Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the challenges involved in maintaining accurate electoral rolls in India. How can the Election Commission ensure that the removal of ineligible entries does not result in the 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

Electoral integrity, Summary Revision, wrongful deletion, Form 6, due process, voter awareness, digital accessibility, Election Commission accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Accurate electoral rolls are essential for free and fair elections. Periodic revision helps remove duplicate, deceased and otherwise ineligible entries while ensuring that every eligible citizen retains the opportunity to exercise the right to vote.

Challenges in Maintaining Electoral Rolls

1. **Migration and mobility:** Frequent movement between states and constituencies can result in outdated or duplicate entries.

2. **Documentation barriers:** Poor, elderly, migrant and marginalised citizens may face difficulties in providing documents or completing enrolment procedures.
3. **Administrative errors:** Inadequate verification, incorrect data entry and procedural lapses may lead to wrongful deletion.
4. **Low voter awareness:** Eligible citizens may remain unaware of deletions, correction procedures and enrolment deadlines.
5. **Digital divide:** Online-only access can disadvantage citizens with limited internet connectivity or digital literacy.

Measures to Protect Eligible Voters

1. **Transparent verification:** Deletions should follow prescribed procedures, with adequate verification and clear reasons communicated to affected electors.
2. **Accessible enrolment:** Form 6 applications should be facilitated through both online and offline channels, including assistance from Booth Level Officers.
3. **Effective grievance redressal:** Accessible appeal mechanisms and timely disposal of complaints should be ensured.
4. **Public awareness:** Targeted campaigns should inform citizens about roll-checking facilities, application deadlines and enrolment procedures.
5. **Data accuracy:** Regular database updates, appropriate technological safeguards and human verification can reduce errors.

Conclusion

Electoral roll revision must balance the removal of ineligible entries with the protection of eligible voters. Transparency, procedural fairness and accessible enrolment are essential to ensuring universal and inclusive electoral participation.