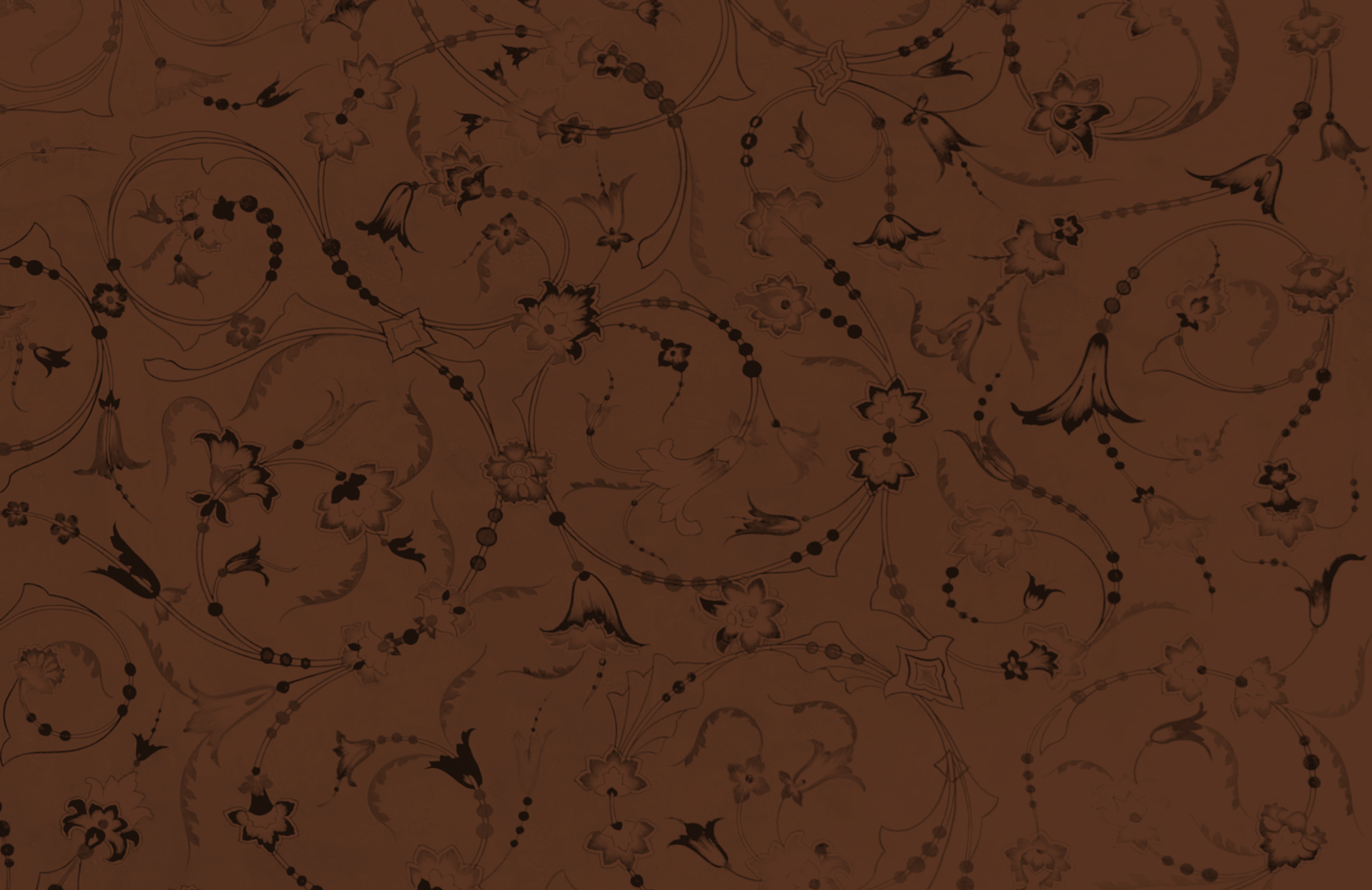
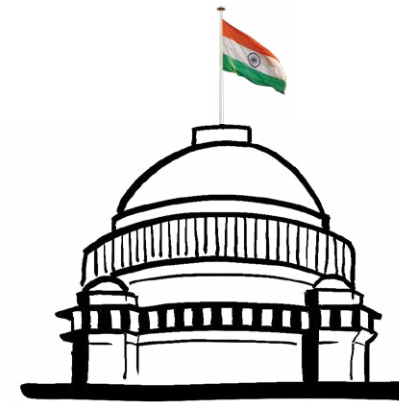


ELECTING THE FIRST CITIZEN

AN ILLUSTRATED CHRONICLE OF INDIA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS







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Election Commission of India

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An Illustrated Chronicle of India's Presidential Elections

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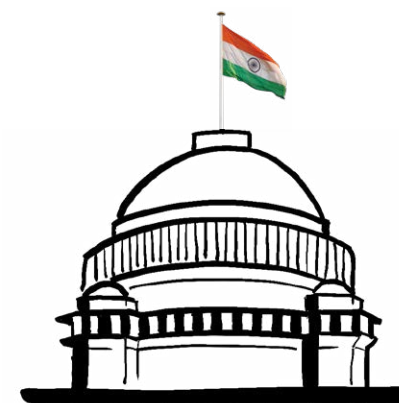
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राजीव कुमार
भारत के मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त

Rajiv Kumar

Chief Election Commissioner of India



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India




Message

In the Election Commission's self-conceptualisation, the election to the office of the President of India is seen as our highest responsibility as well as a signal privilege bestowed on the Election Commission of India (ECI) by the Constitution of India. Unlike other elections, it is uniquely for the Presidential election that the ECI directly takes over the tasks, which otherwise are assigned and delegated to the Chief Electoral Officers of the States and UTs. This responsibility is discharged by the Commission through its Biennial Election Division, which for this reason is conventionally considered the senior-most Division of the ECI. The position of the Returning Officer for this election, by convention, is rotated between the Secretary Generals of Rajya Sabha and of Lok Sabha. Thus, an elite lead team is created and directly supervised by the ECI to deliver this electoral outcome.

The President of India represents the aspirations of 1.3 billion Indians. The President is the elected Head of the world's largest democracy. Thus, this election is keenly followed within India and abroad. Nevertheless, this being an indirect election and having a sophisticated construct, there is a mystique regarding its procedure and steps. It is in this context that the Commission is delighted to publish 'Electing the First Citizen – An Illustrated Chronicle of India's Presidential Elections'. This book contains and draws upon a rich collection of rare pictures, newspaper clippings, ECI records, and excerpts from landmark speeches and debates to showcase the extraordinary journey of Presidential elections from 1952 to 2022. The book's easy narrative provides wholesome insights including about backroom planning, training and logistics, which have gone into the conduct of the Presidential elections since Independence.

My compliments to the Biennial Election Division for a flawless delivery of the 16th Presidential Election in 2022 and, as also to the Divisions of ECI that participated in creating this excellent compilation in time.

It gives me great pleasure that the publication, the first of the genre is being released on 25 January, 2023 i.e. National Voters' Day, at an event being graced by the Hon'ble President of India.


(Rajiv Kumar)



अनूप चन्द्र पाण्डेय
भारत के निर्वाचन आयुक्त
Anup Chandra Pandey
Election Commissioner of India



सत्यमेव जयते



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

**MESSAGE**

The Commission is elated to present to you one of its kind publications of the Election Commission of India dedicated to the Presidential election on the 13th National Voters' Day. This Illustrated volume contains the journey of Presidential elections from the black-white to colored hues, reflecting the sheer dedication of the Election Commission of India in its robustness for conducting elections.

Precisely, the President of India is elected indirectly by the single-transferable voting system by an electoral college consisting of elected members of both the houses of parliament and the legislative assemblies of the states and the UTs.

Among numerous accomplishments, if there is to be considered the most significant achievement of the Election Commission of India (ECI), it is indeed "procedural integrity." There have been a well-defined set of instructions that are required to be followed thoroughly to complete any task. ECI has always conducted presidential elections with the utmost conviction.

The Commission has issued specific guidelines with which polls are to be conducted in the state legislative assemblies, which include proper sitting arrangements; entry of authorized people at the polling place; proper placement of the posters for the use of specified pens and posters for the voters; proper videography; the issuing of the ballot paper randomly to the elector; different reports to be sent to the Commission by the RO and the AROs; and proper maintenance of the account of the ballot.

The process of the election of the President is foolproof, with explicit procedures to be followed across the country. The process involves fascinating methods, which make the election of the President more interesting to see. For example, during the transportation of the ballot boxes and other election material to the state, the ballot boxes fly on a separate air ticket booked in the name of Mr. Ballot, escorted by high-security armed personnel.

This book beautifully navigates through the electoral process of the Presidential Elections since Independence and gives an understanding of the unique process of the presidential elections in an illustrative manner. I congratulate the entire team for their efforts.

(ANUP CHANDRA PANDEY)
ELECTION COMMISSIONER

अरुण गोयल
भारत के निर्वाचन आयुक्त

Arun Goel
Election Commissioner of India



सत्यमेव जयते



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

**MESSAGE**

The Commission is honoured to document the illustrious past of the Presidential Elections, through this chronicle. The book captures glimpses of the Constituent Assembly debates and how the framers of the Constitution's careful deliberation and argument entailed the nitty-gritty for the post and election of the highest office of the country.

The President is the guardian of our nation's Constitution and its rule of law. This office has stood the test of time through peaks and valleys and emerged as a resilient tower of strength every single time. The proud onus of conducting elections for the honorable residents of Rashtrapati Bhawan lies solely with the Election Commission of India. Article 52 mandates that there shall be the President of India and Article 55 of the Constitution gives details about the manner of election of President. The book throws light on the various aspects of the presidential elections in a pictorial manner.

Curating the best of what Indian Presidential Elections offer, this immemorial recollection brims with archival beauty as we dive into the epochs to witness the rise of diverse Indian Presidents. It also wades into the brass-tacks of the Presidential electoral system and the associated constitutional provisions.

I would like to express my earnest gratitude to Shri Ranbir Singh, Special Officer, for his unwavering support and guidance to the team, Shri Santosh Ajmera for undertaking the project and encapsulating major to-minute details and for making it thorough. I would also like to acknowledge the strenuous effort put forth by the editorial team and designers for making the ambitious project a reality.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I do not offer my heartfelt thanks to you, the reader, for picking up this humble result of our collective endeavour.

(Arun Goel)

डॉ० रणबीर सिंह, भा.प्र.से.
स्पेशल ऑफिसर
Dr. Ranbir Singh, IAS
Special Officer



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India



FOREWORD


The roots of democracy have deepened in India in the 75 years since Independence. The Election Commission has set high standards of integrity and impartiality in the conduct of elections. In our electoral history, the Presidential election is a category in itself, given its unique nature and significance.

After the conclusion of the latest Presidential election in 2022, a need was felt to put together a chronicle of all 16 elections held so far. While the ECI does prepare a report at the conclusion of every Presidential election, there was an opportunity to make the information accessible to a wider range of readers. That thought process has culminated in the publication of the present volume.

The chronicle presents a thrilling narrative beginning with the debates in the Constituent Assembly about the office of the President, followed by insights into the shape it took in the early years of the Republic. A chapter is devoted to explaining what distinguishes the Presidential election from other elections. Another chapter guides the reader through each of the Presidential elections held so far.

With the experience of the 2022 elections fresh in mind, the process of how a Presidential election is conducted has been well narrated. Sepia-tinted historical photographs in this volume will appeal to our collective sense of nostalgia.

It is hoped that this publication will be well received as a valuable knowledge resource on the history and process of Indian Presidential elections.



(Dr. Ranbir Singh)

मनोज कुमार साहु
उप निर्वाचन आयुक्त
Manoj Kumar Sahoo
Deputy Election Commissioner



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

Acknowledgements

A unique aura of majesty and awe is associated with India's Presidential elections. It is befitting, after all, for the process to choose the highest Constitutional office in the world's largest democracy. The present volume is not only a documentation of the 16 Presidential elections so far, but also a historical narrative that demystifies the process.

It has been my honour and privilege to be associated with the making of this one-of-a-kind publication. It is also my duty to acknowledge the contributions from various quarters that shaped the book.

First of all, it was Shri Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner, who conceived the idea of a historical narration of the Presidential election. He, along with Shri Anup Chandra Pandey, Election Commissioner, and later Shri Arun Goel, Election Commissioner, has guided at every stage the team that has put the book together. Their sound advice and constant encouragement made the task of preparing this volume easier.

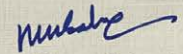
The source material for the book was provided by the ECI's Biennial Division, headed by Shri Dharmendra Sharma. Dr. Ranbir Singh, Chief Electoral Officer, the NCT of Delhi and Special Officer, ECI, led the process, devising the contents of the book. Dr. Sadhana Rout, Senior Consultant, ECI, with her rich experience, provided suggestions about the content of the book and added value to it.

Shri Santosh Ajmera, Director, SVEEP, played the anchor role, coordinating with all team members as well as with other Government organisations. He and his colleagues Anuj Chandak, Rajni Upadhyaya, Noopur Praveen, Kshitiz Verma, and Esha Khan did a deep dive in the ECI archives and came out with nuggets and compiled them into a cohesive narrative.

Ashish Mehta served as an independent consultant to review the final draft with a fresh pair of eyes and greatly enhanced the quality. Chitra Sharma and Neeraj Sharma of ThinkingCap Creatives have made the publication not only visually appealing but also more reader friendly.

Director General, Publication Division, Anupama Bhatnagar and her team must be complimented for bringing out the book under tight schedules.

I must express my gratitude for the help received from a number of Government organisations and agencies, especially the Rashtrapati Bhavan secretariat, for information, pictures and other resources.



(Manoj Kumar Sahoo)
Deputy Election Commissioner



INTRODUCTION



The President of India is the Head of State, the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, and the first among citizens. The nation is bound together as one family by the Constitution, and it is the duty of the President to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law”. The significance of the election to this most critical office, then, cannot be overstated.

The first such election was held in 1952, when the Republic was still in the nascent stage. The Election Commission of India, the body entrusted with the paramount responsibility of holding elections and upholding the highest principles of democracy, was still in a fledgling state when the first Presidential election was notified on 4 April 1952 – barely weeks after concluding the mammoth and unprecedented exercise of holding the first elections to the Lok Sabha.

Over the decades since then, the ECI has overseen the process of electing the First Citizen with utmost integrity, and has earned all-round praise for setting high benchmarks. The history of these elections has been documented from time to time in a variety of specialised publications. Yet, a need was felt for a publication that would present much more than statistical information to a larger readership, a publication that would capture the ethos surrounding the most vital – and quite unique – polling exercise. The present volume seeks to do so.

To tell this narrative, fascinating and thought-provoking in equal measure, it is best to begin at the beginning. The history of the Presidential elections over the seven decades, from 1952 to 2022, begins with the history of the office of the President itself. The opening chapter is an overview of how the Constitution makers envisioned the office of the highest Constitutional office in the Republic and the election for it.

The next chapter considers the aspects that make the Presidential elections different from all other electoral processes. What follows is a chronicle of each of the 16 elections held so far. The context of the election is set out, along with data, and archival images make those times come alive again. Changes in rules and procedures, innovations introduced, interesting anecdotes, lessons learnt and other features are encapsulated in separate texts.

The most recent election at the time of the publication of this volume is the one held in July 2022, and that is the one taken up for a more detailed presentation. This chapter, a fly-on-the-wall account from inside the Nirvachan Sadan, as it were, can serve as a case study.

As for India's democracy, its essence is often articulated in different ways by the winners of these elections, the Presidents of India. Some of their musings, also appreciating the role of the ECI in living up to the ideals of our democratic traditions, are compiled in the next chapter.

Thus, here is the glorious story, in words and images, of that one-of-a-kind election that has given the Republic its successive First Citizens, from diverse sections of society and many corners of the country. It is hoped it will be of interest to both curious citizens and scholars of India's democracy. It will have served its purpose if it leads to more informed discourse on Presidential elections and if it ignites curiosity in younger readers about our democratic heritage.



Chapter 1

*Presidential Elections
The Genesis and the
Constituent Assembly Debates*





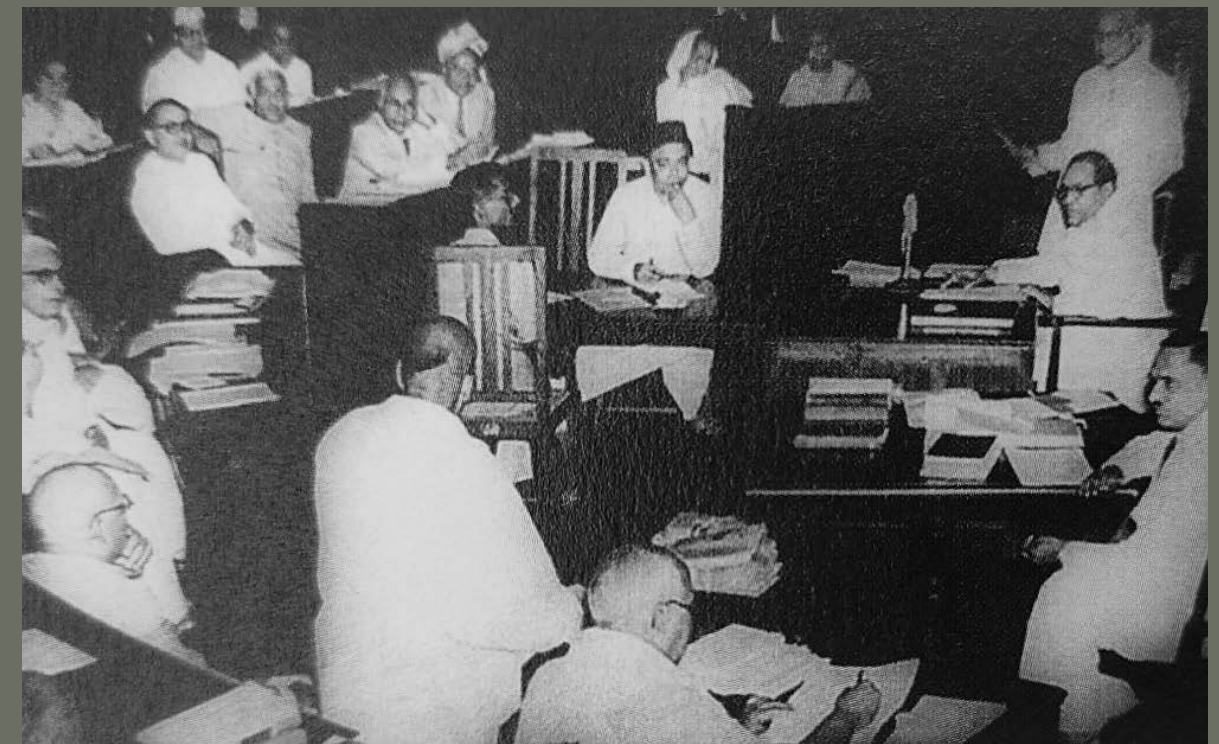
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: THE GENESIS AND THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Before narrating the chronicles of India's Presidential elections, it would not be out of place to consider their origins as well. The first election for the office of the highest constitutional authority was held in 1952, after the Constitution came into effect. It is instructive to turn to the debates of the Constituent Assembly (1946-1950) to see how the Constitutional provisions relating to the President took their final shape.

To begin with, the first question on this subject was who should be the Head of State of independent India. In the colonial era, it used to be the British Monarch. After India won freedom, the Monarch came to be represented by the Governor-General, following the Indian Independence Act of 1947. The Constitution was to replace this Act, and thus the question before the Constituent Assembly was who would replace the Governor-General. All agreed that the Head of State would be somewhat on the lines of the Governor-General, and no drastic change was necessary. Yet, the provisions governing that office, its nomenclature and other aspects needed to be in tune with Indian conditions.



