

Opposition's Move Against Rajya Sabha Chairman

Posted at: 10/12/2024

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Context : Opposition parties under the **INDIA bloc** plan to submit a **no-confidence or impeachment resolution** against **Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar**. While lacking numbers to ensure impeachment, the move aims to send a **political message** to the ruling party.

Vice President in India

About the Vice President

- The Vice President is the **second-highest constitutional office** in India, modeled after the American Vice-President.

Eligibility (Article 66(3))

- Must be a **citizen of India**, at least **35 years old**, and qualified to be elected as a **Rajya Sabha member**.
- Cannot hold an **office of profit** under the government.

Election Process

- **Article 66(1):** Elected by members of both Houses of Parliament through **proportional representation** and a **single transferable vote** system.
- Includes **nominated members** of Parliament but excludes **state legislative assemblies** (unlike the Presidential election).
- Disputes are resolved by the **Supreme Court**.

Tenure (Article 67)

- Serves a **five-year term**, eligible for re-election.
- Can resign to the **President** or be removed by a resolution passed by:
 - **Effective majority** in the Rajya Sabha.
 - Agreement by the Lok Sabha.

Roles and Powers

- **Ex-Officio Rajya Sabha Chairman:** Ensures smooth proceedings and votes only to **break**

ties.

- **Acting President (Article 65):** Acts as President during their **absence or vacancy**.
- **Ceremonial Role:** Represents the **neutrality and dignity** of the office.

Impeachment Process (Article 67(b))

- Requires a **14-day notice** and a resolution passed by:
 - **Majority of all members** in the Rajya Sabha.
 - Simple majority in the Lok Sabha.

Opposition's Resolution Against Dhankhar

Context

The opposition accuses **Jagdeep Dhankhar** of **partisanship**, citing his remarks targeting Congress MP **Abhishek Manu Singhvi** in the context of an alleged currency recovery.

Constitutional Basis

The move relies on **Article 67(b)**, which outlines the process for removing a Vice President.

No Precedent for Chairman's Removal

- No instance of impeachment or no-confidence resolution exists against a Rajya Sabha Chairman.
- In 2020, a resolution was moved against Deputy Chairman **Harivansh** over procedural disagreements but did not succeed.

Conclusion

Though the opposition lacks the numbers for impeachment, this move is a **symbolic challenge** to alleged **partisanship** and aims to uphold **constitutional and parliamentary values**.

