average population of a district comes to 22,54,342 in 2011. This is higher than the average population of a district in 2001, which was 20,80,189. There are 15 districts having more than the average population. Perambalur (5.65 lakhs) has recorded the lowest population among the districts. The Nilgiris (7.35 lakhs), and Ariyalur (7.52 lakhs) are the other districts that have recorded a population of less than one million.

Table-3 gives the ranking of Districts by Population size in 2001 and 2011. Chennai District is now at the top of the list which was ranked 2 in 2001. Coimbatore District, which was ranked first in 2001 Census and is now ranked as 6 due to bifurcation of districts of Tirupur. Kancheepuram District is now ranked as 2 which was recorded as 6th position in 2001 Census. Ariyalur district (30) , The Nilgiris district (31) and Perambalur district (32) bring up the rear. There are slight variations in ranking of districts between 2001 and 2011.

Chart-3 gives the Comparative Size of Districts by Population in 2011.

Chart-4 gives Population and Net Decadal Accretion 1901-2011

Decennial Growth Rate of Population

Table-4 shows the percentage decadal variation in population for State and Districts since 1901. The decadal growth in Tamil Nadu has gone up from 11.70% in 1991-2001 to 15.60% in 2001-2011. The decadal growth rate of Tamil Nadu shows a declining trend since 1961-71. However, the present increase in growth rate in Tamil Nadu may be due to increase in "in migration" of population from other States to Tamil Nadu and this could be owing to variety of factors such as industrial and economic growth leading to more opportunities in the construction services and manufacturing sectors and availability of educational opportunities in the State. However, this has to be studied separately.

It is significant to note that Kancheepuram district shows the highest decennial growth rate of 38.69% in the period 2001-2011. This district had also recorded the higher growth rate of 19.15% and 26.14% during the period 1991-2001 and 1981-1991 respectively. There are eight other districts, which show higher growth rates than the State average in 2001-2011. These are Tiruvallur (35.25%), Tiruppur (28.69%), Krishnagiri (20.67%), Coimbatore (19.06%), Madurai (17.95%), Villupuram (16.99%), Sivaganga (16.09%), and Dharmapuri (16.04%). The districts with very low growth rates in 2001-11 are The Nilgiris (-3.55%), Chennai (7.77%), Ariyalur (8.19%), Nagapattinam (8.41%), Thanjavur (8.42%), Thiruvavur (8.43%), and Thoothukudi (9.14%). The balance sixteen districts with decadal growth ranging from 10 to 16 percent.

Chart-5 depicts the Decadal variation of Population by Districts and Net Decadal Accretion in the period 2001-2011. The Percentage Decadal Variation of Population 1901-2011 for India and Tamil Nadu is depicted in Chart-6 and in Map No 3 Percentage Variation of Population is shown. Further, in **Chart - 7** District wise Population of 2011 is shown.

Sex Ratio

The district wise sex ratio since 1901 to 2011 for Tamil Nadu is given in **Table 5**. The sex ratio represents the number of females for every 1000 males. The sex ratio for Tamil Nadu has increased from 987 in 2001 to 995 in 2011. The sex ratio for India is 940 in 2011 as against 933 in 2001. In the 2011 Census, There were three options for the Gender Questions viz. Male, Female and Other for the purpose of calculating sex ratio in the PPTs 'Others' have been included with males. Of the 32 districts in the State, 15 districts have returned a sex ratio of more than 1000 and a similar trend was noticed in 2001 Census also. Only one district namely Sivaganga has returned exactly the sex ratio of 1000 it is significant to note that among 12 districts sex ratio is ranging from 980 - 1000.

The highest sex ratio has been returned in "The Nilgiris" (1041) followed by Thanjavur district (1031). The lowest sex ratio was now reported in Dharmapuri district 946 but it was improved by 14 points compared to 2001 Census. Salem district has the second lowest sex ratio of 954. However, it is significant to note that the Salem district was reported as lowest sex ratio (929) in 2001 has improved to 954 in 2011.

Table-6 gives the ranking of districts by Sex Ratio. It is noticed that there is no variation in ranking in 2 districts. 8 districts have shown a variation of 1 rank. Of this 4 have moved up by 1 rank, while 4 have slid down by 1 rank since 2001. In other districts the rank of sex ratio varies ranging from 2 to 25.

It is noticed that sex ratio of Ramanathapuram district ranked as 4th in 2001 (1036) has now stood in 29th rank (977) and the sex ratio of Sivaganga ranked as 3 (1038) in 2001 Census has now gone to 16th position (1000).