A view of the Constituent Assembly in session in December 1946



A glimpse of the Constituent Assembly in session

The Constitution-drafting process began with a questionnaire, prepared by Constitutional Adviser B.N. Rau, on the key features of the proposed Constitution, according to 'Framing of India's Constitution: A Study', the magisterial historic account prepared by a research team led by B. Shiva Rao (published by the Indian Institute of Public Administration in 1968). The questionnaire was sent to all the members of the provincial legislatures and the central legislature on March 17, 1947, in order to elicit their views, which could be considered in later drafts. The questionnaire had five sections, the first of which was 'Head of the Union'. More specifically, it was about "Head of the Union, the questions related to his designation, the mode of choice, the duration of his office, eligibility for re-election, rotation of the office among different communities, the appointment of one or more Vice-Presidents with his (or their) term of office, the functions of the President and the Vice-President, the procedure to be adopted for the removal of the President, and the filling of any temporary vacancy in the office of the President.

One of the earliest references to the office of the President comes from the Constitutional Adviser's memorandum of May 30, 1947, for the Union Constitution Committee. It spoke of a President and a Council of Ministers to aid and advise him in the exercise of his functions.



Union Constitution Committee

The matter was taken up in detail by the Union Constitution Committee, one of the panels set up by the Constitutional Adviser to help the Assembly manage the workflow. The committee, headed by Jawaharlal Nehru, was to undertake preliminary research, hold internal discussions and prepare a report. In its meetings on June 8-9, 1947, the committee finalised its views in favour of the parliamentary form of government, with the President as Head of State. The President was envisaged to have no special powers (nor special responsibilities) vested personally in him or her but would act only on the advice of the Council of Ministers, according to the study by Shiva Rao noted above. The committee prepared a report, which along with the reports of the other committees formed the basis of the draft constitution, readied by the Drafting Committee headed by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar by February 1948. The draft was widely circulated, inviting feedback from a variety of institutions and organisations too.

The motion on the draft constitution was formally placed before the Constituent Assembly by Dr. Ambedkar on 4 November 1948.



In his defining speech that day, he said,

"In the Draft Constitution there is placed at the head of the Indian Union a functionary who is called the President of the Union. The title of this functionary reminds one of the President of the United States. But beyond identity of names there is nothing in common between the forms of Government prevalent in America and the form of Government proposed under the Draft Constitution. The American form of Government is called the Presidential system of Government. What the Draft Constitution proposes is the Parliamentary system. The two are fundamentally different."

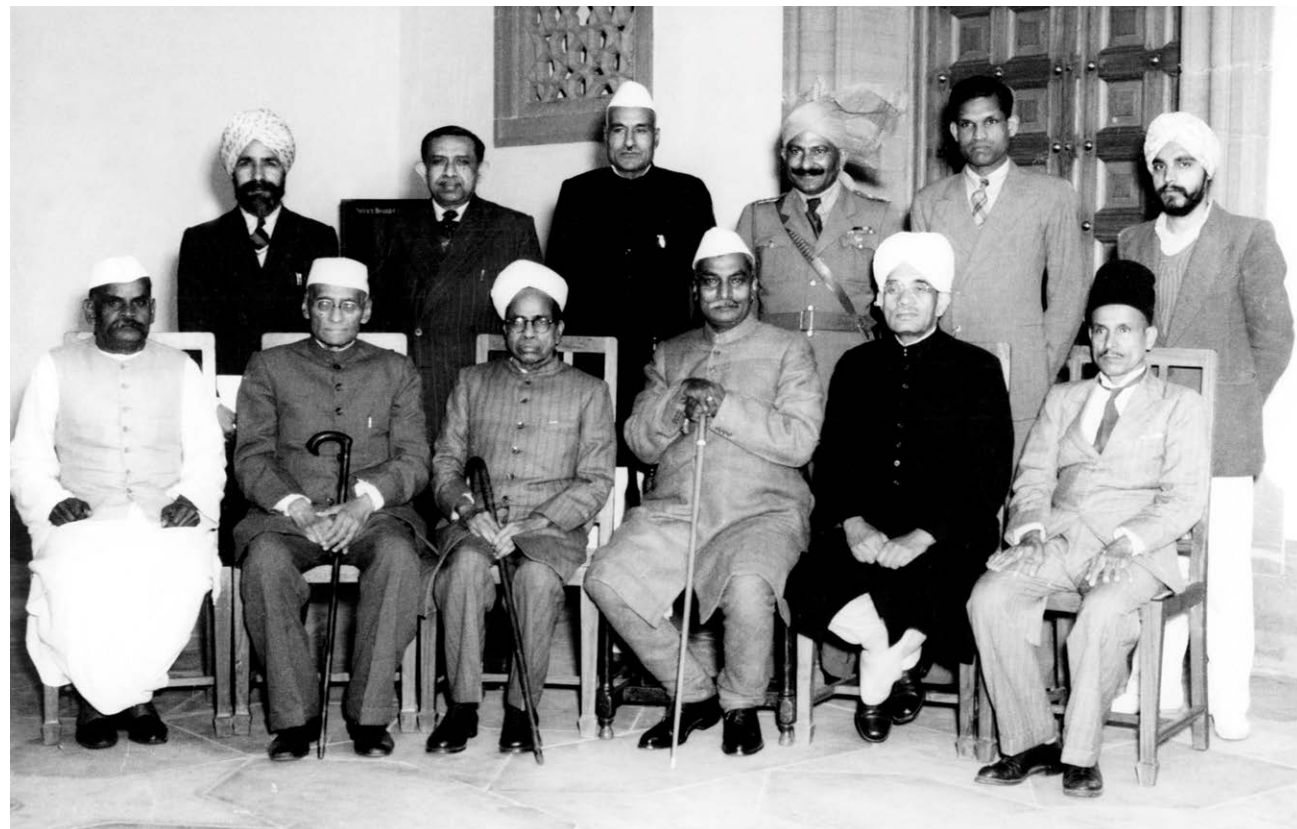
"Under the Presidential system of America, the President is the Chief head of the Executive. The administration is vested in him. Under the Draft Constitution the President occupies the same position as the King under the English Constitution. He is the head of the State but not of the Executive. He represents the Nation but does not rule the Nation. He is the symbol of the nation. His place in the administration is that of a ceremonial device on a seal by which the nation's decisions are made known. Under the American Constitution the President has under him Secretaries in charge of different Departments. In like manner the President of the Indian Union will have under him Ministers in charge of different Departments of administration."



A group photograph of the Constituent Assembly members, 1950



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with Begum Aizaz Rasul and S.N. Mukherjee during the Constituent Assembly Session on 16 May 1949



Dr. Rajendra Prasad with some of the members of the Constituent Assembly

Election of the President

How to elect the President was a question that vexed many minds. The original memorandum of the Constitutional Adviser had envisaged an electoral college made up of the members of the two Houses of Parliament. But even within the Union Constitution Committee, some members saw merit in the direct election by all voters, making the President the elected representative of the whole nation. The committee eventually included the members of the provincial legislatures in the proposed Electoral College too.

During the Constituent Assembly debates, members had sufficient reasons to propose the election of the President through adult suffrage. Some of the members, especially K.T. Shah (who would later contest the first Presidential election in 1952), argued against the original draft article that provided for the election of the President by an electoral college consisting of the members of the Central Legislature as well as those of the Provincial or State Legislatures.

K.T. Shah argued,

"I suggest that every adult citizen shall have his share in electing the head of the state."¹

He further asserted,

"I hold that we should arm the President with the authority to say that he represents the people... I do not want the President to be anything but the head of the State and representative of the people in their collective capacity and in their sovereignty... I hold that the President, not being a creature of party majorities in the Centre or the local legislatures but a real representative of the people, and one elected to function as the head of the State and as its representative."²

The centrality of political parties in the selection of the President is something that K.T. Shah wanted to avoid. Speaking in the Constituent Assembly on Draft Article 43 (that became Article 54 of the Constitution), he argued that the indirect election of the President made them a 'creature of party majorities in the centre or the local legislatures'. He proposed that the President be directly elected by every adult citizen of the country. For Shah, the President of India had to represent the 'will' of the people without a whiff of party politics.

¹Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume VII, December 13, 1948. Pg. 991

²Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume VII, December 13, 1948. Pg. 992

K. Hanumanthaiya, however, argued that the candidate who has to campaign from one corner of the country to another will certainly be put up by some party or another and that election campaign will naturally generate party feelings. Whoever is thus elected "will never be able to forget his party affiliations and he will not serve the purpose that Prof. Shah has in view". But, if he is elected by the members of the legislatures and the Parliament, "he is more likely to be a non-party man, just as the Speaker of the Assembly or the Parliament is likely to be."³

Speaking in favour of the direct elections, Shibban Lal Saxena said,

"Mahatma Gandhi is the father of our Nation even though he has not been elected to be so. All of us call him 'Bapu'. He is like a permanent President of our nation. An elected Rashtrapati will reach his position to some extent only if he is elected (directly) by twelve or thirteen crores of voters as their 'Rashtrapati'. He will thereby gain great moral prestige and honour and even though he may be aloof from everyday work, he will benefit the country a good deal."⁴

Another member, Mahomed Sheriff stated,

"I am of the opinion that the President of the Union should be elected on the basis of adult franchise. It would be in the fitness of things that the person who would be at the helm of affairs and to whom so many powers would be given and so many responsibilities, should be one who must be elected on this basis. Every voter who is qualified to vote should have the satisfaction that in the election of the person who should govern the country, he should have a voice."⁵

Other members of the assembly argued that the elected members of the provincial legislatures are not a sufficient representation of the people's will and thus, they preferred the direct election system over the indirect election system since it would be a more democratic process and would allow the public to choose the President directly. However, the suggestion was rejected by the Constituent Assembly.

In the Assembly, Jawaharlal Nehru, head of the Union Constitution Committee, provided the following justification for rejecting a direct Presidential election

³Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume VII, December 13, 1948

⁴Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume VI, July 23, 1947. Pg. 789

⁵Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, July 24, 1947. Pg. 796



based on adult suffrage:

"To emphasise the ministerial character of the Government that power really resided in the Ministry and in the Legislature and not in the President as such... Now, therefore, if we had an election by adult franchise and yet did not give him any real powers, it might become slightly anomalous."

It would involve "just extraordinary expense of time and energy and money without any adequate result... we have got enough elections for the Constitution. We shall have elections on an adult franchise basis for the Federal Legislature. Now if you add to that enormous Presidential election in which every adult votes in the whole of India, that will be a tremendous affair. In fact, even financially it will be difficult to carry out and otherwise, it will also upset most activities for a great part of the year. The American Presidential election actually stops many activities for many many months."

