Polity & Governance · GS - II

Analyse how the constitutional freeze on inter-State Lok Sabha seat allocation reflects the tension between population-based representation and federal equity in India.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Population stabilisation, democratic representation, federalism, regional disparities, delimitation, cooperative federalism

Model Answer

The allocation of Lok Sabha seats among States involves balancing the democratic principle of population-based representation with the need to maintain equitable federal participation.

Evolution and rationale of the freeze:

The constitutional freeze on inter-State seat allocation was introduced to prevent States that successfully implemented population-control measures from losing their relative parliamentary representation. It sought to ensure that population stabilisation did not result in a political disadvantage.

Emerging constitutional debate:

1. **Demographic divergence:** States have experienced different population growth rates, creating disparities in population per parliamentary constituency.
2. **Federal equity:** A population-only approach could alter the relative political influence of States in national decision-making.

3. **Democratic equality:** Unequal population distribution across constituencies raises concerns about the principle of equal representation.
4. **Political consensus:** Any proposed extension of the freeze requires consultation among States and political parties.
5. **Women's representation:** Delimitation is also linked to the implementation framework of the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023.

The way forward lies in transparent constitutional procedures, periodic review, consultation with States and consideration of both population trends and regional equity.

Conclusion: Delimitation is not merely a technical exercise in drawing constituency boundaries; it is a constitutional question involving democratic equality, federal balance and inclusive representation. Its reform requires broad-based consensus.

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