Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the implications of declining fertility rates for India's population policy. Should two-child restrictions for contesting local body elections be reconsidered in the light of changing demographic realities? Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 05/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Total Fertility Rate, replacement-level fertility, demographic transition, local self-government, electoral eligibility, reproductive autonomy, gender equality, demographic diversity, constitutional values, evidence-based policymaking

Model Answer

Introduction

India is undergoing a demographic transition characterised by declining fertility rates, increasing life expectancy and changing population structures. These developments require periodic reassessment of population-related policies.

Implications of Declining Fertility

Lower fertility can reduce long-term population growth and create opportunities for improved investment in education, healthcare and employment. However, it may also lead to population ageing and regional demographic differences.

Two-Child Restrictions and Electoral Participation

Certain states have introduced two-child conditions for contesting local body elections. Such restrictions raise concerns regarding reproductive autonomy, gender equality and political participation. Their effectiveness as population-control instruments also requires evidence-based assessment.

Way Forward

Population policy should prioritise education, accessible reproductive healthcare, women's empowerment and voluntary family planning. States should periodically review electoral eligibility provisions in light of demographic evidence and constitutional principles.

Conclusion

India requires a rights-based and region-sensitive population policy. Electoral restrictions should be evaluated through evidence, proportionality and democratic values rather than outdated demographic assumptions.

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