Polity & Governance · GS - II

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has raised concerns regarding the balance between electoral integrity and the protection of universal adult franchise. Examine the constitutional and institutional safeguards necessary to ensure an inclusive and transparent revision process.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Universal adult franchise, Article 324, Article 325, Article 326, Election Commission of India, electoral integrity, voter disenfranchisement, procedural fairness, transparency, grievance redressal, judicial review.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Election Commission of India undertakes revision of electoral rolls to maintain their accuracy and ensure free and fair elections. However, concerns raised during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) highlight the need to balance accurate voter registration with the protection of citizens' voting rights.

Constitutional and Institutional Framework

- **Article 324:** Vests the ECI with superintendence, direction and control over elections.
- **Article 325:** Prohibits exclusion from electoral rolls solely on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- **Article 326:** Establishes universal adult suffrage for eligible citizens aged 18 years and above.

- **Representation of the People Act, 1950:** Provides the statutory framework for electoral roll preparation and revision.

Key Concerns

- **Exclusion risks:** Inadequate documentation, migration and administrative errors may result in eligible voters being omitted.
- **Digital divide:** Vulnerable populations may face difficulties accessing online verification facilities.
- **Institutional trust:** Lack of transparency and inconsistent procedures can weaken public confidence in electoral institutions.
- **Federal concerns:** Large-scale electoral exercises require effective coordination between the ECI, state administrations and local authorities.

Necessary Safeguards

1. Provide clear, accessible and legally sound procedures for inclusion and deletion.
2. Ensure prior notice, opportunities to respond and transparent reasons for deletion.
3. Establish accessible appeals and time-bound grievance redressal mechanisms.
4. Strengthen independent monitoring and public disclosure of revision data.
5. Use technology alongside physical verification and assisted registration facilities.

Conclusion

Electoral roll revision must strengthen electoral integrity without compromising universal adult franchise. An impartial, transparent and accountable process is essential for protecting democratic legitimacy.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP