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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## DELIMITATION COMMISSION

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Delimitation Commission". The topic "Delimitation Commission" has relevance in the "Polity and Governance" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

### For Prelims:

What is Delimitation? Delimitation Act? Composition of Delimitation Commission? Function?

### For Mains:

GS2: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

### Why in the news?

In the recent months, delimitation was carried out in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir as well as the State of Assam.

### Delimitation

- **Delimitation, in its literal sense, entails establishing the limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies within a country or province that possesses a legislative body.**
- Delimitation involves the redrawing of boundaries for Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats, **aiming to accurately reflect population changes.**
- The primary goal of delimitation is to **ensure fair and equal representation** for different segments of the population.
- The task of delimitation is designated to a body with significant authority, commonly referred to as either the Delimitation Commission or the Boundary Commission.

### Delimitation Commission

- Following each census, a Delimitation Act is legislated by the Parliament in accordance with Article 82 of the Constitution.
- After the commencement of the Act, the **Central Government constitutes a Delimitation Commission.**
- The Delimitation Commission is responsible for delineating the boundaries of Parliamentary Constituencies in accordance with the provisions of the Delimitation Act.
- Its primary objective is to ensure that the population of each constituency, to the extent feasible, is approximately equal.
- **Additionally, the Commission is entrusted with the task of designating constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.**
- To promote **transparency and public participation**, the Delimitation Commission releases draft proposals for public scrutiny and feedback.
- It also conducts public hearings where individuals can express their objections and suggestions. Based on the input received, the Commission reviews the draft proposal and incorporates any necessary changes.

- Upon finalization, the **Commission publishes the final order in the Gazette of India as well as the relevant State Gazette**. The implementation of the order is determined by a date specified by the President.

### Composition

- **The President of India appoints** the Delimitation Commission.
- It works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- It is composed of the following:
  - **A retired Supreme Court judge**, who shall be the Chairperson of the Commission
  - **Chief Election Commissioner of India**
  - the **State Election Commissioner** of concerned State,

### Associate Members

- The Commission can associate with individuals to assist in its duties.
- Ten persons from each state are associated with the Commission.
- Five of them are members of the House of the People representing that state.
- Five are members of the Legislative Assembly of that state.
- If a state has five or fewer members in the House of the People, all of them become associate members for that state.
- The nomination of associated members is done by the respective Speakers.
- Associate members do not have the right to vote or sign decisions of the Commission.
- **The Secretary to the Election Commission serves as the *ex officio* Secretary of the Commission.**

### Powers of Delimitation Commission

- The Commission has the **authority to establish its own procedure**.
- It possesses **powers similar to a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**, for certain matters, including summoning witnesses, requesting document production, and obtaining public records.
- The Commission is considered a **civil court for specific purposes under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973**.
- **Decisions of the majority** prevail in case of differing opinions among the members.
- **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.**

### Previous delimitation exercises

- **Delimitation Commissions have been constituted in India on four occasions:**
  - In **1952** under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952.
  - In **1963** under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1962.
  - In **1973** under the Delimitation Act, 1972.
  - In **2002** under the Delimitation Act, 2002.
- The current delimitation of constituencies in India is based on the 2001 census figures, as per the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002.
- **The Constitution of India was amended in 2002 to suspend delimitation of constituencies until after the first census following 2026.** Therefore, the present constituencies established using the 2001 census data will remain in operation until the first census after 2026.
- However, the 2002 Act did not alter the total number of Lok Sabha seats or their distribution among states. Certain states, such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Manipur, were excluded from the delimitation exercise due to “security risks.”
- On 6 March 2020, **the central government reconstituted the Delimitation Commission for Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.**

**Sources :**

The fallout of delimitation in the States needs no political forecasting

**Q1. With reference to the Delimitation Commission recently seen in news, consider the following statements:**

1. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the Election Commission of India.
2. The Delimitation Commission has powers of a civil court for matters such as summoning witnesses.
3. The orders of the Delimitation Commission can only be appealed in the apex court i.e. Supreme Court of India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None

**Answer: (c)**

**Q2. Consider the following bodies/ institutions:**

1. Election Commission of India
2. Delimitation Commission
3. National Human Rights Commission
4. State Election Commission
5. National Commission for Women

**How many of the bodies given above can be called Constitutional Bodies?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All of them

**Answer: (b)**

**Q3. What is the role and significance of the Delimitation Commission in the context of the Indian political system, and how does it impact the electoral process and representation in the country?**

**Gaurav Nikumbh**

## **WASH (WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE)**

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "WASH". The topic "WASH" has relevance in the Public Health section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

**For Prelims:**

What is WASH?

