Polity & Governance · GS - II

The credibility of elections depends not only on accurate electoral rolls but also on transparency, inclusiveness and effective grievance redressal. Discuss the constitutional and institutional safeguards required to strengthen electoral integrity in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional framework, Articles 324–329, universal adult franchise, Election Commission, electoral-roll transparency, voter inclusion, due process, election petitions, accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Free and fair elections form the foundation of representative democracy. Electoral integrity requires accurate voter registration, impartial election administration and accessible mechanisms for resolving disputes.

Constitutional and Institutional Safeguards

1. **Article 324:** Vests the superintendence, direction and control of elections in the Election Commission of India.

2. **Article 325:** Provides for a general electoral roll and prohibits discriminatory exclusion on specified grounds.

3. **Article 326:** Guarantees adult suffrage for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

4. **Article 327:** Empowers Parliament to legislate on electoral matters.

5. **Article 329:** Provides constitutional restrictions on judicial interference in electoral processes, while allowing election disputes to be challenged through prescribed legal procedures.

Key Challenges

- Exclusion of eligible voters due to migration or documentation difficulties.
- Inaccurate and duplicate electoral entries.
- Limited awareness of claims and objections procedures.
- Concerns regarding transparency and consistency in verification.
- Delays in resolving electoral disputes.

Reforms Required

The Election Commission should strengthen transparent verification, publish accessible draft rolls, provide time-bound grievance redressal and improve voter awareness. Technology must be supplemented by human verification and safeguards against wrongful exclusion.

Conclusion

Electoral integrity requires balancing accuracy with universal inclusion. Constitutional safeguards, institutional independence and transparent procedures are essential to maintain public confidence in India's democratic process.

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