

Centre Proposes 131st Constitutional Amendment and Delimitation Bill

The Centre moved the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill and the Delimitation Bill in April, proposing changes to Lok Sabha seat allocation.

Delimitation is the process of redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies to ensure equal representation.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The Centre moved the **131st Constitutional Amendment Bill** and the **Delimitation Bill** in **April**.
- These bills collectively propose an increase in the **strength of the Lok Sabha**.
- The proposed increase would raise the maximum number of **Lok Sabha seats** from **550** to **850**.
- The government appears eager to initiate the **delimitation exercise** by amending the **Constitution**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 82 of the Indian Constitution mandates that Parliament enact a **Delimitation Act** after every **census**.

Article 170 provides for the **delimitation of assembly constituencies** in states.

The **Delimitation Commission** is typically composed of a **retired Supreme Court judge**, the **Chief Election Commissioner**, and the respective **State Election Commissioner**.

Orders of the **Delimitation Commission** are **final** and cannot be challenged in any **court of law**.

The **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976** froze the delimitation of constituencies until **2001**, which was further extended to **2026** by the **84th Amendment Act of 2001**.

The maximum strength of the **Lok Sabha** is constitutionally fixed at **550 members** (excluding the abolished Anglo-Indian nominated members).

The **104th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2019** abolished the **two nominated seats** for **Anglo-Indians** in the Lok Sabha.

Article 368 of the Constitution outlines the procedure for **amending the Constitution**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Centre proposes 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill to increase Lok Sabha seats from 550 to 850.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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