OCTOBER 2026

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Topic 1: Delimitation Process & Constitutional Dynamics in India

Constitutional Mandate:

Article 82 requires Parliament to enact a **Delimitation Act** after every Census to readjust the allocation of Lok Sabha seats to the States and redraw territorial constituency boundaries .

Article 170 provides for a similar readjustment of seats for State Legislative Assemblies .

History of Delimitation & Seat Freeze:

Delimitation Commissions have been set up **four times**: in **1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002** .

The **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976** froze seat allocation among States based on the 1971 Census until 2000 .

The **84th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001** extended this freeze until the first Census published after 2026 .

The 2027 Census Default Rule & Constitutional Amendments:

As the Constitution currently stands, reallocation of seats among States must occur automatically based on the **2027 Census** .

Maintaining current State seat shares in an enlarged House (e.g., up to 850 seats) or freezing the House at 543 seats requires a **constitutional amendment** . Without an amendment, strict population figures determine seat allocation .

North-South Representation Divide:

Pure population-based reallocation disadvantages Peninsular/Southern States that successfully implemented national population control policies (e.g., Tamil Nadu's share of Lok Sabha seats would fall from 7.1% to 6.3%) .

Impact on Federal Balance:

A significantly enlarged Lok Sabha weakens the relative voting power and leverage of the **Rajya Sabha** during joint sittings .

Way Forward: Suggestions include utilizing the **Inter-State Council** to build consensus balancing population with development indicators, publishing draft formulas prior to introduction, and expanding Rajya Sabha seats proportionally .

Women's Reservation Alignment:

A **one-third reservation for women** in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies is enacted . Expanding total Lok Sabha seats allows the quota to be implemented without displacing existing male members .

Topic 2: Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) & Informal Work Measurement

Survey Architecture:

Conducted by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, the PLFS is the official household survey measuring India's employment and unemployment rates .

It determines employment status based on activities performed in the **preceding 7 days** (Current Weekly Status) .

Proposed Revisions (Platform & Unpaid Work):

Digital Platform / Gig Work: Incorporates questions regarding whether household members worked with digital platforms over the last **365 days**, the goods/services provided, motives, and key challenges .

Unpaid Domestic & Caregiving Work: Introduces questions to identify whether work performed (cooking, cleaning, childcare, eldercare, fetching water) is for own household consumption or for sale, and whether individuals actively sought paid work .

Data Context & Scale:

The **2024 Time Use Survey** revealed that females above six years spend over **4.5 hours a day** on unpaid domestic and caregiving work, compared to **37 minutes** for males .

A NITI Aayog report estimates that gig and platform workers in India will expand to **2.35 crore by 2029–30** .

Policy Alignment:

Recommendations urge MoSPI to align platform worker definitions with **e-Shram** (the national database of unorganised workers maintained by the Ministry of Labour and Employment) to ensure efficient social security benefit delivery .

Topic 3: Candidate Nomination Affidavits & Legal Remedies under RPA, 1951

Candidate Disclosure (Form 26):

Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 mandates that candidates file a sworn personal affidavit in **Form 26** declaring assets, liabilities, educational qualifications, and criminal antecedents .

Traces to the landmark Supreme Court ruling in **Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms (2002)**, which recognized the voter's right to know candidate backgrounds .

False Affidavit Offence (Section 125-A):

Filing false details or concealing information in Form 26 is punishable under **Section 125-A of RPA, 1951** with up to **six months' imprisonment**, a fine, or both .

The offence is **non-cognisable** (requires a magistrate's order for police investigation) and **bailable** .

Supreme Court Ruling on Locus Standi:

The Supreme Court held that **Section 195 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC)**—which limits court cognisance of certain offences strictly to complaints by public servants—**does NOT apply to Section 125-A of RPA, 1951** .

This gives any **private citizen-voter locus standi** to directly file a criminal complaint against candidates filing false affidavits .

Recommended Reforms:

The **Law Commission's 244th Report (2014)** recommended raising the penalty under Section 125-A to at least **two years' imprisonment** to act as an effective deterrent .

