Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional and federal challenges associated with delimitation in India. How can India balance population-based representation with equitable representation of states?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional provisions; population-based representation; regional disparities; population stabilisation; federal balance; parliamentary democracy; consensus-based reforms

Model Answer

Introduction

Delimitation is the process of redrawing electoral constituency boundaries and, where constitutionally permitted, readjusting legislative representation. It seeks to uphold electoral equality while raising concerns about India's federal balance.

Constitutional Framework

- **Articles 81 and 82:** Govern Lok Sabha composition and readjustment following the Census, subject to constitutional restrictions.
- **Articles 170 and 327:** Provide for state assembly constituency readjustment and Parliament's legislative authority over elections.
- The 84th Constitutional Amendment extended the freeze on readjusting state-wise Lok Sabha seat allocation until the relevant figures of the first Census after 2026 are published.

Key Challenges

1. **Regional representation:** States with faster population growth may gain greater representation, potentially reducing the relative influence of states with slower growth.
2. **Population stabilisation:** States that achieved lower fertility rates fear being disadvantaged despite progress in social development.
3. **Federal balance:** A population-only approach may intensify regional inequalities in political influence.
4. **Political consensus:** Competing party interests can complicate agreement on a nationally acceptable framework.

Way Forward

A transparent process should consider constitutional equality, federal equity, demographic performance and regional diversity. Parliamentary deliberation, expert consultation and consensus among states are essential.

Conclusion

Delimitation must reconcile the democratic principle of equal representation with cooperative federalism, ensuring that demographic change does not undermine trust among India's states.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP