Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2022	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

The Vice-President presides over the Rajya Sabha, maintains order, interprets parliamentary rules, protects procedural rights and facilitates legislative deliberation. The office is crucial for ensuring impartial proceedings, effective debate and the functioning of India's bicameral Parliament.

Model Answer

Introduction

Under Article 64 of the Constitution, the Vice-President of India serves as the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Council of States.

Body

Major Roles

1. Presiding Officer: The Chairman conducts Rajya Sabha sittings, regulates proceedings and ensures that parliamentary business follows established rules.

2. Maintaining Order: The Chairman maintains discipline, prevents disorder and may direct members to withdraw unparliamentary expressions in accordance with the rules.

3. Interpreting Rules: The Chairman interprets procedural rules and gives rulings on points of order, helping resolve procedural disputes.

4. Legislative Functioning: The Chairman facilitates debates, manages the conduct of business and ensures that members receive opportunities to participate.

5. Committee-Related Responsibilities: The Chairman performs responsibilities relating to parliamentary committees as provided under Rajya Sabha rules.

6. Constitutional Neutrality: The office is expected to function impartially and protect the rights of both the government and the opposition.

Unlike the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not ordinarily vote but may exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie.

Conclusion

The Vice-President's role as Chairman is essential to parliamentary democracy. Impartiality, procedural fairness and effective management of debates strengthen the Rajya Sabha's function as a deliberative legislative chamber.