GENERAL STUDIES III

Census Religion Coding in India: UPSC 2026 Analysis

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A November 2026 report concerning 287 "other" religion entries briefly appearing on a Census portal has renewed discussion about religious identity, statistical classification and the representation of smaller communities in India. The development raises important questions about self-identification, administrative coding, data reliability, minority visibility and the difference between provisional portal information and officially validated Census statistics. For UPSC aspirants, the issue connects directly with Indian Society, constitutional values, governance, ethics and social justice. This Civil Service Gurukul analysis examines the institutional context, opportunities and risks of religious enumeration, policy recommendations, Prelims practice questions and a structured GS Mains answer.

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