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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

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Delimitation Debate: Solutions

CONTEXT: Bihar Governor claims the N-S narrative to be false

Constitutional Position

- Article 81(2)
- Article 82
- Article 170
- Article 330
- Article 332

Role of Delimitation

- Equal Representation (One Person, One Vote)
- Regional and Demographic Representation
- Reflecting Population Shifts
- Preventing Gerrymandering
- Facilitating Effective Governance

First Stage (1951–1961)

- Delimitation Commission Act, 1952
- Reservation of seats for SCs and STs, up to 2 LS seats for Anglo-Indian

Second phase (1961–1971)

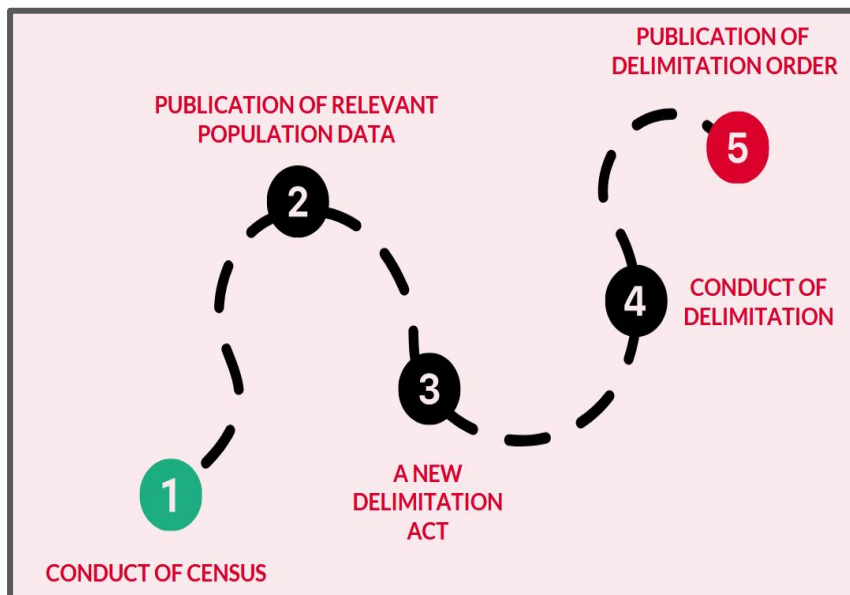
- Each assembly seat within a single parliamentary seat
- SC/ST seats in areas of high concentration

Delimitation after 1971 census and freeze

- Readjusted constituencies except J&K
- 42nd CAA; frozen at 1971 census
- Rationale

The Interregnum (1971–2001)

- No Delimitation Commission after 1975
- LS, state assembly seats remained frozen



Fourth Delimitation Commission & Further Freeze

- 84th CAA; No redistribution among states
- Moratorium extended until after 2026 Census
- Justification

Concerns of Southern States

- Population control measures penalized
- Economic Dimension
 - Contribution to GDP
 - Funding & Tax Devolution
- Equal representation
- Regional tensions, cooperative federalism

Other Concerns

- Population-centric Delimitation
- Lack of Public Participation
- Reserved Constituencies

Perspective of Northern States

- Constitutional right to proportional representation
- Infrastructure and development needs
- Economic indicators
- 84th CAA temporary measure



