Polity & Governance · GS - II

Explain the role of procedural requirements in ensuring the fairness and credibility of election dispute resolution in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Election petitions, Representation of the People Act, 1951, Section 80, Section 117, judicial scrutiny, procedural compliance, electoral integrity

Model Answer

Free and fair elections require not only transparent polling but also an effective mechanism for resolving electoral disputes. In India, election petitions provide a judicial remedy against alleged irregularities in elections.

The Representation of the People Act, 1951 establishes the relevant procedural framework.

Importance of procedural requirements

1. **Legal certainty:** Section 80 provides that an election can be challenged only through an election petition presented under the Act.
2. **Financial accountability:** Section 117 requires a deposit of ₹2,000 as security for the costs of the petition at the time of presentation.
3. **Prevention of frivolous litigation:** Procedural requirements discourage casual or improperly instituted election challenges.
4. **Judicial efficiency:** Compliance with statutory requirements enables courts to focus on legally maintainable disputes.
5. **Electoral legitimacy:** An effective dispute-resolution mechanism strengthens public confidence in democratic institutions.

Need for balance

Procedural compliance is essential, but courts must also ensure that genuine electoral grievances receive appropriate judicial consideration. Strict statutory requirements should operate alongside fair and accessible judicial processes.

Conclusion

A credible election dispute mechanism must balance procedural discipline with substantive electoral justice. This is essential for protecting democratic legitimacy and the rule of law.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP