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1 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Source: The Hindu)

It is an international treaty formed in the Rio Earth Summit (1992) to coordinate the global response to climate change.

- **Headquarters:** Bonn, Germany
- **Objectives**
 - The primary role of UNFCCC is to provide a framework for negotiating specific international treaties, known as “protocols.”
 - UNFCCC itself sets no binding limits but aims to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level preventing dangerous consequences.
- **Funding:** Under Green Environment Fund (GEF)
- **Major COPs and Outcomes**
 - **COP 3 (1997):** Kyoto Protocol (First treaty with binding emission reduction targets for developed countries)
 - **COP 7 (2007): Marrakech Accords** (Detailed rules for Kyoto Protocol; established **Adaptation Fund** for developing countries)
 - **COP 11 (2005):** Montreal Action Plan (Extended Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012; negotiated deeper emission cuts)
 - **COP 13 (2007):** Bali Action Plan
 - **COP 16 (2010):** Established the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
 - **COP 21 (2015):** Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
 - **COP 26 (2021):** Glasgow Climate Pact (First explicit mention of "phasing down coal")
 - **COP 27 (2022):** Loss and Damage Fund established for vulnerable nations; Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan; kept 1.5°C alive
 - **COP 28 (2023):** Dubai Agreement (First Global Stocktake; signaled "beginning of the end of fossil fuel era"; tripling of climate finance)
 - **COP 29 (2024):** \$300 billion/year climate finance target by 2035 for developing countries; operationalized Paris Agreement Articles 6.2 & 6.4.
 - **COP 30 (2025):** Belém Package (Tripled adaptation funding by 2035; launched Just Transition Mechanism; strengthened tropical forest protection)

2 Census (Source: The Hindu)



CENSUS
PEOPLE • DATA • DEVELOPMENT

WHAT IS CENSUS? • A Census is the complete enumeration of the population of a country at a specified time. • It collects information on demographic, social, economic and housing characteristics. • Conducted under the Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990. • First modern census in India: 1872 (under British rule). • India conducts census every 10 years.	CONDUCTING AUTHORITY  • Conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. • The Registrar General is the ex-officio Census Commissioner.	LEGAL FRAMEWORK  • Census Act, 1948: Provides legal basis for conducting census. • Census Rules, 1990: Lays down detailed procedures. • Participation is mandatory, and refusal to provide information is an offence.
OBJECTIVES  • To determine the size, distribution and composition of population. • To provide data for planning, policy formulation and governance. • To study social and economic characteristics. • To assess developmental needs and monitor progress. • To provide a database for academic, research and administrative purposes.	ROUGHLY WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?  Demographic: age, sex, marital status, fertility, migration etc.  Social: literacy, education, religion, scheduled castes and tribes, languages etc.  Economic: work, occupation, main and marginal workers etc.  Housing: type of house, number of rooms, assets, drinking water, sanitation, energy source etc.	TYPES OF CENSUS  Population Census Collects details of all persons residing in the country.  Housing Census Collects details of housing conditions and amenities. Conducted along with the Population Census.
CENSUS PROCESS 1 Preparation: Delimitation of areas, training of enumerators, awareness campaigns. 2 House-listing: Listing of all households and housing units. 3 Population Enumeration: Collection of details of all persons. 4 Data Compilation: Checking, coding and digitisation. 5 Publication: Provisional results followed by detailed final data.	TIMELINE  • First complete census: 1881. • Since 1881: Conducted every 10 years. • Post-independence censuses: 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011. • 2021 Census was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. • Next Census: 2027 (reference year 2027).	SIGNIFICANCE  Basis for planning and resource allocation.  Helps in formulating and evaluating government schemes.  Identifies vulnerable and marginalised groups.  Used for delimitation of constituencies.  Provides data for economic surveys, research and SDG monitoring.  Helps in tracking demographic and socio-economic changes over time.
CHALLENGES  • Large and diverse population. • Logistical and financial costs. • Ensuring accuracy and data quality. • Reaching remote and difficult areas. • Issues of privacy and data security. • Evolving socio-economic realities (e.g. urbanisation, migration).	RECENT DEVELOPMENTS  • Use of digital tools and mobile applications for data collection. • Self-enumeration option in urban areas (proposed). • Integration with other datasets. • Use of technology for real-time monitoring and GIS mapping. • Greater focus on data confidentiality and privacy.	WAY FORWARD  • Timely conduct of Census 2027. • Enhanced use of technology and AI for better accuracy. • Strengthening data security measures. • Ensuring inclusivity and coverage of marginalised groups. • Linking census data with sustainable development planning.



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3 Vithalbhai Patel and Bhagat Singh (Source: The Indian Express)

Vithalbhai Patel (1873 - 1933)

- **Who was Vithalbhai Patel?:**

- Elder brother of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- He was an Indian legislator and political leader, part of freedom struggle.

- **Contributions:**

- He became a member of the **Bombay legislative Council**.
- He left the Indian National Congress after the withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement and co-founded Swarajya Party.
- He was elected to the Central Legislative Assembly in 1923.
- The **first Indian to get elected as the President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly** (1925)
- Established an **independent office for the Assembly**, separate from Executive control.
- Instituted the convention of **neutrality of the Speaker**, exercising casting votes only to **maintain the status quo**.
- Bridged colonial legislative norms to independent India's parliamentary decorum.



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Bhagat Singh (1907–1931)

Bhagat Singh was an Indian revolutionary freedom fighter (during second phase of revolutionary movement), socialist thinker.

- The **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919)** deeply influenced his revolutionary outlook.

Revolutionary Activities

- **Naujawan Bharat Sabha (1926)**: Founded in Lahore to mobilise youth against British colonial rule and promote secularism.
- **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**: Joined the revolutionary organisation, which was reorganised as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) in 1928.
- **Saunders Assassination (1928)**: Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and other revolutionaries participated in the killing of British police officer J. P. Saunders to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- **Central Legislative Assembly Bombing (8 April 1929)**: Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw non-lethal bombs in the Assembly to protest against the Public Safety Bill and Trade Disputes Bill.

Ideology

- Socialism, Secularism, Revolution, Rationalism, Anti-imperialism

Fact

- *Popularised the slogan Inquilab Zindabad, originally coined by Maulana Hasrat Mohani.*

Important Works

- Why I Am an Atheist (1930)
- To Young Political Workers (1931)
- Letter to Young Political Workers

Death

- Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were sentenced to death in the Lahore Conspiracy Case.
- Executed: 23 March 1931, at Lahore Central Jail.
 - *Commemorated annually as Shaheed Diwas (Martyrs' Day).*