**For Mains:**

GS 2 : Public Health

Unsafe WASH Practices?

Impacts of Unsafe WASH Practices?

Importance of Safe WASH?

WHO WASH Strategy?

Link to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

### Why in the news:

According to a new report by the World Health Organization (WHO) titled "Burden of Disease Attributable to Unsafe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2019 Update," unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices have led to severe consequences, resulting in a significant loss of lives and widespread disease burden.

### What is WASH:

#### Definition:

- WASH is an acronym that represents the interrelated areas of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.
- It encompasses initiatives and practices aimed at improving access to clean water, proper sanitation facilities, and promoting good hygiene behaviors.

#### Components of WASH:

- **Water:** Focuses on ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water for all individuals and communities.
- **Sanitation:** Involves providing proper sanitation facilities and systems for the safe disposal of human waste.
- **Hygiene:** Promotes good hygiene practices such as handwashing, proper food handling, and awareness about basic hygiene.

#### Goals and Objectives:

- Improve health outcomes by reducing waterborne diseases and improving sanitation practices.
- Enhance access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities, especially in marginalized and underserved communities.
- Promote hygiene behaviors to prevent the spread of diseases and improve overall well-being.

### Unsafe WASH Practices:

- **Drinking Contaminated Water:** Using polluted rivers or stagnant ponds as drinking water sources.
- **Inadequate Sanitation:** Absence or poor maintenance of toilets, latrines, or sewage systems leading to improper waste disposal.
- **Poor Hygiene Practices:** Insufficient handwashing with soap, improper food handling, and lack of hygiene awareness.
- **Open Defecation:** Defecating in the open without proper toilet or latrine facilities, causing environmental and water contamination.
- **Improper Waste Disposal:** Inadequate disposal of solid waste and mishandling of hazardous waste, leading to pollution and disease transmission.

### Impacts of Unsafe WASH Practices:

#### Mortality Toll:

- Unsafe WASH practices caused 395,000 deaths among children under five in 2019.
- Diarrhoea accounted for 273,000 deaths, while acute respiratory infections caused 112,000 deaths.
- Inadequate access to WASH services resulted in at least 1.4 million deaths globally.

#### Widespread Disease Impact:

- Diarrhoeal diseases caused over a million deaths and 55 million Disability-adjusted life years (DALY).
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) affect an estimated 1.5 billion people worldwide due to poor sanitation practices.
- Inadequate WASH contributes to 10% of the disease burden associated with malnutrition.

### Global Disparities in WASH Access:

- 771 million people lack access to safe water globally.

- Approximately 1.7 billion people do not have access to proper sanitation facilities.
- Consequences for Low and High-Income Countries:
- Poor hand hygiene practices led to around 384,000 diarrhoea-related deaths in Africa and South-East Asia.
- Even high-income countries like the United States experienced risks, with thousands of deaths from diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections.

### Importance of Safe WASH:

- **Health and Well-being:** Safe WASH practices reduce the risk of illness, malnutrition, and mortality.
- **Gender Equality:** Gender-responsive WASH services empower women and girls, promoting equality and dignity.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Sustainable WASH practices protect water resources, conserve the environment, and mitigate climate change impacts.

### WHO WASH Strategy:

- Developed in response to Member State Resolution (WHA 64.4) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Part of WHO's 13th General Programme of Work 2019–2023, focusing on health, emergency preparedness, and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Emphasizes the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking-water and

### Link to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **Goal 3:** Good Health and Well-being – WASH is essential for preventing the spread of diseases and promoting good health.
- **Goal 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation – Focuses on ensuring access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities.
- **Goal 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production – WASH is crucial for responsible use and management of water resources.
- **Goal 13:** Climate Action – WASH plays a role in adapting to climate change impacts on water availability and quality.

**Source:**

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/water/unsafe-wash-behind-395-000-deaths-of-children-under-5-in-2019-who-report-90345>

#### Q.1 Which of the following is a major impact of unsafe WASH practices?

- Increased agricultural productivity
- Improved access to education
- Higher mortality rates
- Enhanced economic growth

**ANSWER: C**

#### Q.2 Which of the following statements about unsafe WASH practices are true?

- Unsafe WASH practices can result in the contamination of water sources
- Inadequate access to WASH services has no significant impact on global mortality rates.
- Open defecation is an example of an unsafe WASH practice.

**Select all that apply:**

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3  
ANSWER: C

**Q.3 Discuss the impacts of unsafe WASH practices on public health and the environment. How can these impacts be mitigated through effective WASH interventions?**

**Rishabh**



**Yojna IAS**  
योजना है तो सफलता है