Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the significance of the Census in evidence-based policymaking and inclusive development in India. What challenges must be addressed to ensure reliable census data?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Population data, evidence-based governance, welfare schemes, resource allocation, demographic trends, migration, data accuracy, public participation, privacy, digital enumeration, inclusive development.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Census is a major source of demographic and socio-economic information in India. It helps governments understand population characteristics and formulate policies based on evidence rather than assumptions.

Main Body

Significance of the Census

1. Policy formulation: Population data helps design education, healthcare, housing and employment programmes.
2. Resource allocation: Governments can identify regional needs and plan public expenditure more effectively.
3. Inclusive development: Demographic information helps identify vulnerable groups and regional inequalities.

4. Urban planning: Data on population distribution supports planning for transport, sanitation and other public services.

Major Challenges

1. Data accuracy: Incomplete enumeration or incorrect reporting can reduce reliability.
2. Migration: Seasonal and internal migration can make population enumeration challenging.
3. Public awareness: Misinformation or limited participation may affect data collection.
4. Privacy: Personal information must be protected against unauthorised disclosure.

Way Forward

The government should strengthen public awareness, train enumerators, use appropriate digital tools, protect confidentiality and establish robust quality-control mechanisms.

Conclusion

A reliable Census is essential for responsive governance and inclusive development. Transparent enumeration, public participation and data protection can improve the quality and usefulness of population statistics.

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