Polity & Governance · GS - II

Compare population-based delimitation with a uniform expansion of legislative seats while retaining inter-State seat proportions. What constitutional and federal concerns arise from these approaches?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Delimitation, Article 81, Article 82, Article 170, population representation, federal equity, constitutional amendment, regional disparities

Model Answer

Delimitation determines the territorial distribution of seats in representative legislatures. Its central challenge is balancing the democratic principle of population-based representation with the need to maintain equitable political influence among States.

The reported 131st and 132nd Constitutional Amendment proposals represent two different approaches.

Key differences:

1. **Population-based reallocation:** The earlier approach reportedly sought to redistribute seats according to population changes, potentially altering the relative representation of States.
2. **Uniform expansion:** The newer proposal reportedly provides for a 50% increase in seats across States and Union Territories while retaining existing inter-State proportions until 2051.

3. **Legislative capacity:** Both approaches seek to accommodate changing representational requirements, although their consequences for regional representation differ.
4. **Women's representation:** The newer proposal is also linked to facilitating the implementation of 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies.

Constitutional and federal concerns:

- Population-based redistribution may reduce the relative parliamentary influence of States that have achieved population stabilisation.
- Uniform expansion raises questions about the balance between equal representation of citizens and equitable representation of States.
- Increasing legislative strength requires adequate parliamentary infrastructure and administrative capacity.
- Constitutional amendments must follow Article 368, including State ratification wherever constitutionally required.

A transparent delimitation framework, consultation with States and evidence-based assessment of representational inequalities are essential.

Ultimately, delimitation must strengthen democratic representation without undermining India's federal structure or penalising States for developmental achievements.

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