Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional and institutional role of the Election Commission of India in maintaining the integrity of electoral rolls. How can transparency and procedural safeguards strengthen public confidence in the revision process?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 324, Article 326, electoral democracy, Representation of the People Act 1950, Special Intensive Revision, electoral integrity, universal adult franchise, inclusion and exclusion errors, transparency, due process, claims and objections, judicial oversight, institutional credibility.

Model Answer

Introduction

Accurate electoral rolls are essential for free and fair elections. The Election Commission of India (ECI), under Article 324, exercises constitutional authority over the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

Constitutional and Institutional Framework

1. **Article 324:** Vests the ECI with superintendence, direction and control over electoral rolls and elections.
2. **Article 326:** Establishes universal adult suffrage for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

3. **Representation of the People Act, 1950:** Section 21 provides for preparation, periodic revision and special revision of electoral rolls.
4. **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960:** Provide for intensive, summary and partly intensive revision procedures.

Importance of Electoral Roll Revision

- Removes duplicate and ineligible entries.
- Ensures newly eligible citizens are included.
- Updates changes in residence and other electoral particulars.
- Strengthens the credibility of electoral outcomes.

Safeguards and Challenges

Electoral revision must prevent both wrongful inclusion and wrongful exclusion. Transparent enumeration, publication of draft rolls, adequate time for claims and objections, reasoned deletion decisions and accessible appeals are essential. Political allegations regarding inconsistency or selective implementation should be examined through documented evidence and established procedures rather than partisan assertions.

Conclusion

The credibility of electoral democracy depends on both accurate electoral rolls and public confidence in their preparation. Institutional independence, transparency and procedural fairness must remain central to every revision exercise.

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