Polity & Governance · GS - II

Electoral-roll accuracy is essential for ensuring universal and meaningful political participation. Examine how appellate mechanisms, institutional capacity and judicial oversight can protect eligible voters from wrongful exclusion during intensive electoral-roll revisions.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 326, Article 324, Representation of the People Act, 1950, electoral registration officers, appellate tribunals, due process, judicial oversight, voter inclusion, administrative capacity

Model Answer

Introduction

Free and fair elections depend not only on the conduct of polling but also on accurate and inclusive electoral rolls. Intensive revisions can improve electoral databases, but inadequate verification, administrative delays or inaccessible appeals may result in the exclusion of eligible voters.

Importance of Electoral-Roll Safeguards

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

2. **Statutory protection:** The Representation of the People Act, 1950, regulates electoral registration and provides procedures for inclusion, correction, objections and appeals.

3. **Appellate remedies:** Section 24 provides an appeal mechanism against specified decisions of electoral registration officers, helping correct administrative errors.

4. **Judicial oversight:** Courts can examine whether electoral authorities have followed applicable legal procedures and protected the rights of eligible individuals.

Challenges During Intensive Revision

1. **Administrative pressure:** Large-scale verification exercises can overwhelm officials, leading to delays and mistakes in processing claims.

2. **Documentation difficulties:** Migrants, economically weaker sections and people with limited access to records may face difficulties establishing eligibility.

3. **Inadequate appellate capacity:** A shortage of tribunals, hearing facilities and personnel can delay decisions, particularly before scheduled elections.

4. **Digital exclusion:** Online-only procedures may disadvantage elderly voters, persons with disabilities and citizens with limited digital access.

Way Forward

1. Increase appellate capacity and provide accessible physical and digital hearing facilities.
2. Ensure clear communication of deletion grounds and adequate opportunities to submit objections and appeals.
3. Use transparent verification, audit trails and independent monitoring.
4. Provide multilingual assistance and legal support to vulnerable applicants.
5. Maintain coordination between the Election Commission, electoral officers and judicial institutions.

Conclusion

Electoral-roll revision must combine accuracy with inclusiveness and procedural fairness. Timely appeals, adequate institutional capacity and

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effective judicial oversight are essential to ensure that administrative exercises do not deprive eligible citizens of meaningful electoral participation.

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