

**14– 09 – 2023**

**News:** Assam initiates steps for delimitation of panchayat seats

- The Assam government has initiated steps for the delimitation of panchayat seats weeks after the Election Commission of India (ECI) reshaped the Parliament and Assembly constituencies.

## **Delimitation Commission**

- The Delimitation Commission is **appointed by the President** of India and **works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.**
- It includes **Retired Supreme Court judge, Chief Election Commissioner and Respective State Election Commissioners.**
- The commission **examines population data, existing constituencies, the number of seats to be analysed, holds meetings with all the stakeholders and submits its recommendation to the government.**
- The **draft report of the Delimitation Commission is published in the Gazette of India**, the official gazettes of the states concerned and at least two vernacular publications seeking feedback from the general public.
- 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.**

## **Powers and functions**

- To **determine the number of boundaries of constitution** to make population of all constituencies nearly equal.
- To **identify seats reserved for SC and ST communities**, wherever their population is relatively large.
- In case of difference of opinion among members, **majority** opinion prevails.