Polity & Governance · GS - II

Analyse the constitutional and federal challenges involved in increasing the strength of the Lok Sabha through delimitation while maintaining the existing relative share of States.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

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Answer Hint

Delimitation, Article 81, Article 82, federal balance, population representation, regional disparities, parliamentary representation

Model Answer

Delimitation is the process of determining the boundaries of electoral constituencies and readjusting legislative representation. Proposals to increase Lok Sabha seats while retaining the relative share of States seek to expand representation without substantially altering the existing inter-State balance.

Potential benefits

1. **Greater representation:** Increasing the number of MPs can reduce the population represented by each MP and improve constituency-level accessibility.

2. **Legislative capacity:** A larger House may provide greater scope for representing India's growing population and social diversity.

3. **Administrative convenience:** Better-defined constituencies can improve the connection between elected representatives and citizens.

Constitutional and federal challenges

- **Population imbalance:** States with higher population growth may demand representation proportional to their demographic strength.
- **Federal equity:** States that achieved population stabilisation may fear losing relative political influence if representation is redistributed solely on population.
- **Constitutional procedure:** Articles 81 and 82 govern Lok Sabha composition and readjustment. Amendments affecting the representation of States in Parliament may require ratification by at least half of the State Legislatures under Article 368.
- **Political consensus:** Any major restructuring requires transparent criteria and consultation with States to maintain institutional trust.

Conclusion

Delimitation must balance the democratic principle of equal representation with federal fairness and demographic responsibility. A transparent, constitutionally sound and consultative approach is essential for sustaining the legitimacy of parliamentary representation.

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