Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional and federal implications of increasing the strength of legislative bodies while maintaining the existing relative representation of States.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Legislative representation, Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, Article 81, Article 170, delimitation, federalism, regional equity, women's reservation

Model Answer

The strength of legislative bodies determines the extent of political representation and the capacity of elected institutions to accommodate diverse interests. Any substantial expansion of legislative seats therefore has constitutional, administrative and federal implications.

Potential benefits

1. **Improved representation:** Additional seats may reduce the population represented by individual legislators and improve access to elected representatives.
2. **Women's participation:** Expansion may facilitate the implementation of constitutional provisions for women's reservation.
3. **Administrative responsiveness:** A larger legislature may provide greater scope for representing local and regional concerns.

Federal implications

1. **Relative State representation:** Maintaining existing inter-State seat proportions may protect the relative parliamentary influence of States despite an increase in total seats.
2. **Population-based representation:** Such an arrangement raises questions about reconciling demographic changes with the principle of representation based on population.
3. **Legislative functioning:** A larger Parliament and State Assemblies may require greater institutional infrastructure, resources and coordination.
4. **Constitutional scrutiny:** Changes must comply with the relevant provisions governing legislative composition and delimitation.

Conclusion

Legislative expansion can strengthen representative democracy, but its design must balance population-based representation, federal equity, institutional efficiency and women's political participation. Transparency and constitutional consultation are essential.

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