Polity & Governance · GS - II

Universal adult franchise is the foundation of representative democracy. Examine how electoral roll revision can strengthen electoral integrity while ensuring that eligible citizens are not arbitrarily deprived of their voting rights.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 326, Article 324, popular sovereignty, electoral integrity, Special Intensive Revision, Representation of the People Act 1950, due process, voter exclusion, transparency, grievance redressal, judicial review.

Model Answer

Introduction

Universal adult franchise gives citizens the power to choose their representatives and constitutes the foundation of India's parliamentary democracy. Accurate electoral rolls are essential for ensuring free, fair and inclusive elections.

Importance of Electoral Roll Revision

- **Electoral integrity:** Removes duplicate, deceased and ineligible entries, improving the accuracy of electoral rolls.
- **Administrative efficiency:** Helps maintain updated voter records through periodic verification.
- **Democratic legitimacy:** Ensures that election outcomes reflect the participation of eligible citizens.

Challenges and Constitutional Concerns

- **Risk of exclusion:** Migrants, economically weaker sections and individuals lacking documentation may face difficulties during verification.
- **Procedural fairness:** Arbitrary deletion can undermine the right to participate in elections.
- **Transparency:** Inadequate disclosure of deletion criteria and reasons may reduce public confidence.
- **Federal implications:** Electoral administration requires coordination between constitutional authorities and state-level machinery.

Safeguards Required

1. Follow Articles 324 and 326 and the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
2. Provide prior notice and reasonable opportunities for affected voters to respond.
3. Ensure transparent publication of draft electoral rolls and accessible objection procedures.
4. Establish effective appeals and time-bound grievance redressal.
5. Use technology alongside physical verification to prevent wrongful exclusion.
6. Ensure independent judicial scrutiny wherever legal violations are alleged.

Conclusion

Electoral roll revision must strengthen the credibility of elections without weakening popular sovereignty. Accuracy and inclusiveness are complementary democratic objectives, and both require transparency, accountability and due process.