

Census duty increases workload of govt teachers

ANUSHKA BHARDWAJ
New Delhi, 7 May

The day has just become longer — a lot longer — for Devika Kumari, a government school teacher in Delhi. She's not marking exam papers — rather, she is going door-to-door with survey questions in Delhi's searing heat.

Kumari is part of an army of over three million — most of them government school teachers — who have been tasked to conduct the world's biggest enumeration exercise, Census 2027.

"I live in Ghaziabad. The survey area which I have been assigned is almost 1.5 hours away from my home. I am surveying until 7 pm before heading home," said Kumari. Census duty has seen the workload for many teachers like her increase to 12-13 hours a day.

Door-to-door surveys have already begun in the jurisdictions of the New Delhi Municipal Council and Delhi Cantonment, where teachers have now been asked to add weekends to their workdays in order to meet the May 15 deadline. In the current phase, enumerators are tasked with the Housing and Housing Census which will be followed by the Population Enumeration.

"Of course the weather is a huge problem for us. But it is also the long hours, no rest days, lack of safety and travel facilities, and a sense of disapproval shown by some households, which makes the entire process exhausting," said Atul Nath Desai, another teacher in Delhi as he joined his teammates for Census training.

"Teaching can still be managed with physical tiredness, but mental fatigue is the actual cost that the teachers are paying. It is either a 13-hour shift if the school is open or sacrificing the summer vacations," said Ajay Veer Yadav, general secretary, Government School Teachers Association.

Delhi is not alone — as India starts its biggest counting exercise after almost 15 years, it puts the focus on the challenges faced by enumerators across the country.

In Odisha, where the exercise started on April 16, two on-field enumerators have died from heatstroke. Further, a few cases of violence have been reported in the last 10 days, as many households in rural areas remain suspicious.

"Minor cases of violence are not even reported. Security is a major issue," said Pradeep Pradhan, president, NPS Secondary School Teachers Association, Bhubaneswar. "Starting time is around 7 am but there's no clarity on when it ends.



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE | PTI

The long count

16th Census in India's history; 8th after Independence

■ To be carried out in two phases, with a gap of 6 to 8 months

3 million enumerators, supervisors to conduct exercise

1.35 billion people to be enumerated across the country

■ 12-13 hour workdays reported by teachers on duty

Targets are to be met and it can take the entire day," he said.

Enumerators will get a total of ₹25,000 for their work, of which ₹9,000 will be paid when they complete their duty and the remaining ₹16,000 after the completion of the census in February 2027. The questionnaire, which is now digital, comprises 33 questions, including those around housing conditions, amenities, asset ownership, and access to the internet.

The challenge also lies in the complexity and the length of the questionnaire. According to Pronab Sen, former chief statistician of India, "This is the only comprehensive survey that we have. Most of the questions go beyond direct answers and require interpretation. This is adding on to the pressure faced by the enumerators."

Unlike the National Sample Survey, with its smaller number of enumerators, limited sample size, and more time for training, "We have a huge sample size, millions of enumerators, and a very short deadline." In Sen's view, stretching the deadline could increase the risk of double-counting due to frequent migration.

On digitisation, Sen said that it will upgrade and speed up the process, but added that it might make things tougher for enumerators. Pradhan of Bhubanes-

war said. "There are internet glitches in rural areas. Teachers are first writing and then feeding on the mobile, its double work. They are using their own resources for the process."

A full year of duties

Most of the teachers *Business Standard* spoke to accepted that Census duty alone is not a major concern. "Election is mostly a five-yearly thing and it (election duty) does not bother us much, but there are hundreds of other non-academic tasks that eat into teaching time," said Ajit Yadav, member of Haryana Vidyalyaya Adhyapak Sangh. "In Haryana, most primary schools have less than five teachers. If two to three go out for government duties, who will manage the school?"

The National Education Policy 2020 mandates sharing of school resources, which, according to a government official, can help tackle such situations. "A framework is in place that schools can share teachers and manage the temporary crunch," the government official said.

Under section 27 of the Right to Education Act, 2009, teachers are prohibited from doing non-academic duties — with the exception of elections and Census. However, teachers across the country list a number of non-teaching duties they perform on a daily basis, many of them due to a lack of clerical staff — everything from mock drills to medicine distribution, social awareness campaigns like literacy, and mid-day meal duties.

