Science & Technology · GS - II

Examine the role of free and fair elections in strengthening Indian democracy. Discuss the institutional mechanisms and challenges associated with ensuring electoral integrity.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 324, Election Commission of India, adult suffrage, Model Code of Conduct, electoral transparency, money power, criminalisation of politics, voter awareness, institutional independence.

Model Answer

Introduction

Free and fair elections are fundamental to representative democracy. They enable citizens to choose their representatives, hold governments accountable and ensure peaceful political transitions.

Institutional Mechanisms

- **Constitutional safeguards:** Article 324 empowers the Election Commission of India to supervise elections, while Article 326 provides for adult suffrage.
- **Electoral regulation:** Election laws and the Model Code of Conduct seek to promote fair campaigning and prevent misuse of official machinery.
- **Judicial oversight:** Courts can examine electoral disputes and violations in accordance with the law.
- **Citizen participation:** Voter awareness and participation strengthen democratic legitimacy.

Major Challenges

Money power, misinformation, hate speech, criminalisation of politics and allegations of unequal campaigning conditions can undermine public confidence. Claims made by political parties during campaigns must be assessed against verifiable evidence rather than treated as established facts.

Way Forward

Greater transparency in political funding, consistent enforcement of election rules, accessible electoral information and stronger institutional accountability are essential.

Conclusion

Electoral integrity depends on independent institutions, responsible political conduct and informed citizens. Strengthening these elements helps preserve democratic competition and public trust.

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