"It is said that the American Presidential election helps the forging of unity of the country by concentrating the mind of the entire country on the Presidential election and on the conduct of those elections. One man becomes the symbol of the country. Here also he will be a symbol of

the country but I think that having that type of election for our President would be a bad thing for us."

"I am not prepared to believe that an adult franchise is absolutely essential. Obviously, the number of those who will elect the members of the Assembly will be in millions and they are expected to be proper persons. Therefore, when the members of the Assembly themselves are being elected by the votes of millions, where is the necessity for electing the President by adult franchise."⁶

Sardar Vallabhai Patel further justified the Presidential elections through the electoral college with the these arguments:

"First of all the size of the electorate, 158.5 millions, in India, as against the total electorate of nearly 75 millions in America, "forbids our adopting adult suffrage in the matter of the election of the President."

"The second question which has to be borne in mind in dealing with this question of adult suffrage is the administrative machinery... Is it possible either for the Government of India or for the State Governments to spare officials sufficient enough to manage the election in which 158.5 millions would be taking part?

⁶Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, 21 July 1947. Pg. 713

Jawaharlal Nehru in a debate in the Constituent Assembly



That again seems to me to be a complete impossibility."⁷

The Composition of the Electoral College

Discussions also addressed the question of the composition of the electoral college. Gopi Krishna Vijayavargiya said,

"According to the amendment, all the units of the States will participate in the election of the President. But the States Legislatures are very faked-up and crude."⁸

He exclaimed,

"Federation is going to be established in our country but as yet, we do not know if all the States will join the Indian Union and what attitude they will adopt towards it. We do not know as to how the participating States will affect the Union."

However, after detailed discussions and faith in the state legislatures, the Constituent Assembly in the final draft of the Constitution stated that the President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of, (a) the elected members of both houses of Parliament; and (b) the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.⁹

The Age of the President

Each qualification necessary for the candidate of the highest office was decided with utmost caution, with

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with Sarojini Naidu in the Constituent Assembly



consideration of various aspects. Every minute aspect was discussed in detail, for example, while presenting the clause of determining the age of the President, Nehru said "...who has completed the age of thirty five years", to which H.V. Kamath sought clarification, because for the purpose in the Provincial Constitution the term, "reached the age of 35 years" was used.¹⁰ Nehru responded by saying that he considered it to be a better wording. With that note, the Assembly adopted the clause and decided that the person must have completed the age of thirty-five years. Article 58(1) defines the eligibility for the election of the President.¹¹

Presidentship through Rotation?

Considering the rich diversity of India, there were obvious apprehensions whether the President would be able to successfully represent the entire country and whether the candidates from various corners of the country would get a fair chance to chair the highest office. T. Chennaiah presented a clause before the assembly to insert the phrase 'rotation either by the North of India or South of India' after the word 'elected'. He argued:

"...the method gives a fair representation and satisfaction to the people of India who stand geographically divided into two distinct divisions, namely, the South or the North of India. The people in these parts of India have got a distinct culture and methods of thinking and languages of their own, acclimatised to the conditions of those parts."

"...the existence or predominance of any one majority party in India. Such an organisation tries to put a man of its own as the President of the Federation and never allows any other smaller organisation to take its chance."¹²

In response, Tajamul Husain termed it a dangerous principle to adopt.¹³ H.V. Kamath responded by saying,

"At a time, when we have regretfully accepted the division of India on a communal basis, at a time when fissiparous and centrifugal

⁷Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume VII, 13 December 1948. Pg. 997

⁸Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, 23 July 1947. Pg. 783

⁹Article 54. The Constitution of India

¹⁰Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, 24 July 1947. Pg. 811

¹¹The Constitution of India

¹²Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, 23 July 1947. Pg. 784, 785

¹³Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, 24 July 1947. Pg. 796



tendencies are holding the field, at a time when most of us here want to see the unity of our country restored to its pristine condition, it is amazing that a member of this House should stand up and draw a distinction between the north and south of our country.”¹⁴

No such clause of Presidentship by rotation, however, was included in the final draft of the Constitution by the Assembly.

Among other things, it was also proposed in the Constituent Assembly that the President shall be alternately elected from the State and the Non-State Units. D.H. Chandrasekharaiya asserted,

“...it is evident that the members from the States will not be in a position to successfully contest the elections by putting forward a candidate of their own for the Presidentship at any time because the members from the non-State Units will form an overwhelming majority of the electorates.”¹⁵

H.R. Guruv Reddy responded,

“... the question of States and non-States is really perplexing... The States form only one-third of the entire Dominion. And then the qualifications and other considerations that are to be laid down for this purpose is another disturbing factor... I cannot agree to the separation of States and non-States for the purpose of election.”¹⁶

It was only after the prolonged Constituent Assembly debates that a robust system of electing the Head of the Indian Republic was evolved, which has continued till date. This was backed up in 1952 with a law, the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, which laid out detailed procedures. Further, ‘The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules’ were added in 1974.



From the archives: A group picture of an Expert Translation Committee of the Constituent Assembly on 22 January 1950 at Council House, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of G.S. Gupta



Media coverage

¹⁴Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, 24 July 1947. Pg. 800

¹⁶Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, July 24, 1947. Pg. 798

¹⁵Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, 23 July 1947. Pg. 790



Formation of an Independent Election Commission

"I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong."

– Mahatma Gandhi

An independent Election Commission of India has helped ensure that democracy thrives in the country. It has laid the strong foundation for our democratic traditions to continue through an independent election process and free and fair elections, with participation of different sections of the society. The credit for establishing this independent institution goes to the members of the Constituent Assembly, who gave a preference to an independent Election Commission over all other aspects. This ensured the laying down of the foundation of the Election Commission of India on 25 January, 1950 – a day before the birth of the Republic.

The Constitution framers were fully aware of the need and importance of an independent Election machinery to ensure free and fair elections. The institution that the Assembly was aiming to create would perhaps have the solemn responsibility of ensuring a stable Democracy. The biggest challenge was to conduct free, fair and inducement free elections in the country. Therefore, various provisions were inserted in the Constitution to ensure that the Election Commission must not become a tool in the hands of the ruling party and remain an independent body.

The members of the Constituent Assembly held multiple discussions, debates and arguments before reaching any consensus. The powers and role to be assigned to the Commission had to be analysed with respect to the diverse culture, population and equations of Indian Politics. During these debates over the role of the Election Commission, H. V. Pataskar stated:

"So far as I am aware, there is no other Constitution where such elaborate provision with respect to the elections and its details are made."¹⁷

The visionary members of the Constituent Assembly have bestowed the Election Commission of India with a huge responsibility. The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution shall be vested in a (Election) Commission.

In the Constituent Assembly, R. K. Sidhwa was among those who highlighted the importance of an independent Election Commission. Referring to Article 289 of the draft Constitution as

one of the important articles as far as elections are concerned", he said, "I do not think that there are two opinions either in this House or outside the House that elections should be fair, pure, honest and impartial. If that is the view, I am sure it could be achieved only by an impartial agency as has been contemplated in this article. We want the elections to be above-board. Any machinery that is to be set up should be quite independent, free from any influence from any agency, executive or anybody."

In the words of Sir N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar,

"To ensure as far as possible that elections in the country, Federal or Provincial, are conducted in an impartial manner... The idea is to set up a Commission appointed by the President under whose auspices all these various aspects of election activities and post election activities will be regulated and controlled. As the House is aware of the abuse of election procedure, of the election machinery and the prevalence of corruption in elections— these are complaints which are widely made in the country and this clause merely an attempt to bring all these election activities under a common centralised independent control."¹⁸

R.K. Sidhwa argued that the Commission must constitute a permanent body because its task is not limited to the General Elections. He said,

"... it is incorrect to state that this Commission will not have any work after the general election is over. We shall now have about 4,000 members in all the provinces and there will be bye-elections. Surely every month there will be two or three elections – some will die, some will be promoted to high offices, some will go here and there... Apart from that if the Commission

is permanent, what will it do? Periodically it will examine the electoral rolls and from the statistics of those provinces, those who are dead will remove those names and will bring the electoral rolls up to date as far as possible. Electoral rolls are prepared, 50 per cent of them are defective. Some are dead and their names are intentionally put in by a particular party who wants to run the elections and wants to put in names of their own choice; I have heard people living in the cities trying to influence by mixing up with the executive."

To secure the independence of the Election Commission it was important to ensure that the Chief Election Commissioner must get a secured tenure. In the Assembly, Kuladhar Chaliha argued against the draft article:

"Ambedkar thought that a body outside the Executive should be there to conduct the elections; but what is that body outside the Executive? It is the President who will select the Chief Election Commissioner and he is a party-man whatever it may be and will have the same prejudices and same bias towards his own party-man as anyone else and therefore that argument does not hold very well."

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru stated,

"Everything in the new Draft is left to the President; the appointment of the Election Commission will be made by the President; he will appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and decide how many Election Commissioners should be appointed; he will decide the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners that might have to be appointed. Again, while it is provided that the Chief Election Commissioner should not be removed except in the same manner as a Judge of the Supreme Court, the removal of the other Election Commissioners is left in the hands of the President."

Defending the provision in the draft Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar responded,

"...the Chief Commissioner is placed on the same footings as the Judges of the Supreme Court. And I do not know that there exists any measure of greater security in any other constitution which is better than the one we have provided for in the proviso."

K. M. Munshi said,

"The amendment which has finally emerged from the Drafting Committee makes it clear

that neither the Central Government nor the provincial Governments will have anything to do with the election. The Chief Election Commissioner, as the House will find, is practically independent. No doubt he is appointed by the President, that is, the Central Government. There can be no other authority, no higher authority in India than the President for appointing this Tribunal."

The framers of India's Constitution had the benefit of several other nations' Constitutions that had worked successfully. The framers were aware of inherent qualities and weaknesses of all these Constitutions and chose only those provisions which would suit the needs of national integration and all-round development of the country. The result was a document more comprehensive and detailed than any other.

Various debates and discussions during the Constituent Assembly gave shape to the Election Commission of India through necessary Constitutional provisioning and providing complete independence to it. These provisions have ensured that the Election Commission India conducts elections in the most free, fair and transparent manner, giving it an unique recognition and positioning world over.

