Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the importance of accurate electoral rolls for the legitimacy of elections in India. What institutional safeguards can prevent wrongful deletion of eligible voters and strengthen public confidence in the electoral process?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Electoral integrity; Election Commission of India; electoral-roll revision; permanently shifted voters; universal adult suffrage; wrongful deletion; transparency and accountability; grievance redressal; public confidence

Model Answer

Introduction

Free and fair elections are fundamental to representative democracy. Accurate electoral rolls ensure that eligible citizens can exercise their constitutional right to vote and that electoral outcomes reflect the choices of registered voters.

Major Issues

Incorrectly classifying voters as permanently shifted, outdated records and administrative errors may lead to wrongful exclusion. Such problems can disproportionately affect migrants and citizens with limited access to documentation or correction procedures. Allegations of widespread deletions can also undermine public confidence.

However, a decline in voter numbers alone does not establish electoral illegality. Migration, deaths and legitimate removal of duplicate entries may also change electoral rolls. Claims must therefore be assessed using verifiable

evidence.

Institutional Safeguards

The Election Commission should ensure transparent revision procedures, publish appropriate deletion data, provide advance notice wherever required and facilitate claims and objections. Accessible correction mechanisms, independent scrutiny of disputed cases and effective grievance redressal can reduce wrongful exclusion. Political parties, civil society and citizens should participate in lawful verification processes.

Conclusion

Electoral legitimacy depends on both accurate voter registration and public confidence in its fairness. Transparent administration, evidence-based scrutiny and effective remedies are essential to protect democratic participation.

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