Polity & Governance · GS - II

Evaluate the role of electoral roll management in ensuring free and fair elections in India. What institutional safeguards are necessary to prevent wrongful exclusion of eligible voters?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 23/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 324, Article 326, Representation of the People Act, 1950, electoral roll revision, voter inclusion, due process, appeals, Election Commission of India, electoral integrity

Model Answer

Introduction

Accurate electoral rolls are essential for representative democracy. Wrongful deletion of eligible voters can undermine universal adult suffrage and weaken public confidence in the electoral process.

Significance of Electoral Roll Management

1. **Universal adult suffrage:** Article 326 provides for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of adult suffrage, subject to constitutional conditions.

2. **Electoral integrity:** Accurate rolls prevent duplicate entries, impersonation and other irregularities.

3. **Equal political participation:** Inclusion ensures that eligible citizens can exercise their voting rights without discrimination.

4. **Institutional credibility:** Transparent revision procedures strengthen public trust in elections.

Safeguards Against Wrongful Exclusion

1. **Due process:** Deletions should follow prescribed procedures, including verification and appropriate notice wherever required.

2. **Effective appeals:** Voters must have accessible remedies against wrongful deletion under the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

3. **Transparent administration:** Electoral officers should provide clear reasons for deletion and maintain verifiable records.

4. **Public awareness:** Citizens should be informed about the appropriate forms and procedures for inclusion, correction and appeals.

5. **Independent oversight:** The Election Commission of India must ensure impartial supervision and accountability of electoral officials.

Conclusion

Electoral roll accuracy must balance the removal of ineligible entries with protection against wrongful exclusion. Transparent procedures, effective grievance redressal and institutional accountability are essential to preserve electoral democracy.

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