Polity & Governance · GS - II

Political consensus is essential for major electoral and constitutional reforms. Discuss this in the context of the proposed delimitation exercise in India.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, federalism, political consensus, electoral representation, regional disparities, constitutional amendments, cooperative federalism

Model Answer

Delimitation is a constitutionally significant exercise that determines the boundaries and representation of electoral constituencies. Since it can influence the political representation of States and regions, broad political consensus is important for its legitimacy.

The recent differences among political parties over the proposed delimitation framework illustrate the difficulty of building agreement on electoral reforms.

Why political consensus matters:

1. **Federal balance:** States with different population growth patterns may have differing concerns regarding their relative representation in Parliament.
2. **Democratic legitimacy:** Broad consultation reduces perceptions that electoral restructuring favours particular political interests or regions.
3. **Institutional stability:** Consensus helps prevent prolonged political disputes and facilitates smoother implementation.

4. **Women's representation:** Delimitation-related decisions are linked to the implementation of constitutional provisions for women's reservation.
5. **National integration:** An equitable framework can strengthen confidence among States in India's federal institutions.

However, political disagreements should not prevent necessary electoral reforms. They must be addressed through transparent constitutional procedures, independent delimitation mechanisms and evidence-based discussions.

Parliamentary debate, consultation with State governments and engagement with constitutional institutions can help reconcile competing concerns.

Thus, political consensus does not require complete agreement among parties; it requires a transparent process in which constitutional principles, regional concerns and democratic representation receive due consideration.

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