Delimitation Debate: Solutions

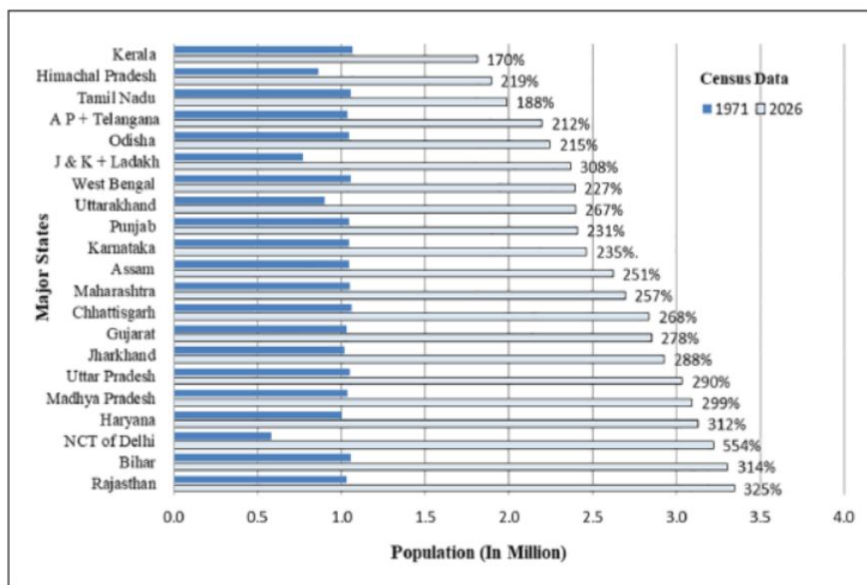
CONTEXT: Bihar Governor claims the N-S narrative to be false

Delimitation exercises in India				
Year started	1952	1962	1972	2002
Census figures	1951 Census	1961 Census	1971 Census	2001 Census
Number of Lok Sabha Seats	489	494	542	543 ⁵
What was done?	Allocation of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats + Redrawing of constituency boundaries	Allocation of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats + Redrawing of constituency boundaries	Allocation of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats + Redrawing of constituency boundaries	Redrawing of constituency boundaries

States are losing the seats with Delimitation 2026

S no	State Name	Current Seats	After Delimitation	Gain/ loss
1	West Bengal	42	39	-3
2	Karnataka	28	25	-3
3	Andhra Pradesh	25	21	-4
4	Telangana	17	15	-2
5	Kerala	20	14	-6
6	Tamil Nadu	39	30	-9

Figure 1: Change in Average Population Size Per Constituency



Delimitation Debate: Solutions

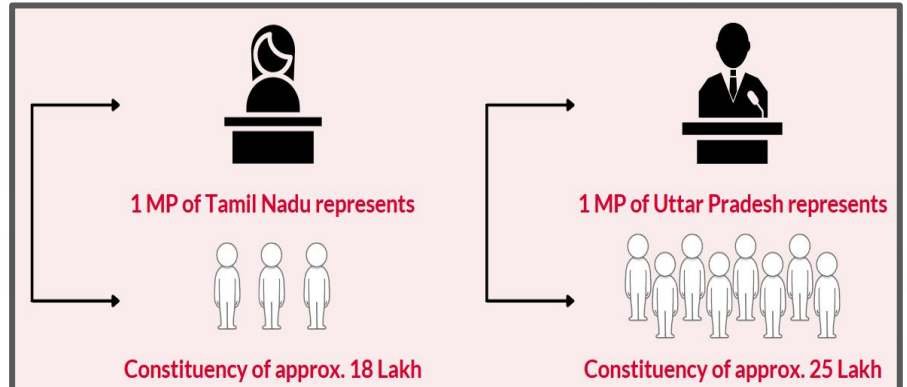
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Perspective of Northern States

- Constitutional right to proportional representation
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Comparative Analysis

- US
 - decennial census, congressional districts redrawn
 - Huntington Hill Method
- UK
 - Independent Boundary Commissions
 - geography and local community interests
 - Public Consultations
- South Africa
 - Independent Electoral Commission
 - Inclusivity and proportionality
- EU
 - Degressive Proportionality Model
 - Germany's weighted voting system in the Bundesrat



STATES ARE GAINING THE SEATS WITH DELIMITATION 2026

S no	State Name	Current Seats	After Delimitation	Gain/ loss
1	Uttar Pradesh	80	97	17
2	Bihar	40	51	11
3	Madhya Pradesh	29	37	8
4	Rajasthan	25	32	7
5	Maharashtra	48	53	5
6	Jharkhand	14	18	4
7	Gujarat	26	29	3
8	Haryana	10	12	2

