Polity & Governance · GS - II

Delimitation is not merely an exercise in redrawing electoral boundaries; it also has significant implications for federal balance, democratic representation and political equality. Examine.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, Articles 82 and 170, Article 368, population representation, federal balance, regional disparities, women's reservation, parliamentary consensus, electoral fairness

Model Answer

Introduction

Delimitation refers to the determination or redrawing of boundaries of electoral constituencies to ensure fair representation based on population. The proposed constitutional amendment on delimitation has generated debate over parliamentary representation, federal balance and the implementation of women's reservation.

Constitutional and Democratic Significance

1. **Equal representation:** Delimitation seeks to reduce disparities in the population represented by each elected member, strengthening the principle of electoral equality.
2. **Constitutional framework:** Articles 82 and 170 provide for readjustment of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly constituencies after censuses, subject to constitutional provisions.
3. **Independent mechanism:** Delimitation Commissions are established under parliamentary laws, and their orders have legal force.

4. **Women's representation:** Delimitation is linked to the operationalisation of one-third reservation for women under the 106th Constitutional Amendment.

Major Concerns

- **Federal imbalance:** States with faster population growth may gain greater representation, potentially altering the balance among states.
- **Demographic performance:** States that achieved population stabilisation may perceive a disadvantage if representation is redistributed solely on population.
- **Political fairness:** Changes in constituency boundaries can affect electoral competition and representation of communities.
- **Consultative deficit:** Lack of broad political and inter-state consensus can weaken public confidence in the process.

Way Forward

- Ensure transparent and evidence-based delimitation criteria.
- Conduct meaningful consultations with political parties, states and civil society.
- Consider demographic performance alongside population representation.
- Explore mechanisms to implement women's reservation while maintaining federal balance.
- Respect constitutional procedures, including the special majority requirements under Article 368 and applicable state ratification requirements.

Conclusion

Delimitation must reconcile democratic equality with India's federal diversity. A transparent, constitutionally sound and consultative process is essential to maintain public trust and ensure equitable political representation.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP