Polity & Governance · GS - II

Recent controversies surrounding the Election Commission and electoral-roll revision raise questions about institutional independence and voter inclusion. Examine the constitutional safeguards and challenges. (150 words)

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 05/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

- **Article 324; independence; electoral rolls; universal adult suffrage; due process; transparency; judicial review; SIR; ECI accountability.**
- **Balance ECI autonomy with accountability; discuss transparent procedures and citizen safeguards.**

Model Answer

The Election Commission of India (ECI), established under Article 324, occupies a pivotal position in protecting the integrity of electoral democracy. Its constitutional status, security of tenure of key officials and institutional authority are intended to insulate elections from partisan influence.

However, electoral-roll revision can create concerns regarding wrongful exclusion, documentation burdens, transparency and access to remedies. Since voting is central to representative democracy, procedural safeguards are essential. Electoral authorities must provide clear criteria, adequate notice, accessible claims and objections, reasoned decisions and effective appellate mechanisms. Digitisation should improve accuracy without creating exclusion through technology or documentation barriers.

At the same time, ECI independence cannot mean absence of accountability. Transparent publication of

methodologies, timely disclosure of data, consistent application of rules and judicial review where constitutional rights are implicated can strengthen public confidence. Political parties and civil society should have meaningful opportunities to participate in verification processes.

Thus, electoral reform should pursue a dual objective: a strong and autonomous election management body and robust procedural safeguards against arbitrary exclusion. Public trust ultimately depends on both institutional independence and demonstrable fairness.

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