



Sarna Code

Why in News?

The Rashtriya Adivasi Samnvay Samiti, based in Jharkhand, has urged [Scheduled Tribe associations](#) across the country to join a protest demanding a separate [Sarna religion code](#) in the upcoming [Census](#).

Key Points

- **Protest at Jantar Mantar:**
 - The Rashtriya Adivasi Samnvay Samiti will lead a **mass demonstration at Jantar Mantar**, New Delhi, on 28th February 2025 **to demand a separate religion column for Scheduled Tribe communities** in the Census.
 - The protest call has been circulated among other [Adivasi groups](#), including the **Kendriya Sarna Samiti**, which have also pushed for a separate Sarna religion code.
 - Adivasi organizations, primarily from **Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal**, have demanded a separate religion column in the Census for decades.
- **Impact of the Movement in 2011 Census:**
 - In the [2011 Census](#), the movement led to 4.9 lakh people marking their **religion** as Sarna in the 'Others' column.
 - Over 80% of these respondents were from Jharkhand, highlighting the strong regional support for this demand.
 - Since 2011, the demand for a separate Sarna religion code has gained momentum, particularly in eastern and central India, with increasing mobilization from tribal communities.

Sarna Religion

- **About:**
 - Sarna religion is a **nature-worshipping faith** practiced by many tribal communities in India. It is also known as **Sarna Dharma** or **the Religion of the Holy Woods**.
 - They are concentrated mainly in the tribal belt states of **Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam**.
- **Features of the Sarna religion:**
 - They worship **nature, including water, forests, and land**.
 - They believe in protecting forests and pray to trees and hills. They **do not worship idols**.
 - They do not adhere to the **Varna system**.
 - They celebrate **the Sarhul festival**, which is the **New Year festival**.

