Polity & Governance · GS - II

How can delimitation reconcile the principle of population-based representation with the federal interests of States in India?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Population representation, federal balance, demographic transition, regional disparities, constitutional safeguards, cooperative federalism

Model Answer

Delimitation involves redrawing electoral constituencies and determining legislative representation. Its objective is to maintain the principle of equal representation, but population-based redistribution also raises concerns about federal balance.

The possible increase in Uttar Pradesh's Assembly strength from 403 to around 605, as reported, illustrates how demographic changes may influence legislative representation. Such figures remain proposals or projections until the relevant constitutional and legal process is completed.

Key issues involved:

1. **Democratic equality:** Population-based representation seeks to reduce disparities in the value of individual votes.
2. **Federal concerns:** States that have achieved demographic stabilisation may fear a relative decline in their representation compared with more populous States.
3. **Development incentives:** Representation changes based solely on population growth may raise concerns about the implications for States that have invested in education, healthcare and family planning.

4. **Political and administrative impact:** Changes in constituency boundaries can influence electoral competition, governance and the distribution of political influence.

A balanced approach requires:

- Constitutional compliance and transparent delimitation criteria.
- Consideration of demographic performance alongside population.
- Meaningful consultation with States and political stakeholders.
- Independent delimitation mechanisms and publicly accessible data.
- Safeguards against arbitrary or politically motivated constituency boundaries.

Ultimately, delimitation must uphold democratic equality without weakening India's federal character. A consultative and constitutionally grounded process can help reconcile these objectives.

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