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VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Constitutional Position

- **2nd-highest constitutional office** after the President (Order of Precedence).
- **Ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha** (Articles **64 & 89**).
- **Article 63**: “There shall be a Vice President of India.”
- **First in line of succession** to the President.

Election Process (Article 66)

- **Indirect election** by an **Electoral College of both Houses of Parliament**.
 - Includes **elected and nominated** MPs of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha.
 - **State legislatures are NOT involved** (unlike Presidential elections).
- **System**:
 - **Proportional representation**,
 - **Single Transferable Vote (STV)**,
 - **Secret ballot**.
- **Conducted by the Election Commission** under the **Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952**.
- **Disputes**: SC has exclusive jurisdiction (Article **71**).

Eligibility

(As per Articles **66(4)**, **84**, and **102**)

- Must be an **Indian citizen**.
- **≥ 35 years** of age.
- **Eligible for Rajya Sabha membership**.
- **Must not hold an office of profit**.

Term & Oath

- Term: **5 years** (Article **67**).
- **Oath/Affirmation**: Article **69**, administered by the **President**.
- **Outgoing VP continues** until successor takes charge (Article **67(c)**).
- May **resign** by submitting a resignation to the **President**.

Powers & Functions

1. As Rajya Sabha Chairman

- Presides over RS; maintains order.
- **Casting a vote** in case of a tie.

- Does **NOT vote otherwise** (same as Speaker).

2. When Acting as President (Article 65)

- VP acts as President during:
 - **Vacancy** (death, resignation, removal).
 - **The President's absence/illness.**
- Must hold office **until the new President is elected within 6 months.**
- **During this period, VP does not perform the RS Chairman functions.**

Removal Procedure (Article 67(b))

- **No impeachment** (unlike the President).
- **Only the Rajya Sabha can initiate removal.**
- Requires:
 1. **14-day prior notice** stating **intent + reasons.**
 2. **Effective majority** of RS
 - (Majority of **total membership**, not just those present & voting).
 3. **Simple majority of the Lok Sabha** for approval.
- **No specific grounds written in the Constitution** — left to **Parliament's discretion.**
- Lok Sabha **does NOT vote on the resolution itself**, only agrees post-RS passage.