Topic 4: Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls & Voter Rights

Constitutional Framework (Article 326):

Establishes adult suffrage based on three constitutional criteria: **Indian citizenship**, reaching the **minimum age of 18 years**, and **ordinary residence** in a constituency .

Nature of SIR:

Involves comprehensive house-to-house verification of every roll entry by Booth Level Officers (BLOs), replacing routine annual revisions .

Disenfranchisement vs. Unregistered Adults:

Across nine major States (59.9 crore adults vs. 52.8 crore final roll names), a gap of 7.1 crore exists . However, **5.2 crore are young adults who had never registered**, rather than valid voters who were deleted . Genuine wrongful deletions are estimated at approximately **1 crore** .

Global Comparison:

In democracies with voluntary voter registration, electoral rolls naturally fall short of total adult population (e.g., Canada misses 4–7%, the UK misses 11–14%, and the US misses ~25%) .

Key Procedural Reforms:

Burden of Proof: Where citizenship is questioned, the state should prove its case before a tribunal rather than requiring a registered voter to re-prove citizenship .

Valid Documentation: Joint recognition by the EC and MEA that a **police-verified Indian passport** serves as conclusive proof of citizenship .

Standing Tribunals: Appeals should be handled by year-round standing tribunals prior to elections .

Topic 5: Election Disputes, Corrupt Practices & Statutory Bodies

Corrupt Practices (Section 123, RPA 1951):

Covers offences like bribery, undue influence, and promotion of enmity. Disproportionate growth of assets of legislators or their associates beyond known income sources is analyzed under 'undue influence' and corrupt practices .

Election Disputes:

Election petitions challenging the election of a returned candidate to Parliament or State Legislatures are tried by the **High Court** of the respective State .

Simultaneous Elections ("One Nation One Election"):

Examined by parliamentary and law committees to reduce campaign expenditure and administrative disruptions, though it requires constitutional amendments affecting legislative terms and federal accountability .

Statutory Human Rights Bodies:

Statutory bodies like the **National/State Human Rights Commissions (NHRC/SHRC)** face structural limitations as their powers are largely recommendatory, relying heavily on executive compliance .

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15 UPSC-Style Practice MCQs

Q1. With reference to Delimitation Commissions in India, consider the following statements:

Article 82 of the Constitution mandates the enactment of a Delimitation Act after every Census.

Till date, the Government of India has constituted Delimitation Commissions four times.

The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act froze seat allocation among States based on the 1971 Census.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding seat reallocation in the Lok Sabha:

The 84th Constitutional Amendment Act extended the freeze on Lok Sabha seat reallocation until the first Census taken after 2026.

Under existing constitutional provisions, seat reallocation among States will default to the 2027 Census unless amended.

Maintaining the existing proportion of State seat shares in an enlarged Lok Sabha can be done through an executive notification without a constitutional amendment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q3. With reference to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), consider the following statements:

It is conducted annually by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The PLFS determines a person's employment status based on economic activities carried out in the preceding 30 days only.

Proposed revisions in the PLFS aim to collect data on digital platform work and unpaid domestic household work.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding gig workers and unpaid work in India:

According to NITI Aayog estimates, gig and platform workers in India are projected to reach 2.35 crore by 2029–30.

The 2024 Time Use Survey revealed that females above six years spend over four and a half hours a day on unpaid domestic and caregiving work.

e-Shram is a national database portal managed directly by MoSPI to record platform worker hours.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q5. With reference to Section 125-A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, consider the following statements:

It penalizes candidates for filing false details or concealing information in nomination affidavits.

The offence under Section 125-A is classified as cognisable and non-bailable.

The maximum punishment prescribed under Section 125-A is six months' imprisonment, a fine, or both.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding candidate affidavits in Indian elections:

Candidates file personal background disclosures in Form 26 pursuant to Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Mandatory candidate disclosure originated from the Supreme Court judgment in Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms (2002).

Returning Officers are legally mandated to verify the factual truthfulness of candidate asset claims during initial nomination scrutiny.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q7. In a recent judgment regarding candidate nomination affidavits under the RPA, 1951, the Supreme Court held that:

(a) Only the Election Commission of India has the legal authority to lodge criminal complaints against false affidavits.

