Polity & Governance · GS - II

What is gerrymandering? Examine the significance of an impartial delimitation process in ensuring representative democracy in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 06/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Meaning of gerrymandering, electoral constituency boundaries, partisan advantage, Delimitation Commission, Articles 82 and 170, population representation, federal balance, electoral fairness, transparency, democratic accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Gerrymandering refers to manipulating electoral constituency boundaries to favour a particular political party or group. It can weaken electoral fairness even when elections are conducted regularly.

Significance of Impartial Delimitation

In India, delimitation is governed by Articles 82 and 170 and relevant parliamentary laws. A Delimitation Commission is constituted to readjust constituency boundaries according to prescribed criteria, including population distribution.

An impartial process promotes equality of representation, geographical coherence and public confidence in elections. It also helps address demographic changes while maintaining constitutional safeguards.

Challenges and Concerns

Politically motivated boundary changes may distort representation, weaken minority communities' electoral influence and encourage partisan competition. Changes in seat allocation can also raise concerns regarding federal balance among states.

Way Forward

Transparent criteria, independent institutional functioning, public consultation and reasoned decisions are essential to ensure fairness.

Conclusion

Delimitation should strengthen equal representation rather than serve partisan interests. Its legitimacy depends on constitutional principles, transparency and institutional impartiality.