Potential Solutions

- Alternative formulas for seat allocation: hybrid system
- Population coefficient models
- Degressive proportionality model
- 2-chamber system within the Lok Sabha
- Economic federalism measures

Way Forward

- Constitutional Review Commission
- Phased delimitation
- Federal Representation Index
- Periodic reassessment of representation formulas
- Technological solutions
- Charter of Federal Fairness

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Delimitation is essential for ensuring fair political representation, but it also poses significant challenges in a diverse democracy like India. Examine the constitutional provisions related to delimitation in India and discuss the challenges in its implementation..



Drug Quality: Cough Syrup Deaths

CONTEXT: Deaths due to diethylene glycol adulteration in cough syrup

Drug Quality: Cough Syrup Deaths

Poor Quality Drugs Classification

- Not of Standard Quality (NSQ)
- Spurious
 - a. Imported under another drug's name
 - b. Imitation/Substitute
 - c. Fictitious or non-existing manufacturer
- Misbranded
 - a. Coloured, coated to conceal damage or therapeutic value
 - b. Label false or misleading claims
- Adulterated
 - a. filthy, putrid or decomposed substance
 - b. insanitary conditions
 - c. poisonous or deleterious substance
 - d. Mixed with any substance to reduce its quality or strength

Status of Pharma Industry

- 3rd in pharma production by volume, 50% of global vaccines
- 20% of global generic medicines
- \$50bn, 1.72% GDP

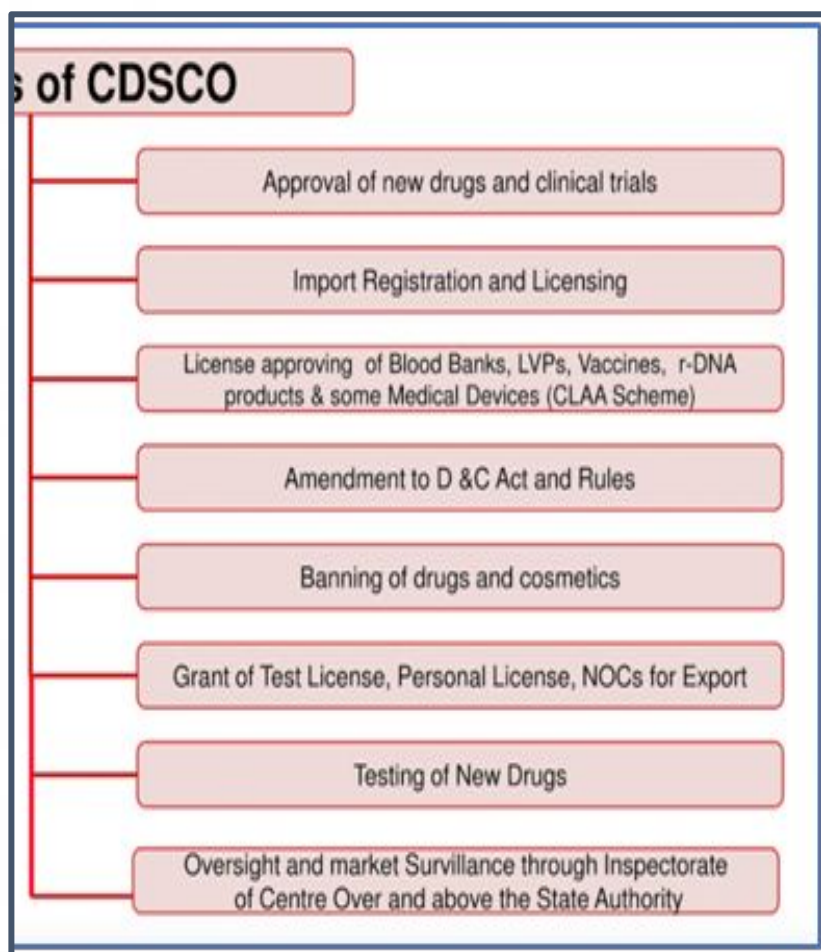
Issues in Pharma Sector

- Spurious Drugs
- No law to recall bad drugs
- Fixed Dose Combination Drugs
- Financial Disbursement
- e-pharmacies
- Import dependency for APIs
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Generic Medicines
- GMP & QC regulation costly

