

Talk by Ms Sheetal Verma, IAS, Joint Secretary (MHA) and Director of Census Operations, Uttar Pradesh, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

The academic programme on “Who Counts? The State and Its People” was organized by the Department of Survey Research & Data Analytics, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) on 15 September 2026 at 4:00 PM at the 3rd Floor, Library Building, IIPS. The lecture was delivered by Ms. Sheetal Verma, IAS, Joint Secretary (MHA) and Director of Census Operations, Uttar Pradesh, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The programme commenced with a welcome by the Director & Senior Professor, Prof. S.K Mohanty, in the presence of distinguished faculty members and research scholars. The Director & Senior Professor felicitated Ms. Sheetal Verma, IAS, as a mark of respect and appreciation for her presence at the Institute. He also highlighted the importance of Census data in demographic research.

Prof. Laxmi Kant Dwivedi, Head Dept. of Survey Research & Data Analytics delivered the introductory note and introduced Ms. Sheetal Verma, IAS, highlighting her professional position and experience in the field of census and population data. He also welcomed her to IIPS and briefly outlined the significance of the lecture topic.

The main session of the programme began with the lecture by Ms. Sheetal Verma, IAS, on “Who Counts? The State and Its People.” The presentation focused on the changing landscape of population data and examined the relationship between enumeration, identity, civil registration, and citizenship. She discussed the roles of the Census, civil registration systems, identity systems, electoral rolls, and other administrative records, highlighting the distinct purposes and institutional boundaries of these systems.

The programme concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Somnath Jana.

The programme provided a valuable academic platform for faculty members and research scholars to engage with important contemporary issues concerning population enumeration, administrative data, identity, civil registration, and citizenship.