(b) Section 195 of the CrPC bars private citizens from filing complaints under Section 125-A of RPA, 1951.

(c) Private citizen-voters have locus standi to file complaints against candidates for filing false affidavits under Section 125-A of RPA, 1951.

(d) Filing a false affidavit leads to automatic permanent disqualification without a judicial trial.

Q8. The Law Commission of India in its 244th Report (2014) recommended which of the following regarding false nomination affidavits?

(a) Raising the maximum imprisonment under Section 125-A of RPA, 1951 to at least two years.
(b) Transferring affidavit verification entirely to statutory auditing bodies.
(c) Making false affidavit filing a non-bailable offence tried exclusively by special executive magistrates.
(d) Replacing Form 26 affidavits with self-certified digital tokens.

Q9. According to Article 326 of the Constitution of India, which of the following are the explicit criteria for voter registration?

Indian citizenship

Minimum age of eighteen years

Ordinary residence in the constituency

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in India:

SIR involves house-to-house verification of every roll entry by Booth Level Officers.

Analysis indicates that the major portion of the gap between total adult population and final rolls consists of young adults who never registered.

Voluntary voter registration systems in Western democracies like Canada and the United Kingdom maintain complete 100% coverage of all eligible adults.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q11. With reference to election disputes under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, consider the following statements:

Disputes regarding elections to the Lok Sabha or State Assemblies are tried by the High Court of the respective State.

Disproportionate increase in the assets of legislators or their associates can be scrutinized under the provision of 'undue influence' and corrupt practices.

The constitutional procedure for disqualification of MPs on grounds of corrupt practices is codified in Article 324.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q12. Consider the following statements regarding simultaneous elections ("One Nation One Election") in India:

Holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies would require constitutional amendments.

Proponents argue that simultaneous elections reduce campaign expenditure and minimize administrative strain.

The Election Commission of India submitted comprehensive proposals for electoral reforms in 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q13. Which of the following impacts are expected if Lok Sabha seats are reallocated strictly according to population based on the upcoming Census?

Peninsular/Southern States with lower population growth rates will experience a decrease in their relative seat share.

The relative voting weight of the Rajya Sabha during a joint sitting of Parliament will be reduced if the Lok Sabha expands significantly.

It eliminates the requirement for any constitutional amendment under Article 82.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q14. With reference to Non-Constitutional / Statutory Bodies in India, consider the following statements regarding Human Rights Commissions (NHRC/SHRC):

They are statutory bodies established under an Act of Parliament.

A major structural limitation cited in analytical studies is their recommendatory character, limiting assertion against executive authorities.

The Chairperson of a State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) is appointed directly by the Chief Justice of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q15. In the context of electoral roll revisions and citizenship verification, which of the following procedural reforms have been proposed?

Shifting the legal burden of proof onto the state before a tribunal rather than placing it on registered citizens.

Accepting an Indian passport issued after police verification as valid proof of citizenship.

Establishing standing, year-round tribunals to resolve electoral roll appeals prior to polling day.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

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Answer Key & Detailed Explanations

Question	Correct Option
Q1	(d) 1, 2 and 3
Q2	(a) 1 and 2 only
Q3	(b) 1 and 3 only
Q4	(a) 1 and 2 only
Q5	(b) 1 and 3 only
Q6	(a) 1 and 2 only
Q7	(c)
Q8	(a)
Q9	(d) 1, 2 and 3
Q10	(a) 1 and 2 only
Q11	(a) 1 and 2 only

Q12	(d) 1, 2 and 3
Q13	(a) 1 and 2 only
Q14	(a) 1 and 2 only
Q15	(d) 1, 2 and 3

Detailed Explanations

Q1 Answer: (d)

Statement 1 is correct: Article 82 of the Constitution mandates that Parliament enact a Delimitation Act after every Census .

Statement 2 is correct: Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times till date: 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002 .

Statement 3 is correct: The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 froze the seat allocation among States based on the 1971 Census until 2000 .

Q2 Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The 84th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001 extended the seat freeze until the first Census after 2026 .

Statement 2 is correct: Under existing constitutional rules, seat reallocation defaults to the 2027 Census .

