Polity & Governance · GS - II

“Delimitation is essential for representative democracy, but it may also create challenges for Indian federalism.” Discuss the constitutional provisions governing delimitation in India and examine its implications for regional representation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, Article 82, Article 170, Delimitation Commission, electoral representation, population principle, federalism, regional disparities, northern and southern states, democratic equality, constitutional safeguards, political consensus.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Delimitation refers to the redrawing of electoral constituency boundaries to ensure fair representation in a representative democracy. In India, it is governed primarily by Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution.

2. Constitutional Provisions

- Article 82: Provides for readjustment of Lok Sabha seats and constituencies following a census, subject to constitutional restrictions.

- Article 170: Deals with the composition of State Legislative Assemblies and the readjustment of constituencies.
- Delimitation Commission: Conducts delimitation under parliamentary legislation.

3. Implications for Federalism

A. Equal Representation: Population-based delimitation promotes the principle of equal representation.

B. Regional Concerns: States that have achieved lower population growth may fear a decline in their relative parliamentary influence.

C. Cooperative Federalism: Unequal demographic trends can create tensions between population representation and states' concerns about development performance.

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4. Way Forward

A transparent, consultative process should balance democratic equality, demographic changes and federal stability.

5. Conclusion

Delimitation must strengthen representative democracy while preserving the spirit of cooperative federalism through constitutional safeguards and political consensus.