

## **VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA: POLITY**

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### **WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?**

Jagdeep Dhankhar recently resigned as the Vice-President of India, becoming the third in the nation's history to step down before completing his full term, as per Article 67(a) of the Constitution. This resignation necessitates an election for a new Vice-President to be held "as soon as possible" for a full five-year term.

### **Vice-President of India: Key Aspects**

- **Resignations:** Jagdeep Dhankhar is the third Vice-President to resign before completing his term, following V.V. Giri and R. Venkataraman, in accordance with Article 67(a).
- **Election Process (Article 66):**
  - Indirect election method.
  - System of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
  - Voting is by secret ballot.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - Citizen of India.
  - Completed 35 years of age.
  - Qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
  - Must not hold any office of profit under the Union government.
- **Electoral College:**
  - Comprises both elected and nominated members of the Parliament.
  - Does *not* include members of the state legislative assemblies.
  - Nomination requires at least 20 electors as proposers and 20 electors as seconders.
- **Election Disputes (Article 71):**
  - All doubts and disputes are inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court.
  - The Supreme Court's decision is final.
- **Term of Office:**
  - Holds office for a term of five years.
  - Can resign at any time by addressing the resignation letter to the President.

- Eligible for re-election.
- **Constitutional Provisions for Removal (Article 67(b)):**
  - Can be removed through a resolution passed by a majority in the Rajya Sabha.
  - Must be subsequently agreed upon by the Lok Sabha.
  - A 14-day notice is mandatory before such a resolution can be moved.
- **Vacancy in Office:**
  - If the office falls vacant (due to resignation, removal, death, or otherwise), an election to fill the vacancy should be held as soon as possible.
  - The newly elected Vice-President serves a full term of five years from the date they assume charge.
- **Functions of Vice-President:**
  - **Ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha (Article 64):**
    - Acts as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
    - In this capacity, their powers and functions are similar to those of the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
  - **Acting President (Article 65):**
    - Acts as President when a vacancy occurs in the office of the President (due to resignation, impeachment, death, or otherwise).
    - When the Vice-President acts as President, the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha takes over the Vice-President's duties as Rajya Sabha Chairman.

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