

1. DISCUSS THE ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA KEEPING IN MIND THE ELECTION OF THE 15TH VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA.

The election for the Vice President is conducted through a secret ballot where the members of Electoral College consisting of Members of the both Houses of Parliament including, the nominated members of Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha vote. Members of Parliament will use special pens for marking their choice. Votes marked with any other pen are liable to be rejected. The ballot paper shall contain the names of the contesting candidates but does not contain any election symbol.

A) Rajya Sabha:

Elected = 233

Nominated = 12

B) Lok Sabha:

Elected = 543

Nominated = 2

TOTAL = 790

A candidate needs 20 electors as proposers and at least another 20 electors as seconders for his nomination. The candidate also has to make a security deposit of Rs. 15,000. A person shall be eligible for election as Vice-President if he:

- a) is a citizen of India;
- b) has completed the age of 35 years;
- c) is qualified for election as a member of the Council of States (Article 66).

A person shall not be eligible for election as Vice-President if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State or under any Local or other Authority subject to the control of any of said Governments. However, a person shall not be deemed to hold any office of profit by reason only that he is the President or Vice-President of the Union or the Governor of any State or is a Minister either for the Union or for any State. The Vice President is the second highest constitutional post in India. The Vice President is the 'ex-officio' Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. In a case of the demise or impeachment or resignation of the President, the vice-president becomes the acting President as the office of the head of the nation cannot be kept vacant and stays on the post for a maximum period of six months and performs all the functions of the President. The Vice President is elected for a period of five years. There is no fixed retirement age to the Vice President and he or she can be re-elected as the Vice President for any number of times.