Polity & Governance · GS - II

How can delimitation affect the balance between democratic representation and federal equity in India? Discuss.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, Article 82, Article 170, population representation, federal balance, regional disparities, parliamentary representation, constitutional safeguards

Model Answer

Delimitation refers to the redrawing of electoral constituency boundaries and, where constitutionally permitted, the readjustment of legislative representation. It seeks to ensure that constituencies reflect demographic changes while maintaining democratic equality.

Impact on democratic representation

1. **Population equality:** Delimitation can reduce disparities in the population represented by individual legislators.
2. **Political participation:** More equitable constituency boundaries can strengthen the principle of equal representation.
3. **Reserved representation:** It determines the territorial allocation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Challenges to federal equity

1. **Regional imbalance:** States with faster population growth may gain greater parliamentary representation.

2. **Demographic responsibility:** States that have controlled population growth may fear a relative decline in their political influence.
3. **Federal tensions:** Changes in seat distribution can generate disagreements over regional interests and political representation.

Way forward

A transparent delimitation exercise should consider constitutional provisions, reliable census data, federal consultations and the need for equitable political representation. An informed parliamentary debate is equally important.

Delimitation must reconcile the democratic principle of population-based representation with the federal principle of balanced participation among States.

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