Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine how the proposed freeze on inter-State Lok Sabha seat proportions until 2051, alongside an expansion in the House's strength, seeks to balance democratic representation with federal equity.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Federal balance, delimitation, population-based representation, regional disparities, southern States, parliamentary representation, women's reservation

Model Answer

The proposed constitutional arrangement seeks to address a longstanding tension between population-based representation and equitable federal participation in Parliament.

Under the proposal, the inter-State proportion of Lok Sabha seats would remain frozen until 2051, while the total strength of the House would increase uniformly by 50%. This is intended to prevent States that have achieved greater success in population stabilisation from losing their relative parliamentary influence.

Federal and democratic implications:

1. **Protection of federal equity:** The freeze would safeguard the relative representation of States, particularly those concerned about a decline in their political influence due to lower population growth.
2. **Accommodation of population growth:** Expanding the House would create additional seats and improve representation of citizens in Parliament.
3. **Recognition of developmental performance:** It would reduce the possibility of penalising States for effective implementation of population-control measures.

4. **Facilitating women's reservation:** The expansion is linked to the proposed implementation of 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies.
5. **Institutional challenges:** A larger Lok Sabha may increase administrative costs, coordination difficulties and pressure on parliamentary infrastructure.

However, maintaining proportional representation among States must not undermine the principle of equal representation of citizens. Any constitutional changes should involve broad political consultation and transparent delimitation criteria.

Thus, the proposal attempts to reconcile democratic representation with cooperative federalism, but its legitimacy will depend on constitutional safeguards and consensus among States.