Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the importance of evidence-based investigations and the rule of law in addressing allegations of electoral fraud. How can democratic institutions maintain public confidence while ensuring accountability?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Electoral integrity; evidence-based investigation; rule of law; institutional independence; accountability; due process; public trust

Model Answer

Introduction

Electoral integrity is essential to democratic legitimacy. Allegations of electoral fraud must be addressed through credible evidence, impartial investigation and established legal procedures rather than political assertions alone.

Importance of Evidence and Rule of Law

Evidence-based investigations help distinguish genuine irregularities from unsubstantiated allegations. Legal safeguards ensure that investigative agencies exercise their powers within their mandates. Clear procedures also protect individuals and political groups against arbitrary action.

Institutional independence is equally important. Authorities must be able to investigate credible allegations without improper political interference. At the same time, intelligence inputs must be assessed through appropriate legal processes before conclusions are drawn or punitive action is taken.

Measures to Strengthen Public Confidence

Electoral authorities and investigative agencies should maintain transparent procedures, preserve relevant evidence and communicate verified findings responsibly. Independent oversight, judicial review and timely resolution of complaints can strengthen accountability. Political parties should use established legal mechanisms to challenge suspected irregularities rather than undermine institutions through unsupported claims.

Conclusion

Democratic legitimacy depends on both free and fair elections and confidence in the institutions responsible for protecting them. Evidence-based investigations, institutional independence and due process are essential to uphold electoral integrity and the rule of law.

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