

Election to the Office of Vice President of India

Prelims - Current Events of National and International Importance | Indian Polity & Governance.

Why in News?

Recently, the resignation of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Election Commission of India will have to announce the election to fill the position.

The election of the next Vice-President is to be held **within 60 days** of the expiry of the outgoing Vice-President's term.

- **Vice-President** - Second highest office, next to the President in the official warrant of precedence.
- **Office** - Modelled in the lines of the *American Vice-President*.
- **Source of power** - **Article 66(1)** of Indian constitution.
- **Mode of election** - **Indirect election** held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot.
- **Elected by** - Electoral college consist of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament.
- **Vote of choice** - Members of the Electoral College can vote according to their choice and are not bound by any party whip.
- **Winning percentage** - 50% of the valid votes + 1.
- **Qualifications**
 - Citizen of India.
 - Completed 35 years of age.
 - Qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
 - Not hold any office of profit under any government.
- **Nomination of a candidate**
 - Supported by at least 20 electors as proposers and 20 electors as seconders as presented to the Returning officer.
 - Security deposit of Rs.15,000 in the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Condition of office**
 - He should not be a member of either House of Parliament or a House of the state legislature.
 - If such a person is elected as Vice-President, he should vacate his seat in that House on the date on which he enters the office as Vice-President.
- **Term of Office**

- 5 years from the date on which he enters upon his office.
- Hold office beyond his term of five years until his successor assumes charge.
- Eligible for re-election for any number of terms.
- **Vacancy in Office**
 - On the expiry of his tenure of five years.
 - By his resignation.
 - On his removal.
 - By his death.
 - Becomes disqualified to hold office or when his election is declared void.
 - Constitution does not provide any method of succession apart from a fresh election.
 - In such an event, the Deputy Chairman can head the Rajya Sabha proceedings.
- **Election dispute**
 - All doubts and disputes regarding the election of the Vice-President are inquired into ***and decided by the Supreme Court***, whose decision is final.
 - The election cannot be challenged on the ground that the electoral college was incomplete (i.e., the existence of any vacancy among the members of the electoral college).
 - If the election is declared void by the Supreme Court, acts done by him before such declaration are not invalidated (i.e., they continue to remain in force).

Reference

[The Hindu| Election to the Office of Vice President of India](#)

