Polity & Governance · GS - II

Distinguish between women's reservation and delimitation. Why has linking the two issues generated political and federal concerns in India?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Women's reservation, 106th Constitutional Amendment, delimitation, Article 82, political representation, federalism, census, regional equity

Model Answer

Women's reservation and delimitation are two distinct constitutional processes, although their implementation has been linked under the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023.

Women's reservation

The Amendment provides for one-third reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and the Delhi Legislative Assembly. It also covers one-third of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Delimitation

Delimitation involves redrawing constituency boundaries and, where constitutionally provided, readjusting legislative representation on the basis of population data. Article 82 provides the constitutional framework for readjustment of Lok Sabha representation.

Why linking the two generates concerns

1. **Implementation delay:** Women's representation depends on the completion of the prescribed census and subsequent delimitation process.

2. **Federal balance:** Changes in seat allocation may affect the relative parliamentary representation of different States.
3. **Demographic disparities:** States with different population growth rates may experience different consequences from readjustment.
4. **Political consensus:** Parties may support women's reservation while disagreeing over the proposed delimitation framework.
5. **Transparency:** Clear criteria and reliable population data are necessary to maintain public confidence.

Conclusion

Women's political empowerment and equitable federal representation are both important constitutional objectives. Their implementation requires transparency, constitutional compliance and broad-based consultation.