

## 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.
- **4<sup>th</sup> 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?](#)