"We get only rice for the mid-day meal. For things like eggs, dal etc, we have to go to the market to procure," said Pradhan.

In India, there are over 100,000 schools that work on a single-teacher model. "Single-teacher schools have no option but to shut during these activities," said professor Arun C Mehta, founder, academic research platform, Education for All.

NITI Aayog flags gaps in school education system, calls for reforms

Stronger foundational learning initiatives, better teacher management, and wider use of digital and AI-enabled learning recommended

AUHONA MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 7 May

The NITI Aayog has flagged fragmented school structures, gaps in learning outcomes, uneven infrastructure, teacher workforce shortages, and governance weaknesses as major challenges facing India's school education system. At the same time, it has recommended reforms such as composite school complexes, stronger foundational learning initiatives, improved teacher management, and wider use of digital and AI-enabled learning.

The government's public policy think tank has said discontinuity across school stages, the prevalence of small and single-teacher schools, and infrastructure gaps continue to affect access and quality, according to its report titled "School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement". The report also noted gaps in equity and inclusion, including issues related to socioeconomically disadvantaged groups and children with special needs.



"The Indian school system shows significant fragmentation across levels, resulting in hampering the continuity of schooling and the efficiency of educational delivery. These challenges are not isolated but are embedded in the design and distribution of schools across the country and lead to persistent gaps in access, retention, and learning," the report said.

It highlighted attrition of students as they go through successive stages of schooling as a key issue. The gross enrolment ratio (GER) stands at 90.9 per cent at the primary level but

Key concerns

■ Gross enrollment ratio falls from 90.9% at primary to 58.4% at higher secondary level

■ Over one-third of schools have fewer than 50 students

■ Gaps in inclusion for disadvantaged groups, children with special needs, says report

falls to 78.7 per cent at the secondary level, and even further to 58.4 per cent at the higher secondary level. "This indicates that nearly four out of every 10 children who enter the school system are unable to continue through to higher secondary education," added the report.

According to the report, India has 14.71 lakh schools serving 24.69 crore students and more than one crore teachers. Government schools account for 68.1 per cent of all schools and enrol 49.2 per cent of students, while private schools account for 23.1 per

cent of schools and 38.8 per cent of enrolment, showed data from the report.

The report said foundational literacy and numeracy indicators have improved after the pandemic, but gaps remain in conceptual understanding and application-based learning, particularly among rural, tribal, and economically disadvantaged students. It also flagged uneven digital access in smaller and remote schools, and said schools for children with special needs require additional inclusive infrastructure and support systems.

It noted that over one-third of Indian schools have less than 50 students, with around 5.1 per cent having enrolment below 10, and another 8 per cent in the 11-20 range. "The small size of these schools has made their operation economically inefficient and administratively challenging, particularly with respect to teacher deployment and the provision of essential physical infrastructure," it added.

More on business-standard.com

Draft mental health policy to tackle cyberbullying, stress in schools

AUHONA MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 7 May

The Ministry of Education is working on a mental health policy for school students that will focus on strengthening school-based mental health support systems, improving communication between schools and parents, and addressing emerging concerns such as cyberbullying and cybercrime involving minors.

According to officials aware

of the matter, the draft policy is in the final stages of preparation and is likely to be placed in the public domain for consultation in the first week of June.

"We are almost in the last stage, and we will be putting it in the public domain very shortly," said a senior official, adding that the framework is being developed in consultation with states.

At present, India does not have a dedicated mental health support policy across the school

system. The National Education Policy 2020 highlights the importance of mental health alongside children's nutrition and overall well-being.

The move comes amid growing concern over student mental health challenges, including stress-related issues and rising cases of cyberbullying and online harassment. "Cyberbullying has become extremely worrisome now, with several complaints being received from schools," the offi-

cial said. A key element of the proposed policy is the emphasis on early identification and intervention within schools.

Cybercrime cases in India rose sharply in 2024, with a total of 101,928 cases registered, marking a 17.9 per cent increase over 2023, when 86,420 cases were recorded, according to the latest data from the National Crime Records Bureau. The crime rate under this category also climbed to 7.3 in 2024 from 6.2 in 2023.

