Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional and political challenges involved in undertaking a major delimitation exercise alongside the implementation of women's reservation in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, Article 368, special majority, federal balance, women's representation, demographic transition, parliamentary consensus, electoral boundaries

Model Answer

The proposed delimitation framework seeks to increase Lok Sabha representation by 50%, potentially raising the number of seats from 543 to approximately 815. It also seeks to facilitate the implementation of 33% reservation for women while maintaining the existing inter-state share of representation until 2051.

Constitutional challenges

1. **Constitutional amendment:** Changes to relevant constitutional provisions require the prescribed procedure under Article 368, including a special majority in both Houses.
2. **Representation and federalism:** Delimitation must balance population-based representation with the political interests of different states.
3. **Implementation of women's reservation:** The exercise must provide a transparent mechanism for identifying and rotating reserved constituencies.
4. **Electoral administration:** Redrawing constituencies and expanding legislative strength will require substantial administrative and logistical preparation.

Political challenges

- Opposition over the timing, methodology and transparency of delimitation.
- Concerns among states that population stabilisation efforts may affect their political influence.
- Need to secure the constitutionally required majority in both Houses.
- Possibility of disagreement over the distribution of seats and the criteria adopted.

Way forward: An all-party consultation, transparent seat-allocation methodology, independent delimitation mechanisms and adequate implementation time are essential. Women's representation and federal fairness should be treated as complementary democratic objectives.

Conclusion: Delimitation offers an opportunity to strengthen representative democracy, but its legitimacy will depend on constitutional compliance, political consensus and equitable federal arrangements.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP