Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the constitutional and federal implications of freezing the inter-State distribution of Lok Sabha seats for a fixed period despite changes in population.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Federal representation, democratic equality, demographic transition, population stabilisation, constitutional amendments, cooperative federalism

Model Answer

The proposed demand for a 25-year freeze on the existing inter-State distribution of Lok Sabha seats reflects concerns that population-based delimitation could alter the relative political representation of States.

A prolonged freeze, however, involves competing constitutional principles.

Arguments supporting a freeze:

1. **Recognition of demographic performance:** States that have controlled population growth may avoid a relative reduction in their parliamentary influence.
2. **Federal stability:** Maintaining existing seat shares can protect the political voice of smaller and demographically stabilised States.
3. **Policy incentives:** It may prevent concerns that population-control efforts could carry unintended political consequences.

Concerns associated with a freeze:

1. **Unequal vote value:** Population growth without corresponding representation may increase disparities in the representation of citizens.
2. **Democratic accountability:** Constituencies may become increasingly unequal in population.
3. **Regional imbalance:** A fixed allocation may not adequately reflect changing demographic and social realities.

Possible institutional approaches:

- Develop a transparent formula balancing population and demographic performance.
- Consider periodic reviews rather than indefinite freezing.
- Encourage consultation among the Union and State governments.
- Ensure constitutional amendments follow the prescribed parliamentary and State ratification procedures wherever applicable.

Conclusion: The challenge is not merely to redistribute seats but to reconcile equal representation with federal fairness. A negotiated, constitutionally sound framework is essential for maintaining public confidence in India's parliamentary democracy.

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