Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine how the proposed expansion of the Lok Sabha and implementation of women's reservation may influence India's parliamentary representation and federal balance.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

106th Constitutional Amendment, women's political representation, delimitation, Lok Sabha expansion, federalism, population distribution, legislative representation, constitutional amendment, inclusive democracy

Model Answer

India's parliamentary representation is undergoing debate over two interconnected issues: women's reservation and the proposed expansion of the Lok Sabha. Both have implications for democratic inclusion and federal representation.

Potential implications

1. **Women's political empowerment:** One-third reservation can improve women's participation in legislative decision-making and promote gender-inclusive governance.
2. **Expansion of representation:** Increasing Lok Sabha seats can accommodate demographic changes and potentially improve constituency representation.
3. **Federal balance:** Changes in parliamentary seat allocation may affect the relative political influence of different states.

4. **Regional concerns:** States with lower population growth may express concerns about their future representation relative to more populous states.
5. **Legislative capacity:** A larger Lok Sabha may broaden representation but also require improved parliamentary infrastructure and coordination.

Constitutional and institutional challenges

The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023 provides for women's reservation, linked to a future Census and delimitation exercise. Any proposed changes to parliamentary strength and seat allocation must follow the applicable constitutional amendment and legislative procedures.

Way Forward

1. Ensure transparent delimitation criteria and meaningful consultation with states.
2. Implement women's reservation through a clear constitutional roadmap.
3. Strengthen parliamentary infrastructure and legislative capacity.
4. Maintain a balance between demographic representation and federal equity.

Conclusion

Parliamentary reforms should advance gender justice and democratic representation while preserving the federal character of the Constitution. Inclusive consultation and constitutional safeguards are essential for their legitimacy.

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