Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the challenges involved in balancing population-based representation with the principle of federal equity during the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, Article 81, Article 82, population-based representation, federalism, demographic transition, regional equity, parliamentary representation

Model Answer

Delimitation is the process of readjusting electoral constituency boundaries and, where constitutionally permitted, legislative representation. It seeks to uphold the principle of equal representation while maintaining India's federal balance.

Major challenges

1. **Population disparities:** States with higher population growth may gain a larger share of parliamentary representation, potentially changing the existing political balance.
2. **Demographic performance:** States that have successfully implemented population stabilisation measures may fear a relative decline in their political influence.
3. **Federal representation:** A significant change in seat distribution can affect the ability of different regions to articulate their interests in national policymaking.
4. **Constitutional complexity:** Articles 81 and 82, along with constitutional amendments governing delimitation, establish the framework within which representation can be readjusted.

5. **Political consensus:** Differences among States and political parties make transparent and consultative delimitation particularly important.

Way forward

A fair exercise should rely on credible census data, clearly defined constitutional criteria and consultations with States. Any proposed increase in parliamentary strength or freeze in relative representation must be examined through constitutional scrutiny and parliamentary deliberation.

Conclusion

Delimitation must reconcile the democratic principle of population-based representation with the federal need for equitable participation. A transparent process is essential to preserve public confidence in representative institutions.

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