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Daily news summary**Delimitation Lok Sabha Strength Constitutional Provisions**

UPSC Civil Services · 28 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- Debate continues over post-census delimitation and maintaining the fixed Lok Sabha strength at 543 seats to ensure federal equity.

WHAT IS THE DELIMITATION FRAMEWORK?

- Process of fixing boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country based on recent census data under [Article 82](#) and [Article 170](#).
- The 84th [Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001](#) froze the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha at 543 until the first census after 2026.

KEY CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- [Article 81](#) mandates uniform ratio between seat count and population across States as far as practicable.
- [Article 82](#) requires realignment of seats following each census by a statutory [Delimitation Commission](#).
- The 42nd Amendment Act initially froze seat allocation based on the 1971 [Census](#) to encourage population control efforts.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Unrestricted population-proportional delimitation risks penalising southern States that successfully implemented national family planning policies.
- Federal stability requires balancing democratic representation (one vote, one value) with equal state participation.

KEY TERMS

- **Delimitation Commission:** High-power body appointed by the President whose orders have the force of law and cannot be questioned before any court.

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PRELIMS FACTS

Delimitation Commission orders cannot be challenged in any court of law.
Current state-wise allocation of seats in Lok Sabha is based on the 1971 **Census**.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Examine federal equity concerns arising from post-2026 delimitation and structural solutions to balance representation.

KEY DATA

- **Seat Freeze Constitutional Amendment:** 84th Amendment Act, 2001 - Extended the freeze on total Lok Sabha seats until the first census taken after 2026.
- **Constitutional Base **Census**:** 1971 **Census** - Currently determines state-wise seat allocation in the Lok Sabha.

[Official source](#)

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