

Press Note

No.GAB.18/2026/2

Dated Shillong, the 6th March, 2026.

The Census of India, a nationwide population census exercise, was originally scheduled to be conducted in 2021 in two phases—House Listing and Housing Census followed by Population Enumeration. However, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the census operations were postponed and are now scheduled to be undertaken in 2027. The upcoming Census 2027 will be conducted in digital mode, marking a significant step towards modernising the census process.

As part of the preparatory activities for Census 2027, a meeting chaired by **Dr. Pooja Pandey, IAS**, State Nodal Officer for Census, was convened with the Deputy Commissioners and Principal Census Officers of the districts and officials of the Directorate of Census Operations, on 6th March 2026 at the Main Secretariat.

The meeting began with a welcome address and introductory remarks by Dr. Pooja Pandey, Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya and State Nodal Officer for Census. This was followed by a presentation by **Shri Subhasish Chatterjee**, Joint Director of Census Operations, Meghalaya, who briefed the participants on the various components of the census.

During the presentation, emphasis was laid on the timeline for the **Houselisting Operations (HLO)**. The self-enumeration process will be carried out from **1st May to 15th May 2026**, followed by **house-to-house houselisting operations from 16th May to 14th June 2026**. These operations have been notified by the General Administration Department and will also be notified in the Gazette of Meghalaya. Preparations for the training of census functionaries at different levels were also discussed.

The State Nodal Officer, underscored the importance of the census exercise, stating that it is a mammoth task involving functionaries at multiple levels, various State Government departments, and the Directorate of Census Operations. She stressed that effective coordination among all stakeholders will be essential to ensure the successful conduct and completion of the census during both phases.