



## Elections of Rajya Sabha

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The Election Commission has announced election dates for six Rajya Sabha seats of Tamil Nadu.

- The Rajya Sabha or the Upper House of Parliament is modelled after the House of Lords in the United Kingdom.
- **Composition of the house: Article 80** of the Constitution have provisions for members of the Rajya Sabha. Currently, it has 245 members, including **233 elected members and 12 nominated**. As per the constitutional limit, the Upper House strength cannot exceed 250.
  - **The number of Rajya Sabha members a state can send depends on its population.** Hence, the number of elected seat changes as states are merged, bifurcated or new ones are created.
  - **Nominated members** of the Rajya Sabha are nominated by the **President of India** in the field of **art, literature, science and social service**.
- The **Vice-President** is the ex-officio **chairperson of the Rajya Sabha**.  
The **Deputy Chairman**, who is elected from amongst the house's members, takes care of the day-to-day matters of the house in the absence of the Chairman.
- **Tenure of members:** Every Rajya Sabha MP has a tenure of **six years** and elections to **one-third seats** are held every two years.  
According to Section 154 of the Representation of the People Act 1951, a member has chosen to fill a casual vacancy will serve for the remainder of his predecessor's term of office.
- **Permanent house:** The Rajya Sabha meets in continuous sessions, and unlike the Lok Sabha, is **not subjected to dissolution**. However, the Rajya Sabha, like the Lok Sabha can be prorogued by the President

- **Process of election:** Rajya Sabha members are **elected indirectly by the people**, that is, by the MLAs.
  - Members of a state's Legislative Assembly vote in the Rajya Sabha elections in **proportional representation** with the **single transferable vote (STV) system**. Each MLA's vote is counted only once.
  - To win a Rajya Sabha seat, a candidate should get a required number of votes. That number is found out using the below formula. **Required vote = Total number of votes / (Number of Rajya Sabha seats + 1) + 1.**