<https://bankofbaroda.bank.in>

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
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Detailed tender document is available in the Tenders section of Bank's website: <https://bankofbaroda.bank.in> and on GeM portal.

Any Addendum/Corrigendum including modification in the tender document shall be notified only on GeM portal and on Bank's website: <https://bankofbaroda.bank.in>

Last date for submission of Tender is 05.06.2026.

Place: Baroda General Manager – Chief Operating Officer
Date: 08.05.2026 Head Office, Baroda

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Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2026
(All amounts are in INR lakhs, unless stated otherwise)

S.No	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		31.03.2026 Audited	31.12.2025 Unaudited	31.03.2026 Audited	31.03.2025 Audited
1	Total Income from Operations for the period / year	51,378.35	46,162.77	43,411.52	1,84,421.04
2	Net Profit for the period / year (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	15,748.37	10,856.54	12,047.10	43,608.25
3	Net Profit for the period / year before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	15,748.37	10,856.54	12,047.10	43,608.25
4	Net Profit for the period / year after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	11,933.40	8,175.59	9,307.10	33,039.48
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period / year	12,093.88	7,901.47	9,196.27	32,791.08
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	13,136.42	13,136.42	13,136.42	13,136.42
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	2,99,551.42	2,87,311.60	2,65,181.04	2,99,551.42
8	Securities Premium Income	1,71,989.46	1,71,989.46	1,71,989.46	1,71,989.46
9	Net worth (equity and preference share capital + reserve and surplus excluding revaluation reserve)	3,12,687.84	3,00,448.02	2,78,317.46	3,12,687.84
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt (debt securities + borrowings)	7,37,409.70	6,59,604.19	5,62,924.20	7,37,409.70
11	Debt Equity Ratio (Refer note d)	2.36	2.20	2.02	2.36
12	Earnings per share (of INR 10 each) (Refer note e)				
	- Basic	9.09	6.23	7.09	25.17
	- Diluted	9.04	6.18	7.04	24.99
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
14	Debt Redemption Reserve (Refer note f)	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Refer note g)	-	-	-	-
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Refer note g)	-	-	-	-

Notes:

(a) Veritas Finance Limited ("the Company") is a company limited by shares domiciled in India and incorporated on 30 April 2015 under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 registered with Reserve Bank of India ("RBI") and is classified under middle layer as per scale based regulations issued by RBI to carry on the business of NBFC without accepting public deposits. The debt securities of the Company namely non-convertible debentures are listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange ("NSE"). The Company is engaged in extending credit to micro and small enterprises, typically self-employed businesses and salaried segment for the purpose of their business expansion, working capital, construction of houses, and purchase of used commercial vehicles. Pursuant to conversion into a public company, the Company had changed its name to Veritas Finance Limited with effect from 23 October 2024.

(b) The financial results for the quarter ended 31 March 2026 and year ended 31 March 2026 are available on the websites of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>), NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>) and the Company (<https://www.veritasfin.in/announcement-and-results.php>).

(c) These audited financial results have been prepared in accordance with recognition and measurement principles laid down in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard ("Ind AS"), as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act"), read with the Companies (Indian Accounting standards) Rules, 2015, as amended from time to time, and other accounting principles generally accepted in India and in terms of Regulation 52 of the Securities Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (as amended). Any application guidance/ clarifications/ directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India are implemented as and when they are issued/ become applicable.

The statement of audited financial results for the quarter ended 31 March 2026 and year ended 31 March 2026, have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 07 May 2026. This statement of audited financial results for the quarter ended 31 March 2026 and year ended 31 March 2026, have been subjected to audit by the statutory auditors of the Company.

(d) Debt equity ratio is calculated as ((Debt securities + Borrowings) / Net worth)).

(e) Earnings per share disclosed for the quarter ended 31 March 2026, 31 December 2025 and 31 March 2025 have not been annualised.

(f) Debt redemption reserve is not required in respect of privately placed debentures in terms of Rule 18(7)(b)(ii) of Companies (Share Capital and Debenture) Rules, 2014.

(g) Debt service coverage ratio and Interest service coverage ratio is not applicable for Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) and accordingly no disclosure has been made.

for and on behalf of the board of directors of
Veritas Finance Limited (formerly known as Veritas Finance Private Limited)
Sd/-
D. Arulmany
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Place : Chennai
Date : 07.05.2026