Election of Rajya Sabha members

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Why in News?

Upcoming elections in 10 Indian states will see state legislative assemblies electing 37 representatives to the Rajya Sabha.

- **Constitutional Provisions**
  - **Article 80 -Rajya Sabha Members -** Rajya Sabha has up to 250 members
    - **Elected** – 238 members.
    - **Nominated** – 12, for their special knowledge of literature, science, art or social service.
  - **4th Schedule-** Details the allocation of seats to each State and Union Territory based on their population.
- **Electoral College -** Rajya Sabha members are elected by state Assembly members.

  Lok Sabha members are directly elected by citizens aged 18 and above.

- Rajya Sabha MPs representing Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir are elected by members of an electoral college comprising the MLAs of these Union territories.
- The Union territories of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Chandigarh, and Ladakh do not have representation in Rajya Sabha.
- **Voting System -** It follows the Proportional Representation system by means of a ***Single Transferable Vote (STV).***

  A form of proportional representation where voters rank candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.). A candidate needs a specific quota of votes to win.

- **Eligibility -** The minimum age to be a Rajya Sabha MP is **30.**
- **Term -** The term of a Rajya Sabha member is **6 years**, and ***1/3 of the members retire every two years.***
- This ensures continuity, as Rajya Sabha is a permanent body that is never dissolved, unlike the Lok Sabha.
- **Voting process -** This depends on the strength of the Assembly of the state concerned. States with high populations have more seats and states with smaller populations have fewer seats.
- A formula is used to calculate the quota required for a candidate to win.
    - **Formula - Total number of MLAs in a state / (Vacant Rajya Sabha seats + 1) + 1**
- The total number of MLAs voting in a state is divided by the number of seats going for elections plus 1. Then, 1 is added to the resulting number to calculate the quota.
- **Open Ballot -** Unlike the secret ballot used in General Elections, Rajya Sabha elections use an **Open Ballot** system.
- MLAs must show their marked ballot papers to their party's authorized agent before casting them to prevent cross-voting.

Reference

The Indian Express | How votes for Rajya Sabha elections are calculated?

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