Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the concerns surrounding the north-south representation debate in the context of delimitation and suggest measures to maintain cooperative federalism.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, population-based representation, demographic transition, southern States, federal balance, Article 81, Article 82, cooperative federalism

Model Answer

Delimitation aims to ensure equitable representation by adjusting electoral constituencies according to population changes. However, differences in demographic growth among Indian States have generated concerns about its implications for federal representation.

Key concerns

1. **Unequal demographic growth:** States with higher population growth may gain a larger share of Lok Sabha representation.
2. **Population stabilisation:** States that achieved lower population growth may fear a relative reduction in their parliamentary influence.
3. **Regional political balance:** Changes in seat distribution may alter the relative influence of different regions in national decision-making.
4. **Development incentives:** Concerns arise that States which invested in education, healthcare and family planning could face unintended political consequences.

5. **National integration:** Disagreements over representation may create tensions between regional interests and national institutions.

Measures to maintain federal balance

- Use transparent and constitutionally valid delimitation criteria.
- Ensure meaningful consultation with State governments and political stakeholders.
- Consider the implications of demographic transition while examining representation arrangements.
- Strengthen intergovernmental dialogue through cooperative federal institutions.

Conclusion

Delimitation should uphold democratic equality without weakening the federal character of the Constitution. A transparent, consultative and constitutionally sound approach can help reconcile regional concerns with fair representation.

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