Suggestions

- Spurious Drugs - 54th PSC on Chemicals & Fertilizers
- Malshekar committee on drug regulation
- Law to recall bad drugs - US
- Fixed Dose Combination Drugs - Kokate Committee
- Domestic API Manufacturing
- Regulatory & Quality Compliance
- Regulation of e-pharmacies

Functions of CDSCO



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Substandard and counterfeit drugs poses a serious threat to public health. Discuss the major issues affecting drug quality in India. Give suggestions to address these challenges.



SYLLABUS : GS Paper 3: Environment
Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 11

Background

- IIT Kanpur study, 2015 - 17 to 26% PM in Delhi winter due to biomass burning
- SAFAR - 40% contribution to air pollution at peak
- Inversion traps air pollution such as smog near the ground

Reasons

- Facilitate seed bed preparation and seeding
- Quick & cheap
- Happy seeder is expensive - input costs in agri

Impacts

- Environmental Pollution - PM10, P2.5, November North, smog, CO, CH4, VOC
- Soil Health - Nutrients & Organic Carbon Content, microbes, lower Nitrogen & Carbon
- Human - skin irritation, neurological, respiratory, life expectancy
- Fertilizer & Electricity subsidies - yield & productivity of same crops

Steps Taken

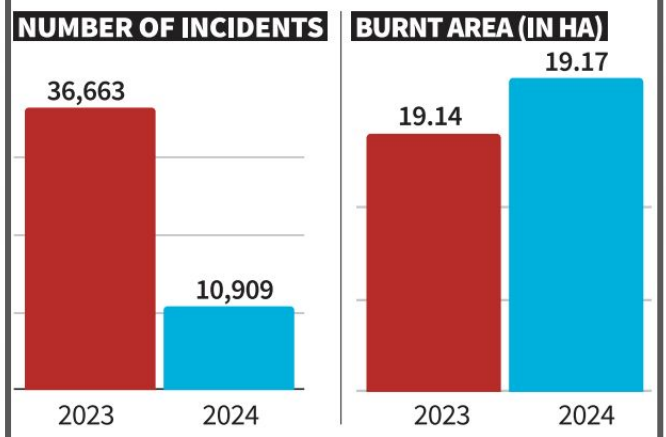
- Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue
- Funds release - 3k in 5 years to NCR states
- Pusa decomposer by IARI
- Punjab Govt
 - proposal - 2.5k cash incentive per acre
 - awareness camps
 - DCs meeting farm union leaders
 - Ex-situ management - biomass handling units engaged, brick kilns mandated to use stubble as fuel

Way Forward

- Alternative Farming Practices - zero tillage, crop diversification, direct seeding
- Harvesting machinery
- Awareness campaigns
- As animal feed
- Recycle
- Manure
- Power generation
- Raw material for bio ethanol
- Palletisation
- Chhattisgarh gauthans
- Improved seed varieties

Farm fire paradox

In 2024, fewer farm fires were recorded in Punjab, yet the burnt area rose slightly, raising doubts over the accuracy of fire incident data



To avoid detection, sources said, farmers may have burnt stubble after satellites passed over the region. While farm fires are recorded daily, the burnt area is measured by satellites on a weekly basis.



