Polity & Governance · GS - II

Population-based delimitation raises concerns about the balance between democratic equality and federal representation in India. Analyse.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, one person one vote, population principle, federal balance, demographic transition, family planning, regional representation, constitutional safeguards

Model Answer

Delimitation is the process of redrawing electoral constituency boundaries and readjusting legislative representation to reflect population changes. While it promotes democratic equality, its implications extend to India's federal structure.

Why population-based delimitation matters:

1. **Democratic equality:** It seeks to reduce disparities in constituency population, advancing the principle of equal value of votes.
2. **Changing demographics:** Population shifts require periodic adjustments to ensure representative institutions reflect contemporary realities.
3. **Political accountability:** Fairly distributed constituencies can improve the representative character of legislatures.

Concerns for states such as Odisha:

- States that have effectively implemented family planning may experience slower population growth.

- A purely population-based redistribution could alter their relative share of parliamentary seats.
- This may create concerns about reduced political influence despite progress in social development and population stabilisation.
- Regional disparities could intensify tensions between population-based representation and cooperative federalism.

Balancing the competing principles:

India needs a transparent delimitation framework that considers constitutional provisions, demographic changes and the federal consequences of seat redistribution. An informed national consultation, objective criteria and safeguards against disproportionate regional disadvantages are essential.

The concerns raised by the Biju Janata Dal reflect the broader challenge of reconciling equal electoral representation with the need to protect the political voice of states.

Conclusion: Delimitation must strengthen democratic equality without undermining the federal balance that sustains India's representative system.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP