

UPSC Civil Services Examination

Political Science & International Relations

Topic: Rajya Sabha – Indian Polity Notes

Rajya Sabha - Rajya Sabha Members

Indian Parliament is bicameral in nature i.e. that it has two houses. Rajya Sabha is one of those two houses. The other house is the Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha is the second chamber of the parliament and represents the states and union territories of the nation. It is empowered to protect the interests of the states and union territories if there is an interference by the centre in their work.

Composition of Rajya Sabha:

Composition of Rajya Sabha	
Maximum Strength – 250	230 represent States & Union Territories
	12 are nominated by the president
Current Strength – 245	229 members represent the states
	4 members represent the union territories
	12 members are nominated by the president
Note: Fourth Schedule of Indian Constitution deals with allocation of seats in Rajya Sabha	

Rajya Sabha Elections

There are three types of representation in Rajya Sabha:

Representation of States in Rajya Sabha:

- Members are **elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies**
- Election Principle used - Proportional Representation by means of Single Transferable Vote
- Population of state is a factor that decides the representation of states in Rajya Sabha

Note: Representation of States in Rajya Sabha is not equal. It depends on its population. State with a larger population will have more number of seats in Rajya Sabha than those with a lesser population.

Representation of Union Territories in Rajya Sabha:

- Members of Rajya Sabha belonging to Union Territories are **indirectly elected by members of an electoral college** that is constituted for this purpose
- Election Principle used - Proportional Representation by means of Single Transferable Vote

Note: Out of 7 union territories, only Delhi and Puducherry have representation in Rajya Sabha.

Representation of Nominated Members in Rajya Sabha:

12 people are nominated by the President in Rajya Sabha for their contribution and expertise in the fields of:

- Art
- Literature
- Science
- Social Service

Facts related to Rajya Sabha elections in UPSC:

Two changes were made to Rajya Sabha election in 2003:

1. To be elected as a Rajya Sabha member from a particular state, the requirement to be an elector from that state was removed.
2. System of open ballot was introduced in place of secret ballot system.

Can Rajya Sabha get dissolved?

Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and also called as ‘continuing chamber.’ Unlike Lok Sabha which usually runs for 5 years and the fresh elections are taken up, Rajya Sabha has no specific tenure and it keeps on running. Therefore, it is never dissolved.

Note:

- Every second year, one-third of its members retire. For the vacant seats, fresh elections take place. However, for nominations are taken up in the beginning of third year.
- Representation of the People Act, 1951 authorizes the President to make provisions to govern the order of retirement of the members of the Rajya Sabha.

Who is Rajya Sabha Chairman & Deputy Chairman?

Indian Vice-President is an ex-officio chairman of Rajya Sabha while the deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha is one who is elected from amongst Rajya Sabha members. The details on Rajya Sabha Chairman and Deputy Chairman are given in the table below:

Details	Rajya Sabha Chairman	Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman
Role	He presides the upper house	He presides the upper house whenever given-below conditions arise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat of chairman falls vacant • When Chairman/Vice-President has to act as President • When Chairman is absent from the sitting Note: In all three cases, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha has all the powers of Chairman of

		Rajya Sabha
Removal	<p>He can be removed as the chairman of Rajya Sabha only when he is removed from the seat of Vice-President of India</p> <p>Note: While the resolution is moved, he can't preside the house as chairman, though he can be a part of house, speak in the house</p>	<p>He can be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Rajya Sabha</p> <p>Note: The resolution to remove him can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice</p>
Is he a member of the house?	No	Yes
Can he vote in the house?	<p>He cannot vote in the first instance</p> <p>Note: He can vote in the case of an equality of votes</p>	<p>When he presides as the chairman, he too cannot vote in the first instance, but can exercise casting vote in case of a tie</p> <p>Note: When Chairman is present in the house, Deputy Chairman is an ordinary member in the house and can speak, participate in proceedings and even vote in the questions of house</p>
Salary	<p>Fixed by Parliament</p> <p>Note: His salary is charged on Consolidated fund of India</p> <p>Note: When Chairman of the house has to act as President of India, he is not entitled to salary of Chairman of Rajya Sabha but of President of India</p>	<p>Fixed by Parliament</p> <p>Note: His salary is charged on Consolidated fund of India</p>

Questions related to Rajya Sabha for UPSC

Check below the important questions that are related to the topic 'Rajya Sabha' in the table below:

What is the principle of election in Rajya Sabha?	Proportional Representation with the means of Single Transferable Vote
How many Department Related Standing Committees (DRSC) are there in Rajya Sabha?	There are 8 Standing Committees in Rajya Sabha
What is the role of Rajya Sabha in the	Rajya Sabha cannot introduce, reject or amend the Money Bill but

passage of Money Bill?	has to return the bill with or without amendments
Who is the leader of Rajya Sabha?	Like Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha also has a leader who is a minister and a member of the house and is nominated by the prime minister to function as such
What is the qualification of Rajya Sabha members?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be an Indian Citizen• Must be not less than 30 years of age• Must be registered as an elector for a parliamentary constituency