This perspective could be understood from the statement of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in his final speech in the Constituent Assembly, in which he highlighted,

"...however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot."

Dr. Ambedkar further emphasised that people must not be content with a mere political democracy, but rather strive for a social democracy with underlying principles of equality, liberty and fraternity. He said,

"Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. What does social democracy mean? It means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life..."

"They form a union of trinity in the sense that to divorce one from the other is to defeat the very purpose of democracy... Without equality, liberty would produce the supremacy of the few over the many... Without fraternity, liberty would produce the supremacy of the few over the many. Without fraternity, liberty and equality

¹⁷Constituent Assembly Debates- Volume VIII

¹⁸Constituent Assembly Debates, Volume IV, 29 July 1947. Pg. 915



*could not become a natural course of things. It would require a constable to enforce them.*¹⁹

Today, the polling station, where the vote is cast by a citizen, is the best example of equality, fraternity and

liberty. Every voter is considered equal and provided with equitable facilities. Everyone has to stand in a queue to exercise their franchise. Everyone is treated equally in that festival of democracy.

¹⁹Excerpts from the speech in the Constituent Assembly on 25 November 1949



Saiyid Jafar Imam, a member of the Constituent Assembly from Bihar, congratulating Dr. Rajendra Prasad on the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949



Another glimpse of the Constituent Assembly in session



Dr. Rajendra Prasad being sworn in as the first President of India in Durbar Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan



Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Constituent Assembly, signing the Constitution of India on 24 January 1950



Dr. Rajendra Prasad proceeding towards ceremonial Salute and First Guard of Honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan



OATH OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Oath or affirmation by the President

"I, A.B., do swear in the name of God that
solemnly affirm

I will faithfully execute
the office of President (or discharge the functions of the President) of India
and
will to the best of my ability
preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law
and
that I will devote myself
to the service and well-being of the people of India".

Chapter 2

*Unique features
of the Presidential Elections*





WHY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ARE DIFFERENT

The election to the highest office of the Republic of India of the largest democracy in the world, is unique in many ways. This chapter showcases the unique features of the Presidential election and its processes which have become more robust and finetuned over the period of seven decades.

Unlike the Parliamentary elections or elections to the Legislative Assemblies which are held on the principles of Universal Adult Franchise, the Presidential elections are held through a system of Electoral College with proportional representation and Single Transferable vote. If we draw a distinction in the process of conducting Presidential election from Parliamentary and Assembly elections, there are a few distinctions, which make the Presidential election, an interesting process.

Electoral College

An Electoral College for the Presidential elections, consist of:

- Elected Members of the both Houses of Parliament
- Elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies of all the States and also of the NCT of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Value of Votes

Total Number of Electors	Total Value of Votes
MPs - 776	MPs - 5,43,200
MLAs - 4,033	States - 5,43,231
Total - 4,809	Total - 10,86,431

Figures for the Presidential election 2022

Nomination of Returning Officer

As per the convention, the Secretary General, Lok Sabha or the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha is appointed, on rotation, as the Returning Officer, by the Election Commission of India. Moreover, two senior officers of the Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Secretary and one senior officer of the Legislative Assembly of each of the States as well as the NCT of Delhi and the UT of Puducherry are also appointed by the Election Commission as the Assistant Returning Officers.

The Chief Electoral Officer of each state including NCT of Delhi and UT of Puducherry supervises and coordinates with the Assistant Returning Officer concerned, for the conduct of poll at the respective State Legislative Assembly and transportation of the ballot boxes and other important election material from the Election Commission to the respective State Legislative Assemblies and back to New Delhi, after the poll.



Archival photo of office setup for the Returning Officer and the team

Proportional Representation

The election is held in accordance with the system of Proportional Representation by means of single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot. The manner of voting at Presidential election is contained in Rule 17 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

Polling Process

Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, will be the **Returning Officer** for the present Election.



Polling will happen in the **Parliament House** and in the premises of the **State Legislative Assemblies**

- Marking can only be done through particular **pens provided by designated official** along with ballot paper.
- Voting by any other pen shall lead to **invalidation of the vote.**



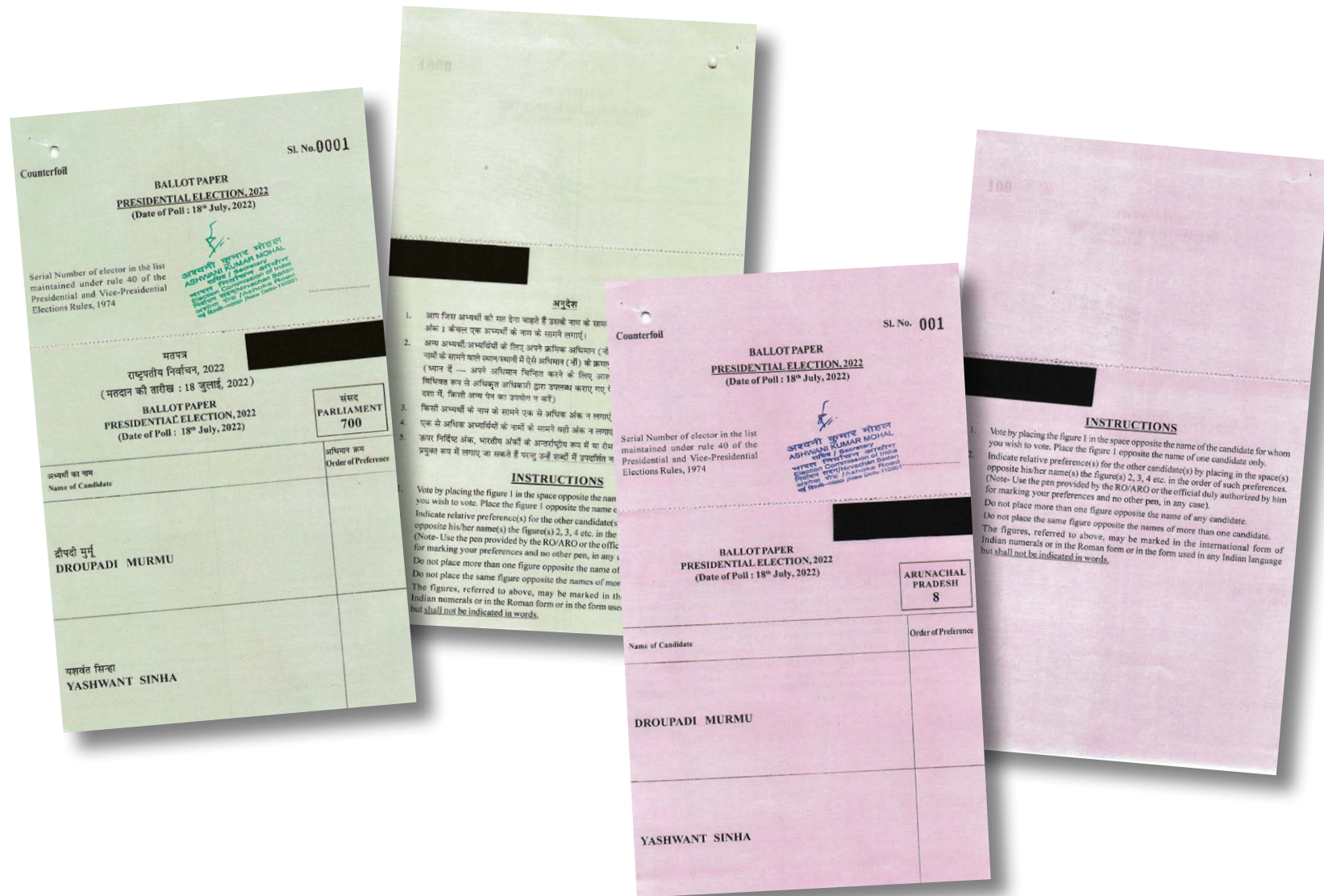
Elections through Ballot Papers

Presidential elections are held through Ballot papers. The minimum size of the ballot paper is 15 cm in width and 26.5 cm in length for 5 or less candidates. In case, the number of contesting candidates is more than 5, then the length of the paper increases by 2 cm per candidate.

- In ballot paper, the font-Times New Roman is used in English and font-Mangal Unicode is used in Hindi. The font size of both languages is kept equal.
- Black slip is gummed in such a way that it hides the serial number of the ballot paper on the back side of the ballot paper.
- The Presidential candidate names are printed in English in all ballot papers. In Hindi speaking states the names are written in Hindi and in non-Hindi speaking States the names are written in English and in the language of the state. The names of the Presidential candidates are printed in accordance with alphabetical order in Hindi language

Colours of Ballot Paper

The ballot papers for elected members of both Houses of the Parliament are green in colour. The colour of the ballot papers for the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies is pink. The ballot papers are printed in the Government of India press.



No Need of Ink Mark on the Elector's Finger

Inked finger in Indian elections symbolises free and fair electoral process. It is marked to ensure casting of vote only once, by an individual during an election. However, as the Electoral College for the Presidential election is very limited, these electors are not marked with indelible ink, which generally is the practice, during the Parliamentary and Assembly Elections.

No Election Symbol

The ballot paper in Presidential election does not contain any election symbol. There are two columns in the ballot paper. Column 1 of the ballot paper contains the heading "Name of Candidate" and column 2 contains the heading "Order of Preference". The Ballot Paper also contains the value of vote of MLAs of respective States as well as MPs e.g. the ballot paper meant for Bihar will have value of vote 173 printed on Ballot paper. Similarly, ballot paper meant for MPs will have the value of vote 700 printed on it.

No EVMs

Presidential elections are held through a proportional representation and single-transferrable vote system. The present EVMs are built for the direct elections for the first past the post voting process and therefore are not used in the Presidential elections.

No Party Whip

Voting during the Presidential election is done through a secret ballot. Political parties, therefore, cannot issue any direction or whip to their members to vote in a particular manner or not to vote at the election leaving them with no choice, as it is tantamount to the offence of undue influence within the meaning of section 171 C of the IPC. Electors are at liberty to vote or not to vote at the Presidential election as per their own free will and choice.

