

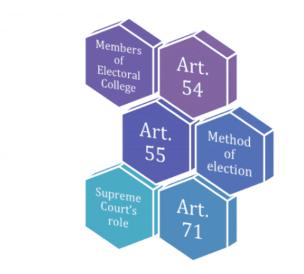




Indian Presidential Election: Polity for SSC CGL & CPO - Part 1 (Voting)

Nowadays every news channel happens to only highlight the approaching **Indian Presidential election 2017** scheduled to **take place on 17th July 2017** and **counting will be done on 20th July 2017**. It's the most **impactful elections** and eyes being cast on the upcoming **President of India**. On one hand political parties are busy promoting their candidates in order to access the power to rule and ride while on the other hand exams like **SSC CHSL**, **SSC CGL**, **SSC MTS**, **IBPS PO**, **IBPS Clerk**, **IBPS SO**, **IPPB Sc. I**, **LIC AAO**, **etc** have made Indian Presidential Elections as an important part of their exam syllabus. Also if you aim to appear for **state govt. exams**, it is important for you to know about Indian Presidential Elections. Read this article and understand even the minute details of **Indian Presidential Election 2017**.

Let's look at and learn about the constitutional provisions related to Indian presidential elections.



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#1. Electoral College - Indian Presidential Election

The **Article 54** of Indian Constitution states that the President of India should be elected by an **Electoral College** which will consist of the elected members of the Parliament (MPs) and Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

Electoral College = Elected MP (Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha) + Elected MLA (of all States and Delhi and Puducherry)

Note - Nominated members **"cannot"** vote in the Indian Presidential Election

Article 54 of the Indian Constitution

The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament; and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States

#2. Voting - Indian Presidential Election

Article 55 (1) of the Indian Constitution

As far as practicable, there shall be **uniformity in the scale of representation** of the different States at the election of the President.

Article 55 (3) of the Indian Constitution states that Indian Presidential elections will involve promotional representation by using the method of Single TransferableVote. Voting at such elections takes place through a Secret ballot.

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Article 55 (3) of the Indian Constitution

The election of the President shall be held in accordance with the system of **proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote** and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

#3. Proportional Representation - Indian Presidential Election

Proportional representation ensures that **votes carry equal weightage** and this is brought under action when a single elector elects more than one representative by listing his/her preference order.

Party C	Candidate	4
	Α	
Party D	Candidate	
	D	
Independent	Candidate	1
	Н	
Party A	Candidate	2
	J	
Party E	Candidate	
	Q	
Party F	Candidate	
	S	
Party B	Candidate	3

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	W	
Party A	Candidate	
	Z	

#4. Types of Promotional Representation - Indian Presidential Election

The Rajya Sabha elections are based on **proportional representation system**. Based on their strength in the state assemblies, political parties can nominate their members to the Rajya Sabha. The same system is being followed while electing Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) from the state assemblies.

#5. Single Transferable Vote system - Indian Presidential Election

The Single Transferable Vote system was **developed in** <u>Britain</u>. It ensures that the candidates are elected by the absolute majority of votes.

Single Transferable Vote system = Proportional representation which involves "transferring of surplus votes"

- The first preference votes are counted.
- A candidate is elected if he/she secures the required quota in the phase.

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- Otherwise, the process of transfer of votes proceeds further.
- The candidate securing least number of first preference votes gets canceled and his/her second preference votes are transferred to the first preference votes of other candidates.

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• This process continues till a candidate secures the required quota.

#6. Disadvantages of 'Single Transferable Vote'

A major disadvantage of single transferable vote system is that lot of votes will be wasted in case voters vote for only one or two candidates.

#7. No. of Votes Required to Win the Election

To be elected as the President of India a candidate requires **50% of the first preferential votes.**

#8. Value of a Vote - Indian Presidential election

Trend followed during normal elections is -

• Value of your vote = value of my vote = value of a Minister's vote = Equality

But, in the Presidential elections-

• Value of an MP's vote is higher than that of an MLA's vote = Equality

Value of an MLA's vote = Total population of his/her state

Total number of Assembly Seats in his/her state X 1000













Value of an MP's vote =

Total value of votes of all MLAs of India

Total number of MPs (both Houses)

Value of an MLA's vote - Example

Population of Sikkim according to the **1971 census** = 209,843

Number of elected MLAs = 32

Therefore, value of an MLA's vote = 209,843 / (32 X 1000) = 6.55759375 = 7

Value of an MP's vote - Example

Total value of votes of elected MLAs = 5,49,495

Total number of MPs = 543 (LS) + 233 (RS) = 776

Therefore, value of an MP's vote = 549495 / 776 = 7**08**

Article 55 (2) of the Indian Constitution

 Every elected member of the Legislative Assembly of a State shall have as many votes
as there are multiples of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing
the population of

the State by the total number of the elected members of the Assembly.

• If, after taking the said multiples of one thousand, the remainder is not less than five hundred,

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then the vote of each member referred to in the first clause shall be further increased by one.

 Each elected member of either House of Parliament shall have as much number of votes as may be obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to the members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

#9. Role of Supreme Court - Indian Presidential election

All petitions related to elections are filed directly in the Supreme Court, under **Part III** of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.

According to the **Article 71(1)**, The Supreme Court supervises the Presidential as well as vice presidential elections by looking into the matters like - disputes, doubts, the validity of the election/candidature etc.

Article 71 (1) of the Indian Constitution

All doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a President or Vice-President shall be inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision shall be final.















Article 71 (2) of the Indian Constitution

If the election of a person as President or Vice-President is declared void by the Supreme Court,

acts done by him in the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of the office of President or Vice-President, as the case may be, on or before the date of the decision of the Supreme Court shall not be invalidated by reason of that declaration

#10. Role of the Parliament - Indian Presidential election

According to the Article 71(3) of the Indian Constitution, the Parliament will regulate matters related to Presidential elections.

Article 71 (3) of the Indian Constitution

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament may by law regulate any matter relating to or connected with the election of a President or Vice President

Now that you have read in detail about how the voting takes place during an Indian Presidential Election, you can read about Presidential Candidates Eligibility in the Part 2 of the article:

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Cabinet and Chief Ministers of India

