Polity & Governance · GS - II

Electoral roll revisions are essential for maintaining the integrity of elections, but their implementation must not undermine universal adult suffrage or the principle of equal citizenship. Examine the constitutional and administrative safeguards necessary for ensuring an inclusive and transparent electoral process.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 326, Article 324, universal adult suffrage, Representation of the People Act, 1950, electoral integrity, due process, non-discrimination, transparency, appeals and grievance redressal.

Model Answer

Introduction

Accurate electoral rolls are essential for free and fair elections. However, voter registration and deletion processes must uphold constitutional guarantees of equality, adult suffrage and non-discrimination. Electoral integrity and voter inclusion must therefore be pursued together.

Constitutional and Legal Framework

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

3. **Representation of the People Act, 1950:** Provides the statutory framework for electoral registration, preparation and revision of electoral rolls.
4. **Article 14:** Requires non-arbitrary and equal treatment in the application of electoral laws.

Essential Safeguards

- **Transparent procedures:** Clearly communicate the criteria and reasons for inclusion, exclusion and deletion of voter names.
- **Notice and opportunity:** Provide affected individuals an opportunity to submit documents and respond before adverse decisions.
- **Accessible appeals:** Ensure timely correction mechanisms and effective grievance redressal.
- **Non-discrimination:** Electoral verification must rely on objective legal criteria, not religion, ethnicity or political affiliation.
- **Institutional accountability:** Strengthen independent monitoring, documentation and public disclosure of revision procedures.
- **Digital inclusion:** Provide offline alternatives and assistance to elderly, migrant, poor and technologically disadvantaged citizens.

Conclusion

Electoral roll revision must strengthen electoral credibility without creating barriers to legitimate voting rights. A transparent, accountable and non-discriminatory process is essential to preserve public trust in India's democratic institutions.

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