Absence of NOTA (None of the Above) option

The system of the NOTA option began after a directive from the Supreme Court in 2013. The option, however, is meant for direct elections, and thus not applicable to the Presidential elections.



Specific Pen and Ink to be used by the Electors

Unique Serial Numbered pens of violet ink are supplied centrally by the Election Commission to ensure that no other instrument is used by the elector for marking of preference of vote. Special pens are used to avoid the possibility of identification of voters at the time of counting of votes.



Unique Serial Numbered pen of violet ink

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

राष्ट्रपतीय निर्वाचन - 2022

(महत्वपूर्ण सूचना)

राष्ट्रपतीय निर्वाचन के लिए मतदान हेतु जाने वाले निर्वाचकों के लिए

- ✓ कृपया मतपत्र पर अधिमान, पीठासीन अधिकारी अथवा उसके द्वारा प्राधिकृत अधिकारी द्वारा विशेष रूप से उपलब्ध कराए गए निर्वाचन आयोग के पेन से ही चिह्नित करें।
- ✓ मतदान स्थान को छोड़ने से पहले, कृपया अपना मत डालने के बाद उक्त पेन को उस अधिकारी को वापस कर दें जिसने इसे आपको दिया था।

- ✗ कृपया मतपत्र पर अधिमान, पीठासीन अधिकारी अथवा उसके द्वारा नियुक्त अधिकारी द्वारा उपलब्ध कराए गए पेन अतिरिक्त किसी और पेन से चिह्नित न करें।
- ✗ मतपत्र पर किसी और पेन से अधिमान चिह्नित करने पर मतपत्र को अस्वीकार कर दिया जाएगा।

Poster of Dos and Don'ts as displayed for the electors during Presidential Election 2022.



Voting from Any Identified Location

The MLAs may vote at the polling booth set up in the Parliament House or the MPs may vote in the Legislative Assemblies of any state or the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry if they intimate the Election Commission well in advance (ten days) to enable the Election Commission to make the essential arrangements (Rule 7 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974). A room in the Parliament House in New Delhi and a room in the Secretariat building of State Legislative Assemblies in each state and the two Union Territories are generally fixed as places of poll by the Election Commission (Rule 7 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974).

"Mr. Ballot Box"

The design of the ballot boxes used in the Presidential elections is approved by the Election Commission and there is uniformity among all the boxes used for the elections both at the Centre and at the State levels. Before the election day, the ballot boxes are thoroughly checked and sealed in the presence of the Returning Officer and his/her team and thereafter, they are flown on a separate air ticket booked under the name of 'Mr. Ballot Box'. It is kept in the front row of the aircraft beside the seat of the officer transporting the materials under personal supervision. The central paramilitary forces escort the Box during their journey from the airports to the Legislature buildings and return to New Delhi Parliament House.

Confirmed

Booking ID: NF2SN3LHJ6T0OUMO0477

Tue, 12 Jul '22 DELHI TO CHANDIGARH 1h 5m

Vistara
UK-637

DEL
DELHI

17:10 hrs, 12 Jul

Indira Gandhi
International Airport,
Terminal 3

[View on Map](#)

1h 5m

Premium Economy

IXC
CHANDIGARH

18:15 hrs, 12 Jul

Chandigarh Airport

Regular Fare
PREMIUM ECONOMY
VALUE

PASSENGER NAME	PNR	E-TICKET NO.	SEAT
1. Mr. Bharat Bhushan Bansal, Adult	WM7RLC	228-5253586471	03D
2. Mr. Ballot Box, Adult	WM7RLC	228-5253586472	03E
3. Mr. Ram Lok Khatana, Adult	WM7RLC	228-5253586473	03F

Air ticket for Mr. Ballot Box in 2022

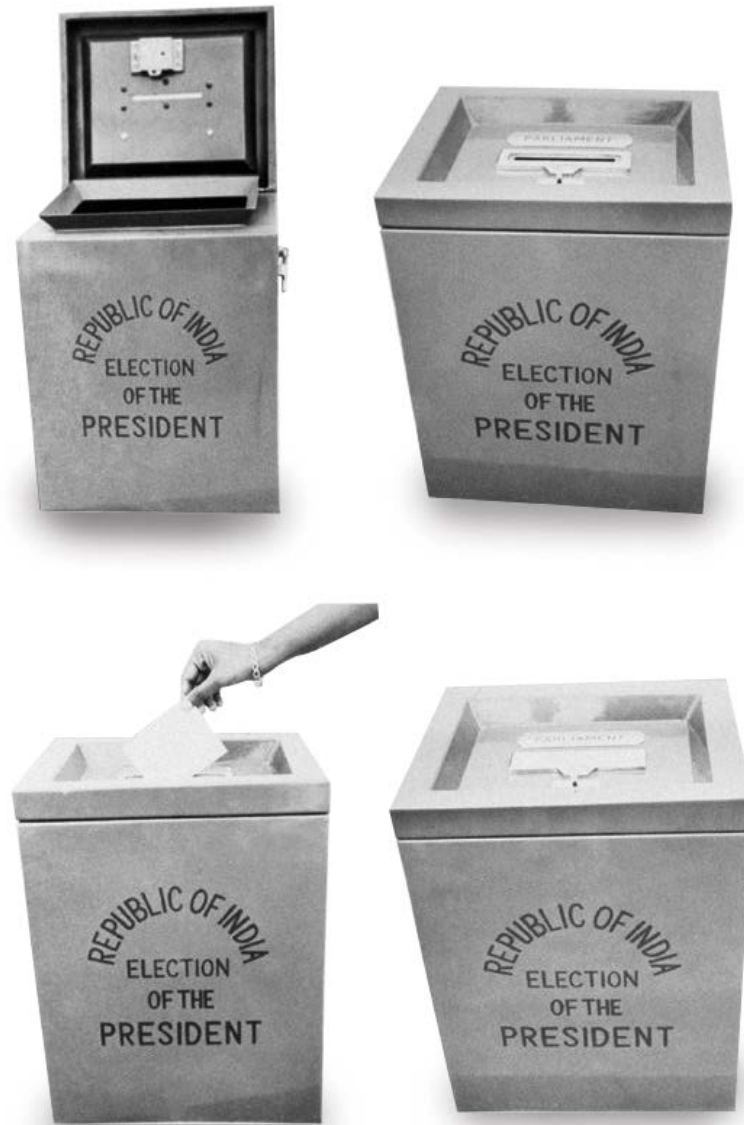


Photo shows four different views of the ballot boxes:- (Top left) Lid open. (Top right) Lid closed, slit for dropping ballot papers in open position. (Bottom left) A hand dropping a ballot paper through the slit (Bottom right) lid and Slit closed.

Scrutiny of the nomination papers filed by the Presidential candidate

- All nomination papers are received by the Returning Officer during the period specified for the purpose by the Election Commission are scrutinised by the Returning Officer herself/himself on the date fixed by the Election Commission (Subsection (1) of Section 4, the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952).
- At the time of scrutiny of the candidates, one proposer or one seconder of the candidates and one other person duly authorised, in writing, by each candidate shall be entitled to be present. They are given the facilities to examine the nomination papers and raise objections in regard to the nomination papers (Section 5E of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Act, 1952).



Counting of Votes

The counting of votes for Presidential elections takes place in New Delhi under the supervision of the Returning Officer

The Returning Officer scrutinises each ballot paper and if found valid, puts the valid ballot paper in the tray meant for the candidate to whom the first preference was marked. After distributing the ballot papers of one State, the Returning Officer and his/her team adds up the valid ballots. Ballot papers are credited to each candidate and these totals are multiplied by the value of each vote and that total is credited to the candidate as the total value of votes secured.

After distributing the valid ballot papers cast by members of each State Legislative Assembly and the Members of Parliament, the Returning Officer totals up the value of valid votes secured by each candidate. For ascertaining the quota sufficient to secure the return of a candidate, the value of votes credited to each contesting candidate in the first round of counting is added up to determine the total value of valid votes polled at the election. Such total value of valid votes is then divided by two, and one is added to the quotient so obtained, ignoring the remainder, if any. The number so determined, is the quota, which a candidate should secure to be declared elected.

On completion of counting, Return of Election (in Form 7 appended to the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules 1974) is signed and issued by the Returning Officer.





Chapter 3

The Presidential Elections

(1952-2022)



FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1952)

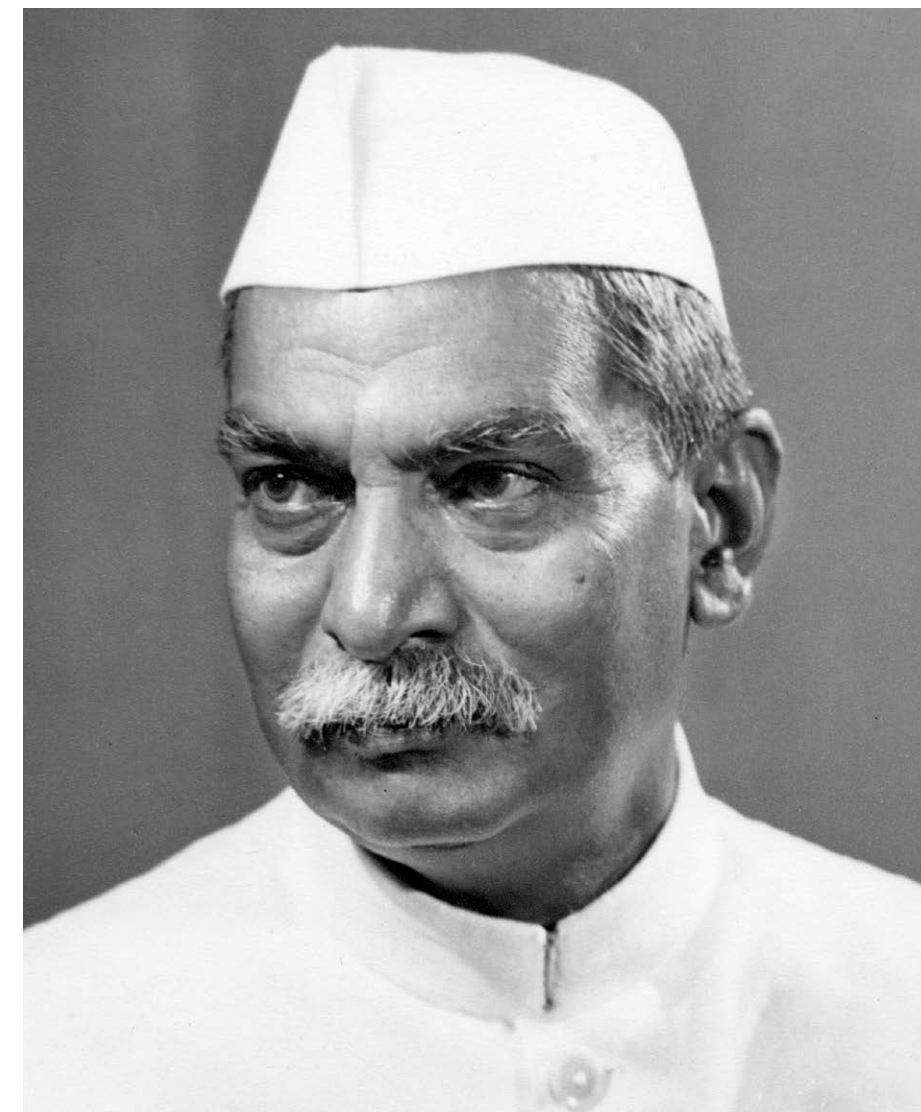
Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a great freedom fighter, was the first President of the Indian Republic. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi since the days of the Champaran Satyagraha (1917), he was one of the pre-eminent leaders of the national movement. In 1946, he was the unanimous choice as the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly. He was elected as the President by the Constituent Assembly on 24 January 1950. (He continued to hold that position till the President in the First Presidential Election in 1952).