Statement 3 is incorrect: Maintaining current State shares in an enlarged House requires a constitutional amendment, not just an executive notification .

Q3 Answer: (b)

Statement 1 is correct: The PLFS is conducted by MoSPI as the primary official source of employment statistics .

Statement 2 is incorrect: The PLFS determines employment based on activities in the preceding **7 days** (Current Weekly Status), not 30 days .

Statement 3 is correct: MoSPI has planned changes to incorporate platform work and unpaid household work into the PLFS .

Q4 Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: A NITI Aayog report estimated that gig and platform workers will rise to 2.35 crore by 2029–30 .

Statement 2 is correct: The 2024 Time Use Survey found females above 6 years spend over 4.5 hours/day on unpaid domestic/care work versus 37 minutes for males .

Statement 3 is incorrect: e-Shram is maintained by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, not MoSPI .

Q5 Answer: (b)

Statement 1 is correct: Section 125-A of RPA, 1951 penalizes filing false affidavits or concealing facts .

Statement 2 is incorrect: The offence under Section 125-A is explicitly **non-cognisable** and **bailable** .

Statement 3 is correct: The maximum punishment under Section 125-A is up to six months' jail, a fine, or both .

Q6 Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Candidate affidavits are filed in Form 26 under Section 33A of RPA, 1951 .

Statement 2 is correct: Traces to Union of India v. ADR (2002) recognizing voters' right to candidate disclosure .

Statement 3 is incorrect: Returning Officers check whether an affidavit is complete, but do not verify whether its contents are true during scrutiny .

Q7 Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Supreme Court held that Section 195 CrPC (which restricts complaints to public servants) does not apply to Section 125-A of RPA, 1951. This grants any private citizen-voter locus standi to prosecute candidates filing false nomination affidavits .

Q8 Answer: (a)

Explanation: The Law Commission in its 244th Report (2014) recommended increasing the maximum jail term under Section 125-A to at least two years .

Q9 Answer: (d)

Explanation: Article 326 of the Constitution specifies three criteria for voter registration: Indian citizenship, attaining 18 years of age, and ordinary residence .

Q10 Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: SIR involves house-to-house checks by Booth Level Officers .

Statement 2 is correct: Across nine States, 5.2 crore out of the 7.1 crore roll shortfall consisted of young adults who had never registered .

Statement 3 is incorrect: In countries with voluntary registration, rolls always fall short of total adults (Canada misses 4–7%, UK 11–14%, US ~25%) .

Q11 Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Under RPA 1951, election disputes regarding parliamentary or assembly elections are tried by High Courts .

Statement 2 is correct: Disproportionate asset growth can be examined as 'undue influence' and corrupt practices under RPA 1951 .

Statement 3 is incorrect: Disqualification provisions for corrupt practices are governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (e.g., Section 8 / Section 123), not codified under Article 324 .

Q12 Answer: (d)

Statement 1 is correct: Conducting simultaneous elections requires constitutional amendments to adjust legislative terms .

Statement 2 is correct: Simultaneous elections reduce electioneering expenses and administrative burden .

Statement 3 is correct: The ECI proposed comprehensive electoral reforms in 2016 .

Q13 Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Southern States with lower population growth would lose relative seat share (e.g., TN from 7.1% to 6.3%) .

Statement 2 is correct: A greatly expanded Lok Sabha reduces the Rajya Sabha's relative leverage in joint sittings .

Statement 3 is incorrect: Reallocating seats on the new Census requires an amendment or default rule application, but maintaining

shares or changing total seats strictly requires constitutional amendments .

Q14 Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: NHRC and SHRC are statutory bodies created under the Protection of Human Rights Act .

Statement 2 is correct: A major limitation of human rights commissions is their recommendatory role, making enforcement against powerful state entities challenging .

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Chairperson of an SHRC is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a state-level committee, not by the CJI.

Q15 Answer: (d)

Statement 1 is correct: Recommends that the state prove non-citizenship before a tribunal rather than forcing registered voters to re-prove citizenship .

Statement 2 is correct: Proposes recognizing police-verified passports as proof of citizenship .

Statement 3 is correct: Recommends year-round standing tribunals for resolving electoral roll appeals prior to elections .