



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

# Delimitation

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With the general election over this year the topic of delimitation has gained momentum.

## About:

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

The Delimitation Commission is to work without any executive influence.

The Constitution mandates that the Commission's orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court as it would hold up an election indefinitely.

When the orders of the Delimitation Commission are laid before the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, they cannot effect any modification in the orders.

## Why delimitation?

To provide equal representation to equal segments of a population.

Fair division of geographical areas so that one political party doesn't have an advantage over others in an election.

To follow the principle of "One Vote One Value".

## Composition of the delimitation commission:

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

Retired Supreme Court judge

Chief Election Commissioner

Respective State Election Commissioners

## What is the Process of Delimitation?

Under **Article 82**, the **Parliament** enacts a Delimitation Act **after every Census**.

Under **Article 170**, **States** also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act **after every Census**.

Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.

The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.

## Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthy Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

**The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.**

Delimitation Commissions **have been set up *four times* — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002** under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.

There was **no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.**

**Seats have been frozen since 1971 to encourage population control, with the freeze extended until 2026 through the 84th Amendment Act.**

#### **Issues with Delimitation:**

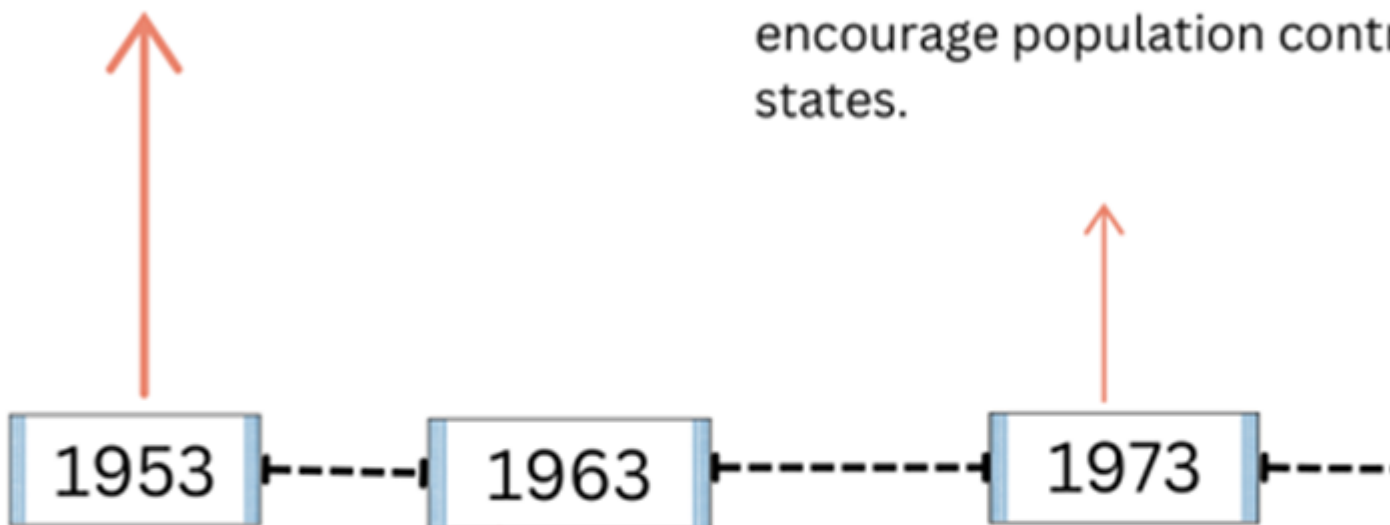
States that take little interest in population control could end up with a greater number of seats in Parliament. The southern states that promoted family planning faced the possibility of having their seats reduced.

***“In 2002-08, Delimitation was done based on the 2001 census, but the total number of seats in the Assemblies and Parliament decided as per the 1971 Census was not changed”.***

The 87th Amendment Act of 2003 provided for the delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 2001 census and not 1991 census. However, this can be done without altering the number of seats allotted to each state in the Lok Sabha.

The Constitution has also capped the number of Lok Shaba & Rajya Sabha seats to a maximum of 550 & 250 respectively and increasing populations are being represented by a single representative.

1. **First delimitation commission** based on census 1951 data headed by **Justice N Chandrasekhara Aiyar**.
2. Fixed the Lok Sabha Seats at **494**.



1. **Second Delimitation commission** based on 1961 census.
2. Increased the Lok Sabha seats from **494 to 522**

1. **Third Delimitation** commission based on census headed by **Justice J**
2. Increased the seats of the L **to 543** and assembly seats f
3. **42nd amendment Act 1976** delimitation of constituencies of Lok Sabha and State Legisla until the 2001 Census of India encourage population contr states.

1. There were **no delimita** after 1981 and 1991 ce
2. **Fourth Delimitation co** based on the 2001 cen by Justice Kuldeep Sing
3. There was **only readjus boundaries and no incre** Lok Sabha and state leg assemblies.
4. **84th amendment 200** increase in seats till 20