Later, the Election Commission of India (ECI) was constituted based on the provisions of the Constitution, and the first Presidential Election was held in 1952. It is historically significant, as under the leadership of Sukumar Sen, the first Chief Election Commissioner, the ECI then set a template of benchmarks and conventions for the Presidential elections.

Apart from Dr. Rajendra Prasad, other candidates included K. T. Shah, who had also been a member of the Constituent Assembly. He eventually secured the next highest number of votes.

In this election, M. N. Kaul, Secretary of first Lok Sabha, was notified as the Returning Officer by the ECI. The Secretaries of the State Legislative Assemblies were notified as Assistant Returning Officers. ECI has set the convention for Presidential elections, accordingly.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was declared as the 'Returned Candidate' on 6 May 1952, and he assumed the office of the President of India on 13 May.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad
(1884-1963)

Term of Office: 26 January 1950 to 13 May 1962



Election Schedule

4 April 1952

Date of issue of Notification

12 April 1952

Last date of Nominations

2 May 1952

Date of Poll

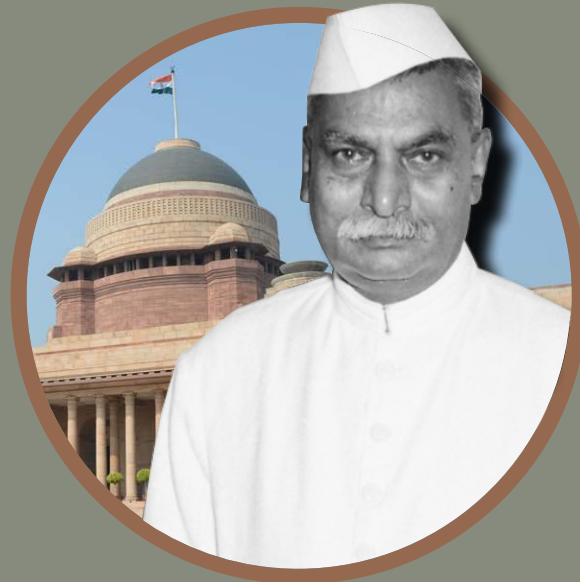
6 May 1952

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and 23 State Legislative Assemblies. The total electors were 4,056.

Value of votes for the elected legislators was calculated based on the 1951 census.



Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 494 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of population.
- The lowest value of votes was for the MLAs of Coorg State (7) and the highest value of votes was for MLAs of Uttar Pradesh (143) on the 1951 census.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

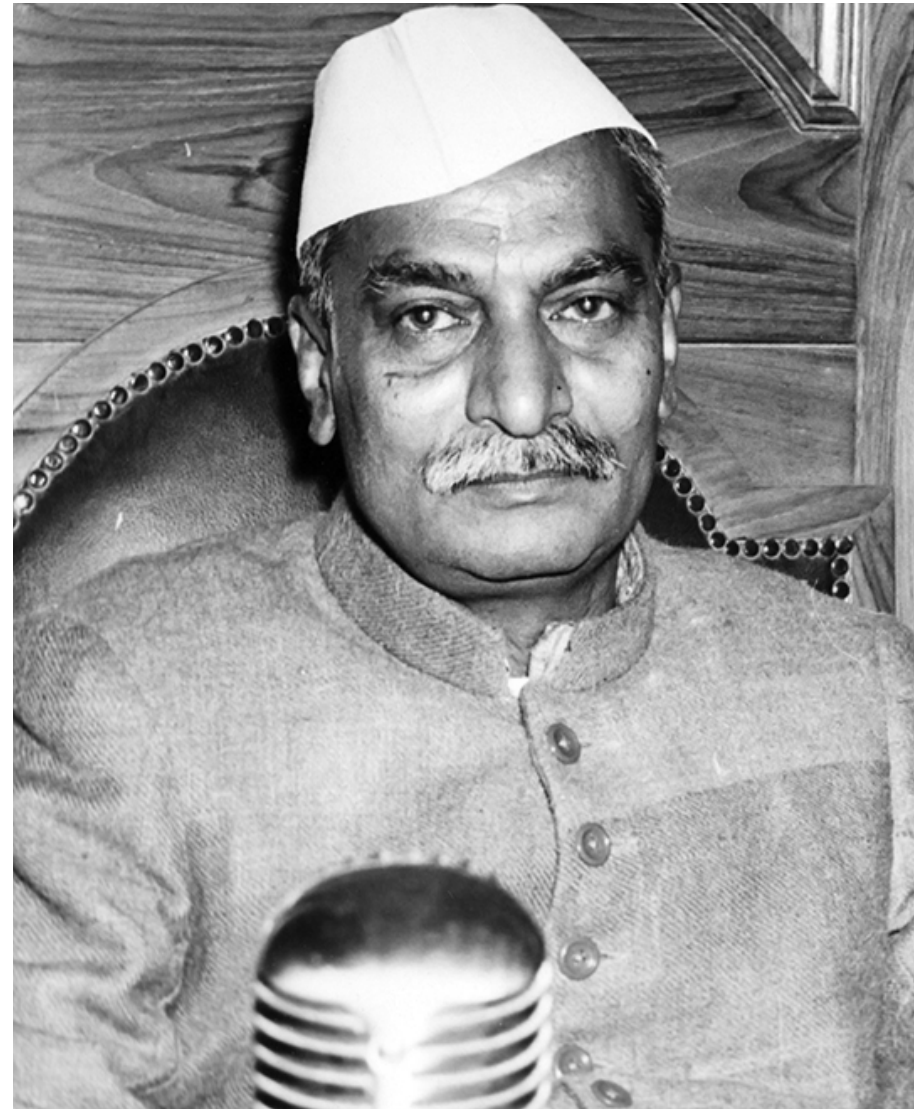
CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Dr. Rajendra Prasad	5,07,400
K.T. Shah	92,827
Thatte Lakshman Ganesh	2,672
Hari Ram	1,954
Krishna Kumar Chatterjee	533
TOTAL	6,05,386



Justice Patanjali Sastri, the Chief Justice of India, administering the oath of office to Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 13 May 1952



Media coverage of Presidential election



Dr. Rajendra Prasad
(1884-1963)

Term of Office: 26 January 1950 to 13 May 1962



SECOND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1957)

When the second Presidential election was announced, Dr. Rajendra Prasad contested again, and won by a large margin. Thus, the veteran leader became the only President to be elected twice. He served two full terms (apart from the period before the First Presidential Election), and had the longest tenure in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In the second Presidential election, the ECI notified S. N. Mukherjee, then Secretary to the Rajya Sabha, as the Returning Officer. Two Under-Secretaries of the Rajya Sabha and the Secretaries of the State Legislative Assemblies were notified as Assistant Returning Officers. The election was conducted under the supervision of Chief Election Commissioner Sukumar Sen.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was declared as the 'Returned Candidate' and the notification to that effect was published on 10 May 1957. He assumed the office of the President of India on 13 May 1957.



Election Schedule

6 April 1957
Date of issue of Notification

16 April 1957
Last date of Nominations

6 May 1957
Date of Poll

10 May 1957
Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and 14 State Legislative Assemblies.

The value of votes for the elected legislators was calculated based on the 1951 census.



Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 496 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of population.
- The lowest value of votes was for MLA of Jammu and Kashmir State (59) and the highest value of votes was for MLA of Uttar Pradesh (147) on the basis of 1951 census.