SYLLABUS : GS Paper 1: Important Geophysical Phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 07**

Formation of cyclones

- Warm, moist air
- Low Pressure Area
- Cloud Formation
- Complete system of clouds and wind spins & grows
- Formation of the Eye
- Centre is calm & clear with low pressure

Changing Trends and Regional Patterns

- Arabian Sea Shift
- Scientific Findings: A 2021 Climate Dynamics study
- BoB Comparison
- IMD Observations
- Seasonal Context

Cyclone Shakthi Challenges

- CC Intensification
- Coastal Erosion and Landform Damage: Strong winds and storm surges
- Agricultural Losses: Salinity intrusion, flooding damage
- Infrastructure Vulnerability: Roads, power lines
- Socio-economic Impact: Displacement, loss of income



Classification of Cyclones in India

IMD Category	Wind Speed (km/h)	Example
Cyclonic Storm	62-88	Cyclone Nilam (2012)
Severe Cyclonic Storm	89-117	Cyclone Ockhi (2017)
Very Severe Cyclonic Storm	118-165	Cyclone Hudhud (2014)
Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm	166-220	Cyclone Tauktae (2021)
Super Cyclone	>221	Odisha Super Cyclone (1999)



Gaza Peace Plan



SYLLABUS : GS Paper 2: Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests

Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 10**

Gaza Peace Plan

- Hamas Disarmament and Safe Passage
 - Hamas to surrender and disarm
 - Members committing to peaceful coexistence will be granted amnesty
 - Unwilling can leave Gaza
- International Stabilization Force (ISF)
 - A temporary ISF, backed by the US, Arab
 - Training vetted Palestinian police, stopping arms inflow, facilitating aid
 - Israel pledged not to annex Gaza
- Governance and Transitional Authority
 - technocratic, apolitical Palestinian committee, oversight from an international Board of Peace
 - neutral governance and oversee reconstruction
- Humanitarian Aid and Reconstruction
 - Rehabilitation of water, electricity, healthcare systems
 - Overseen by the UN, Red Crescent, and international agencies
- Hostage-Prisoner Exchange
 - Within 72 hours of Israel's acceptance, all hostages must be returned
 - Israel will release 250 prisoners serving life terms and 1,700 Gazans detained
- Regional and Global Guarantees
 - compliance through guarantees from regional partners
 - China and Russia also expressed support

India's Stand on Trump's Gaza Peace Plan

- "viable pathway" to long-term peace, security, development for Palestinians, Israelis, West Asia
- West Asia as part of extended neighbourhood
- PM Modi's endorsement, despite ongoing India-US frictions

What the Gaza Peace Plan Means for India

- Indian Diaspora
 - 90 lakh Indians in ME, 18k in Israel
- Energy Security and Trade
 - 80% of crude oil from ME
 - stabilise energy prices
- Greater Arab investment in India
- IMEC
- Strategic Concerns: Pakistan's Role
 - Visible involvement of Pakistan in the peace process
 - Revived US-Pakistan engagement



Response to Crowding Disasters



SYLLABUS : GS Paper 3: Disaster and Disaster Management
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number : 14**

What happened in Karur?

- Political rally for actor Vijay's TVK party
- Crowd assembled hours early
- Actor's convoy, evening wage disbursals
- People began fainting

Steps taken by India to manage crowds

- BPR&D published Comprehensive Crowd Control Guidelines (2025)
- NDMA guide for managing mass gatherings
- Guidelines
 - a. risk assessment
 - b. site planning
 - c. ingress/egress routes
 - d. real-time monitoring
- NIDM runs capacity-building training programmes
- Railways updated manuals for high-footfall stations
 - a. holding areas, better dispersal zones, and crowd monitoring

Steps taken by states

- **Karnataka:** Crowd Control Bill (2025) fixing responsibility on organisers
 - a. **Local Police:** Circulate SOPs, require crowd management plans, route diversions
- **Uttar Pradesh:** formal Guidelines for Managing Crowd at Events (2023)
- **Gujarat:** IDM training materials on site capacity, exits, and safety
- **Uttarakhand:** safety updates at major temples after a stampede
- **Maharashtra:** Bill to empower authorities for large gatherings like the Kumbh Mela

What is scientific crowd control?

