Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of the Election Commission of India in ensuring free and fair elections. Discuss how judicial review can strengthen electoral transparency and accountability, with reference to disputes concerning electoral rolls and the Model Code of Conduct.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 324, Election Commission of India, constitutional body, free and fair elections, Special Intensive Revision (SIR), electoral roll accuracy, voter inclusion and exclusion, Model Code of Conduct (MCC), electoral transparency, judicial review, Article 32, Article 226, institutional accountability, public trust.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Free and fair elections are essential to representative democracy. The Election Commission of India (ECI), under Article 324, supervises and controls the electoral process, while courts provide remedies against unlawful administrative action.

2. Role of the Election Commission

1. **Electoral roll management:** Ensures accurate voter lists through revision and verification.
2. **Election supervision:** Conducts elections and monitors compliance with electoral rules.
3. **Code enforcement:** Seeks to ensure that political parties and candidates follow the Model Code of Conduct.

3. Importance of Judicial Review

1. **Accountability:** Courts can examine whether electoral decisions comply with constitutional and statutory requirements.
2. **Voter protection:** Judicial scrutiny can address concerns about wrongful exclusion or procedural irregularities.
3. **Institutional credibility:** Transparent decision-making and effective remedies help sustain public confidence.

4. Challenges and Measures

Clear SIR procedures, accessible objections and appeals, transparent publication of data, timely grievance redressal and impartial enforcement of the MCC can strengthen electoral integrity.

5. Conclusion

An independent Election Commission, transparent electoral administration and effective judicial review together help protect democratic participation and public trust.

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