Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine how the constitutional procedure for amending the Constitution protects federalism while allowing Parliament to undertake institutional reforms.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 368, special majority, state ratification, federal structure, representation of States, constitutional safeguards, parliamentary deliberation

Model Answer

The Constitution of India provides a balance between parliamentary authority and federal safeguards through Article 368. It allows constitutional changes while ensuring that fundamental federal arrangements cannot be altered solely through an ordinary parliamentary majority.

Key constitutional safeguards

1. **Special majority:** A constitutional amendment requires a majority of the total membership of each House and at least two-thirds of members present and voting.
2. **Separate approval:** Both Houses must independently pass the Bill; a joint sitting cannot resolve a deadlock.
3. **State ratification:** Amendments affecting specified federal provisions, including the representation of States in Parliament, require approval by at least half of the State Legislatures.

4. **Federal consultation:** State ratification ensures that changes affecting the Union-State relationship involve the States.
5. **Judicial scrutiny:** The basic structure doctrine places substantive limits on Parliament's amending power.

Relevance to delimitation

Changes in parliamentary representation can raise concerns about federal balance, population-based representation and equitable political participation. Constitutional safeguards encourage wider deliberation on such changes.

Thus, Article 368 combines institutional flexibility with federal accountability, strengthening constitutional stability and democratic legitimacy.