- Focus on controlling crowd density and avoiding hazardous flow patterns
- Drone cameras and technology for real-time density monitoring
- Avoid channeling crowds into bottlenecks, slopes, or counter-flows
- Main cause of death is compressive asphyxia, not trampling
- **Individual safety tips:**
 - Forearms across the chest to protect breathing space
 - Staggered footing for balance
 - Move diagonally towards less dense edges
 - If fallen, roll to the side and protect the head and neck
 - Avoid rigid barriers, stopping, or retrieving dropped items
- **Organizer best practices:**
 - Real-time monitoring by trained managers
 - One-directional traffic flow
 - Multiple exits and unambiguous signage
 - Public address messaging and on-site medical facilities



Spectre of Empty Classrooms looming?



SYLLABUS : GS Paper 2: Education
Newspaper The Hindu Page Number : 14

Context

- TN seeking a review of a SC judgment on TET
- 4.5 lac teachers in govt + aided
- 3.9 lac not TET-qualified
- mass disqualification
 - a. collapse of the entire school system
 - b. denies classroom instruction to millions of children
 - c. conflicts with Article 21A
- Balance between education quality & RTE

Mandate of SC Judgment

- In-service teachers (Classes 1-8) in non-minority schools to clear TET
- 2-year deadline
- Teachers failing the TET must be "compulsorily retired"
- Exempts teachers <5 years until retirement but must for promotion
- Future appointments and promotions
- Question of minority institutions under RTE to a larger Bench
- Criticized a 2014 judgment that exempted minority institutions from the RTE Act – jeopardizes universal elementary education

Arguments for Review

- "manifestly disproportionate" penalty for pre-RTE Act appointees
- "less intrusive alternatives" like in-service training and refresher courses
- Section 23(1) of the RTE Act applies only to future teacher recruitment
- No retrospective disqualification of validly appointed teachers
- Spectre of "empty classrooms"
- Teachers will be distracted
- Proviso to Section 23 gave a 5-year period for existing teachers to acquire qualifications – which has passed



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Delimitation exercises in India:

1. The first three delimitation exercises involved both the allocation of seats and the redrawing of constituency boundaries.
2. The number of Lok Sabha seats increased in every delimitation exercise from 1952 to 2002.
3. The 2002 delimitation exercise was based on the 1991 Census.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q2. Which of the following activities fall under the purview of CDSCO?

1. Granting import licenses for vaccines
2. Conducting surveillance through a central inspectorate over and above state authorities
3. Setting retail prices of drugs
4. Approving clinical trials for new drugs

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Answer: a

Q3. Consider the following stages in the formation of a cyclone:

1. Development of a low-pressure area
2. Cloud formation due to rising warm, moist air
3. Formation of the eye of the cyclone
4. Complete system of clouds and winds spins and intensifies

Which is the correct sequence of stages in the cyclone formation?

- a) 1 → 2 → 4 → 3
- b) 2 → 1 → 3 → 4
- c) 1 → 4 → 2 → 3
- d) 2 → 3 → 1 → 4

Answer: a

Q4. Consider the following components of the proposed Gaza Peace Plan:

1. Hamas members willing to commit to peaceful coexistence will be granted amnesty.
2. An International Stabilisation Force (ISF), backed by the US and Arab nations, will facilitate aid and halt weapons inflow.
3. Israel retains the right to annex Gaza following the plan's implementation.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following key aspects of Scientific Crowd Control:

1. Deployment of drone cameras and other technologies for real-time monitoring of crowd density.
2. Encouraging counter-flow movement to enhance circulation in confined spaces.
3. Designing crowd pathways to prevent bottlenecks and ensure smooth, unidirectional flow.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Answer: b





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