Variations of more than 4 ranks are noticed in the following 12 districts - Chennai (+5), Tiruchirappalli (+5), Nagapattinam (+5), Erode (+6), The Nilgiris (+6), Tirupur (+6), Ariyalur (+7), Coimbatore (+11), Villupuram (-5), Cuddalore (-8), Sivaganga (-13) and Ramanathapuram (-25).

The Child Sex Ratio is depicted in Chart - 8. The Sex Ratio of Tamil Nadu and India from 1901-2011 is depicted in Chart - 9. This is also depicted in Map No. 4.

Child Sex Ratio in Tamil Nadu

Population in the age group 0-6 in Tamil Nadu has decreased from 72,35,160 (11.59 % to the total) in 2001 to 68,94,821 (9.56 %) in 2011. Comparing with child sex ratio of 2001 Census it is noticed that 14 districts, the sex ratio was declined ranging from - 2 to - 62. It is significant to note that in Cuddalore district child sex ratio was decreased from 957 to 895 and in Ariyalur district it was decreased from 949 to 892. In eighteen districts the child sex ratio has increased ranging from 1 to 85 in 2011 Census. It is significant to note that the child sex ratio in Dharmapuri has increased from 826 in 2001 to 911 in 2011 and similarly in Salem district child sex ratio has improved from 851 to 917 with an increase of 66 points. Child sex ratio by districts is shown in Map No. 5.

Density of Population

As per the Census of India 2011, Tamil Nadu has a population density of 555 persons per Sq. Km. the same was 480 in 2001. The density of the country in 2011 is 382 whereas it has 325 in 2001. Though the state has not witnessed any change in its area, it has witnessed creation of two districts during the period and hence the area of those affected districts have undergone change. Chennai district is the densest district with 26903 persons per Sq. Km. Kanniyakumari (1106), Thiruvallur (1049), Kancheepuram (927), Madurai (823), Coimbatore (748), Cuddalore (702), Thanjavur (691), Nagapattinam (668), Salem (663), Vellore (646) and Tiruchirappalli (602) are the other eleven districts having higher density of more than 600 persons per Sq. Km. The Nilgiris district has returned the lowest density of 288.

Table-7 gives the ranking of district by population density. It is noticed that there is no variation in ranking in 13 districts. Eleven districts have shown a variation of one rank. Of this, six have gained by one rank while five have slid down by one rank since 2001. Three districts have slid down by two ranks and four districts have gained by three or more ranks.

Map No. 6 depicts the Density of Population in Tamil Nadu and districts as returned in the Census of India 2011.

Literacy Rate

Table-8 presents the Total Population; Population in the age group 0 - 6; Number of Literates and the Literacy Rate for Tamil Nadu and Districts as returned in Census of India 2011.

The literates exclude children in the age group 0 - 6 who are by definition treated as illiterate. The literacy rate is the number of literates per 100 population of aged 7 +.

The literacy rate for Tamil Nadu in 2011 has increased to 80.33 % from 73.45 % returned in the 2001 Census. Among the males, 86.81% are literates whereas among the females the rate is 73.86%. The corresponding rates in 2001 were 82.42% for males and 64.43% for females. It may be observed that more than three fourth of the population is literate among males in all the districts (except Dharmapuri), while more than two third of the population is literate among females in all the districts exception of 8 districts namely Dharmapuri (60.03), Krishnagiri (64.86), Tiruvannamalai (65.71), Villupuram (63.51), Salem (65.43), Erode (65.07), Perambalur (66.11) and Ariyalur (62.22). The literacy rate for India is 74.04 for persons 82.14 for males and 65.46 for females. The 2001 rates for India stand at 64.8 for persons; 75.3 for males and 53.7 for females.

Among the districts, Kanniyakumari district has reported the highest literacy rate of 92.14% while Dharmapuri district accounts for the lowest rate of 64.71%. The five districts namely Kanniyakumari (92.14%), Chennai (90.33%), Thoothukudi (86.52%), The Nilgiris (85.65%) and Kancheepuram (85.29%) have recorded very high literacy rates. As such, 16 districts have registered higher literacy rates than the State average. Sixteen districts are below the State average.

Table-9 gives the Literacy rate by sex in Tamil Nadu from 1961 onwards. The Literacy rates have increased from 54.39 in 1981 to 80.33 in 2011. Male Literacy rate has increased from 68.05 in 1981 to 86.81 in 2011. Female Literacy rate has increased from 40.43 in 1981 to 73.86 in 2011. The increase in Female Literacy rate is 33.43 percentage points, while in the case of males the increase is to the tune of 18.76 percentage points only.

The ranking of districts as per Literacy rate is depicted in **Chart - 10**. The ranking of districts as per Female Literacy rate is depicted in **Chart - 11**. The literacy rate and gender gap by districts are shown in Map No. 7 and 8.