Polity & Governance · GS - II

The credibility of democratic elections depends on the independence, transparency and accountability of the Election Commission of India. Examine the major challenges faced by the ECI and suggest measures to strengthen its institutional effectiveness.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 324, constitutional independence, appointment process, electoral rolls, EVM-VVPAT transparency, Model Code of Conduct, political influence concerns, enforcement powers, electoral reforms, public trust.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Election Commission of India (ECI), established under Article 324 of the Constitution, is responsible for supervising, directing and controlling elections. Its impartial functioning is essential for free and fair elections and the legitimacy of democratic institutions.

Main Body

Major Challenges

1. Institutional independence: Concerns regarding the appointment process and perceived political influence can affect public confidence.
2. Electoral transparency: Questions about EVM-VVPAT verification and voter-list accuracy highlight the need for transparent procedures.
3. Uneven enforcement: Delayed or inconsistent action on Model Code of Conduct violations may create concerns about a level playing field.
4. Electoral reforms: Issues such as money power, criminalisation of politics and misinformation require sustained attention.

Way Forward

- Strengthen transparent and impartial procedures for appointments and decision-making.
- Improve electoral-roll verification and provide accessible grievance-redressal mechanisms.
- Ensure timely, consistent enforcement of election rules.
- Promote transparent auditing procedures and public awareness about voting technology.

Conclusion

A credible ECI is essential for democratic accountability. Institutional safeguards, transparent procedures and impartial enforcement can strengthen public trust and protect the integrity of India's electoral process.