Polity & Governance · GS - II

Population-based delimitation raises concerns about balancing democratic representation with federal equity. Discuss in the context of demands raised by States such as Tamil Nadu.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, population principle, federal balance, southern States, parliamentary representation, demographic performance, cooperative federalism

Model Answer

Delimitation involves redrawing electoral constituency boundaries and determining representation in legislative bodies. Although population equality is an important democratic principle, its application can create concerns about the relative political representation of States.

The demand by Tamil Nadu leaders for adequate parliamentary representation reflects the wider debate over population-based delimitation.

Key concerns include:

1. **Demographic imbalance:** States that have achieved slower population growth may fear losing relative representation compared with States experiencing higher population growth.

2. **Federal equity:** A disproportionate shift in parliamentary seats may affect the political influence of States within the Union.

3. **Development incentives:** States argue that demographic stabilisation and investments in education, health and family welfare should not result in reduced political influence.

4. **Democratic representation:** At the same time, equitable representation of citizens requires periodic consideration of population changes.

5. **Political consensus:** Demands such as Tamil Nadu's proposal for 59 Lok Sabha seats underline the need for transparent negotiations between the Union and States.

A balanced approach could consider constitutional safeguards, a predictable delimitation framework, wider consultation and suitable transitional arrangements.

Conclusion

Delimitation must reconcile the principle of equal representation with the federal character of the Constitution. A consultative and constitutionally sound process is essential to maintain trust among States and strengthen representative democracy.

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