Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the constitutional framework governing SC/ST reservation in legislative bodies in India. Examine the role of delimitation and the respective powers of Parliament and the judiciary in determining reserved constituencies.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Articles 330 and 332; political representation; delimitation; Delimitation Commission; constitutional safeguards; Parliament's legislative powers; judicial review; electoral fairness; social justice.

Model Answer

Introduction

Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in legislative bodies seeks to ensure political representation for historically disadvantaged communities. Its implementation operates within a constitutional and statutory framework.

Constitutional Framework

Article 330 provides for SC/ST reservation in the Lok Sabha, while Article 332 provides for reservation in State Legislative Assemblies. Article 334 governs the duration of these special provisions, as amended by Parliament.

Role of Delimitation

Delimitation involves determining constituency boundaries and allocating seats according to applicable legal provisions. Reserved constituencies are identified using constitutional criteria, including population considerations.

Rotation is not automatically required after every election.

Institutional Roles

Parliament: Enacts laws governing delimitation and electoral representation within constitutional limits.

Delimitation Commission: Undertakes delimitation under the applicable law, with its orders generally carrying statutory finality and restrictions on ordinary judicial challenge.

Judiciary: Interprets constitutional provisions and examines legal questions within its jurisdiction, while respecting constitutional limits on interference in delimitation matters.

Way Forward

Changes to the reservation framework should be evidence-based, legally sound and attentive to administrative feasibility, equitable representation and electoral stability.

Conclusion

Effective SC/ST representation requires a balance between constitutional social justice, transparent delimitation and institutional accountability. Any reform must follow the prescribed constitutional and legislative process.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP