Polity & Governance · GS - II

Delimitation is not merely an electoral exercise but also a test of India's federal balance. Analyse.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Electoral representation, federal structure, population principle, regional equity, political neutrality, constitutional safeguards

Model Answer

Delimitation involves redrawing electoral constituencies and readjusting legislative representation to reflect demographic changes. While it aims to uphold the principle of equal representation, its consequences extend to India's federal structure.

Why it is a test of federal balance:

1. **Unequal demographic growth:** Differences in population growth among States can alter their relative representation in Parliament.
2. **Demographic performance:** States that have successfully controlled population growth may perceive a reduction in their political influence as unfair.
3. **Regional concerns:** Changes in parliamentary representation can intensify concerns about the balance between northern, southern and smaller States.
4. **Political neutrality:** Allegations of electoral advantage highlight the importance of transparent criteria and independent institutional processes.

Institutional safeguards required:

- Apply constitutional provisions and prescribed delimitation procedures.
- Ensure impartiality and transparency in constituency allocation.

- Encourage consultation with States and political stakeholders.
- Balance population-based representation with the federal interests of States.
- Maintain public access to relevant demographic data and delimitation proposals.

Conclusion: A credible delimitation process must uphold democratic equality without undermining the federal character of the Constitution. Institutional independence, transparency and political consensus are essential to sustaining public confidence in electoral representation.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP