Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the significance of the population census in India's governance and development planning. What challenges must be addressed to ensure an accurate and inclusive census?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Census Act 1948; demographic data; evidence-based policymaking; resource allocation; welfare delivery; digital enumeration; data privacy; migrant population; institutional capacity

Model Answer

Introduction

The population census is a comprehensive statistical exercise that provides essential information about India's population, households and socio-economic characteristics. It serves as a foundation for evidence-based governance and development planning.

Significance of the Census

1. Policy Formulation: Population, literacy, occupation and housing data help governments identify development priorities.

2. Resource Allocation: Census information supports planning for schools, hospitals, housing, transport and other public services.

3. Social Justice: Disaggregated demographic data helps identify vulnerable communities and address regional and social inequalities.

4. Democratic Governance: Population information is relevant to delimitation and the assessment of electoral representation, subject to constitutional provisions.

5. Economic Planning: Demographic trends assist in understanding labour supply, urbanisation and migration.

Key Challenges

Inaccurate enumeration, migration, remote settlements, digital exclusion, inadequate field capacity and concerns about personal data privacy can affect data quality.

Way Forward

Robust training, transparent procedures, multilingual communication, secure digital systems and independent quality checks are essential.

Conclusion

A reliable census is a vital public resource. Its credibility depends on accuracy, inclusiveness, transparency and protection of citizens' information.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP