Polity & Governance · GS - II

Delimitation is essential for ensuring equitable political representation, but it also raises concerns regarding federal balance and regional disparities. Critically examine the challenges associated with delimitation in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional provisions, Article 82, Article 170, population-based representation, democratic equality, federalism, regional imbalance, population control, southern states' concerns, census, political consensus, cooperative federalism.

Model Answer

Introduction

Delimitation refers to the redrawing of electoral constituency boundaries to ensure fair representation based on population. It is constitutionally linked to Articles 82 and 170.

Importance of Delimitation

It helps address population changes, correct electoral imbalances and strengthen the principle of equal representation. Periodic delimitation also ensures that constituency boundaries remain relevant to demographic realities.

Major Challenges

A purely population-based redistribution of seats may increase the political representation of states with higher population growth. This raises concerns among states that have successfully controlled population growth,

particularly regarding their relative representation in Parliament. It may also affect federal balance and intensify regional political tensions.

Way Forward

The exercise should be based on transparent constitutional procedures, reliable census data and broad political consensus. A balanced approach must reconcile democratic equality with federal principles and recognise the achievements of states in population stabilisation.

Conclusion

Delimitation must strengthen representative democracy without undermining India's federal structure. Cooperative federalism and inclusive consultation are essential for its legitimacy.

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