



Suggestions for Delimitation Exercise

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Why in News

Pranab Mukherjee Foundation (PMF), a **non governmental institution**, has made suggestions for the next delimitation exercise.

Delimitation literally means the **act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies** in a country to represent changes in population.

Key Points

- **Suggestions:** The next delimitation exercise should be a **two step process**:
 - A **Delimitation Commission** should be set up to **draw the boundaries as per the 2031 Census** and recommend the reorganisation of States based on population.
 - A **State Reorganisation Act** should be brought to give effect to the Delimitation Commissions' recommendations **“by splitting States into smaller ones”**.
- **Current Scenario:**
 - The **84th Amendment to the Constitution in 2002** had **put a freeze** on the delimitation of **Lok Sabha and State Assembly** constituencies till the **first Census after 2026**.
 - The current boundaries were drawn on the **basis of the 2001 Census**, the **number of Lok Sabha seats** and State Assembly seats **remained frozen on the basis of the 1971 Census**.
 - The population according to the **last census preceding the freeze** was **50 crore**, which in **50 years** has grown to **130 crore**, causing a **massive asymmetry in the political representation** in the country.

Delimitation Commission

- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the **President of India** and works in collaboration with the **Election Commission of India**.

- **Composition:**
 - Retired Supreme Court judge
 - Chief Election Commissioner
 - Respective State Election Commissioners
- **Functions:**
 - To determine the **number and boundaries of constituencies** to make the population of all constituencies nearly equal.
 - To identify seats **reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**, wherever their population is relatively large.
- Delimitation Commissions have been **set up four times** — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the **force of law** and cannot be **called in question before any court**.