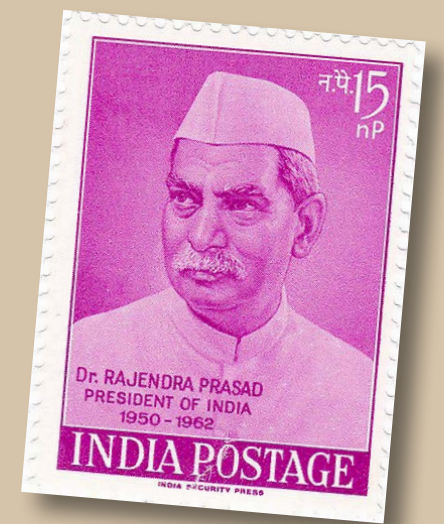
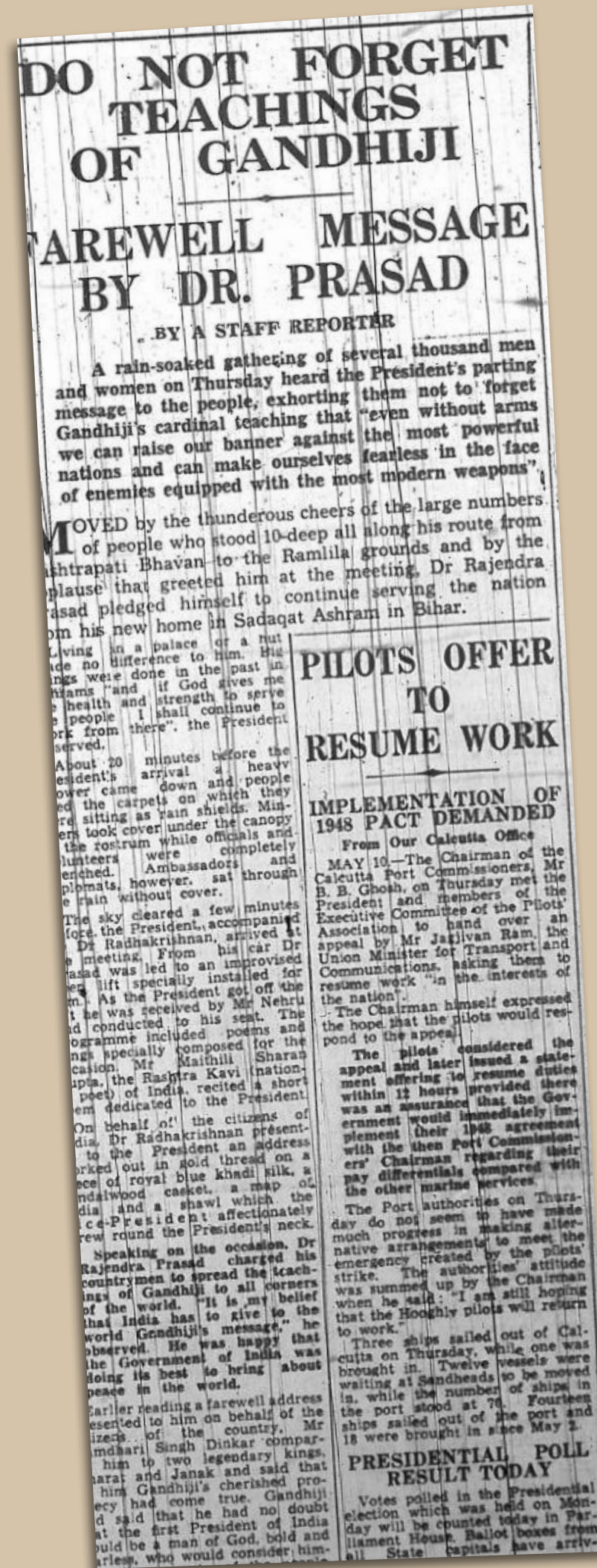
Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Dr. Rajendra Prasad	4,59,698
Nagendra Narayan Das	2,000
Chowdhry Hari Ram	1,498
TOTAL	4,63,196



Media coverage of Presidential election



Commemorative stamps released by India Post featuring Dr. Rajendra Prasad



Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru during the 1957 Presidential election



Sardar Hukum Singh, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, casting his vote



Home Minister Govind Ballabh Pant casting his vote in the Presidential election



Violet Alva, a Rajya Sabha member, casting her vote



Dr. Rajendra Prasad being sworn in as the President for the second term by the Chief Justice of India, Justice S. R. Das, as Vice-President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (seated) look on, at the Central Hall of Parliament House on 13 May 1957



The swearing-in ceremony of 1957 at Rashtrapati Bhavan



Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
(1888-1975)

Term of Office: 13 May 1962 to 12 May 1967

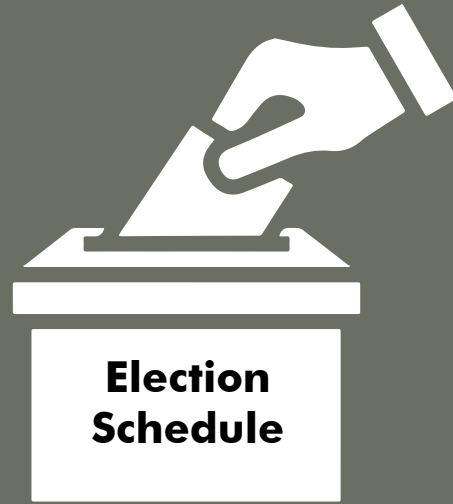


THIRD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1962)

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a world-renowned philosopher, had been a member of the Constituent Assembly, and had served as India's ambassador to the USSR (1949), before he became the first Vice President of India in 1952, and he too served two terms in that office. When he contested the third Presidential Election, he emerged as the leading candidate.

In the third Presidential election, the ECI appointed the Secretary of the Lok Sabha as the Returning Officer. The Deputy Secretary of the Lok Sabha and the Secretaries of the 15 State Legislative Assemblies were notified as Assistant Returning Officers. Election was conducted under the supervision of Chief Election Commissioner K. V. K. Sundaram.

Dr. Radhakrishnan was declared as 'Returned Candidate' and the notification to this effect was published on 13 May 1962. He assumed the office of the President of India on 13 May 1962.



6 April 1962

Date of issue of Notification

16 April 1962

Last date of Nominations

7 May 1962

Date of Poll

11 May 1962

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and 15 State Legislative Assemblies.

The value of votes for the elected legislators was calculated based on the 1951 census, as 1961 Census results were not published at the time of the election.



President-elect Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan accompanied by Indira Gandhi, and other leaders



President-elect Dr. S. Radhakrishnan being sworn in by the Chief Justice of India, Justice Bhuvneshwar Prasad Sinha, as Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the outgoing President, looks on

Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 493 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of population.
- The lowest value of votes was for MLAs of Jammu and Kashmir State (59) and the highest value of votes was for MLAs of Uttar Pradesh (147) on the basis of 1951 census since 1961 census figures were not finally published.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	5,53,067
Chowdhry Hari Ram	6,341
Yamuna Prasad Trisulia	3,537
TOTAL	5,62,945



Commemorative stamps released by India Post featuring Dr. S. Radhakrishnan



President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan signing the register



President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan inspecting his first Guard of Honour



RADHAKRISHNAN IS NOMINATED

*Presidential Candidate:
Husain, Running Mate*

"The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI, April 14.

MR. NEHRU and seven other Congress leaders today separately sent in formal proposals nominating Dr. S. Radhakrishnan for election as President of the Indian Union. Six other leaders, headed by Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, nominated Dr. Zakir Husain for election as Vice President.

The 14 nomination papers were filed with the returning officers—the Secretaries of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha—after the Congress working Committee had, by a resolution, requested Dr. Radhakrishnan and Dr. Zakir Husain to stand for these offices.

The Congress President, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy, wrote to Dr. Radhakrishnan and Dr. Zakir Husain conveying to them the decision of the Working Committee. In his reply, Dr. Radhakrishnan said: "I appreciate the honour and agree to stand for the office."

The returning officer for the Vice-Presidential election also received today a paper nominating Dr. N. C. Samantsinhar, a former Congress member of the Lok Sabha from Bhubaneswar, for election as Vice-President. This entails the first ever contest in the election of Vice-President. Dr. Radhakrishnan was elected uncontested in 1952 and 1957.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad had had challengers in the presidential elections on

both occasions. One of his rivals in 1957, Chaudhuri Hari Ram, has filed his nomination paper this time also.

Dr. Radhakrishnan's name was proposed by Mr. U. N. Dhebar, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy, Mr. Nehru, Mr. A. Thānu Pillai, Mr. Morarji Desai, Dr. B. C. Roy, Mr. K. Kamaraj and Mr. R. Shanker. The respective seconders were: Dr. H. K. Mahtab, Mr. C. B. Gupta, Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim, Mr. A. M. Thomas, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia, Mr. Darbara Singh and Miss Abha Maiti.

Dr. Zakir Husain was nominated by Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha, Mr. S. K. Patil, Mr. C. Subramaniam, Mr. Sadiq Ali and Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda. Their proposals were seconded by Mr. G. Rajagopalan, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Mr. R. S. Doogar, Mr. G. K. Vijaivargiya, Mr. Rameshwar Sahoo and Mr. A. S. Saigal.

Dr. Samantsinhar's name has been proposed by Mr. Bhajahari Mahato and Mr. Lalji Pendse.

The last date for filing nomination papers is April 16, and the scrutiny will be on April 18. The poll, if necessary, will take place on May 7.

RADHAKRISHNAN DECLARED ELECTED PRESIDENT

Assumption Of High
Office On Sunday

LARGE MAJORITY OF VOTES SECURED

"The Times of India" News Service

NEW DELHI, May 11

DR. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan was formally declared elected today as President of India. Of 5,62,945 valid votes cast in the polling on Monday he secured 5,53,067.

His nearest rival, Chaudhuri Hari Ram of Rohtak got 6,341 votes and the other candidate, Mr. Yamuna Prasad Trisulia of Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, 3,537.

The counting of votes began today at 11-30 a.m. and the result was declared at 4 p.m., by Mr. M. N. Kaul, Secretary of the Lok Sabha, and returning officer for the presidential election.

The President is elected by an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and of the State Legislative Assemblies. According to the scale of representation of their constituents in this election, each member of parliament was regarded as having 493 votes and the members of State Assemblies as having varying numbers of vote, ranging between 59 (in Jammu and Kashmir) and 147 (in Uttar Pradesh).

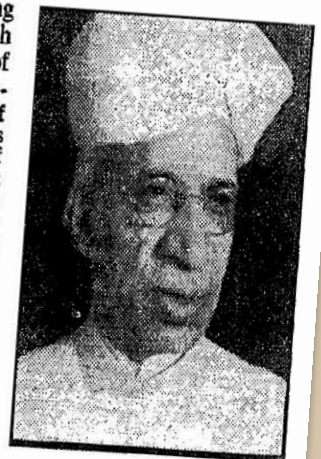
The electoral college had a strength of 3,920. Of the 3,094 who participated in the poll, 2,938 cast their votes for Dr. Radhakrishnan, 41 for Chaudhuri Hari Ram and 17 for Mr. Trisulia.

98 INVALID VOTES

There were 98 invalid votes. In most of these cases the voters had forgotten that under the system of proportional representation by the single transferable vote they had to indicate their preference by putting numerals against the name of each candidate. The ballot boxes from Assam, Orissa, Gujarat and Mysore did not contain any invalid vote.

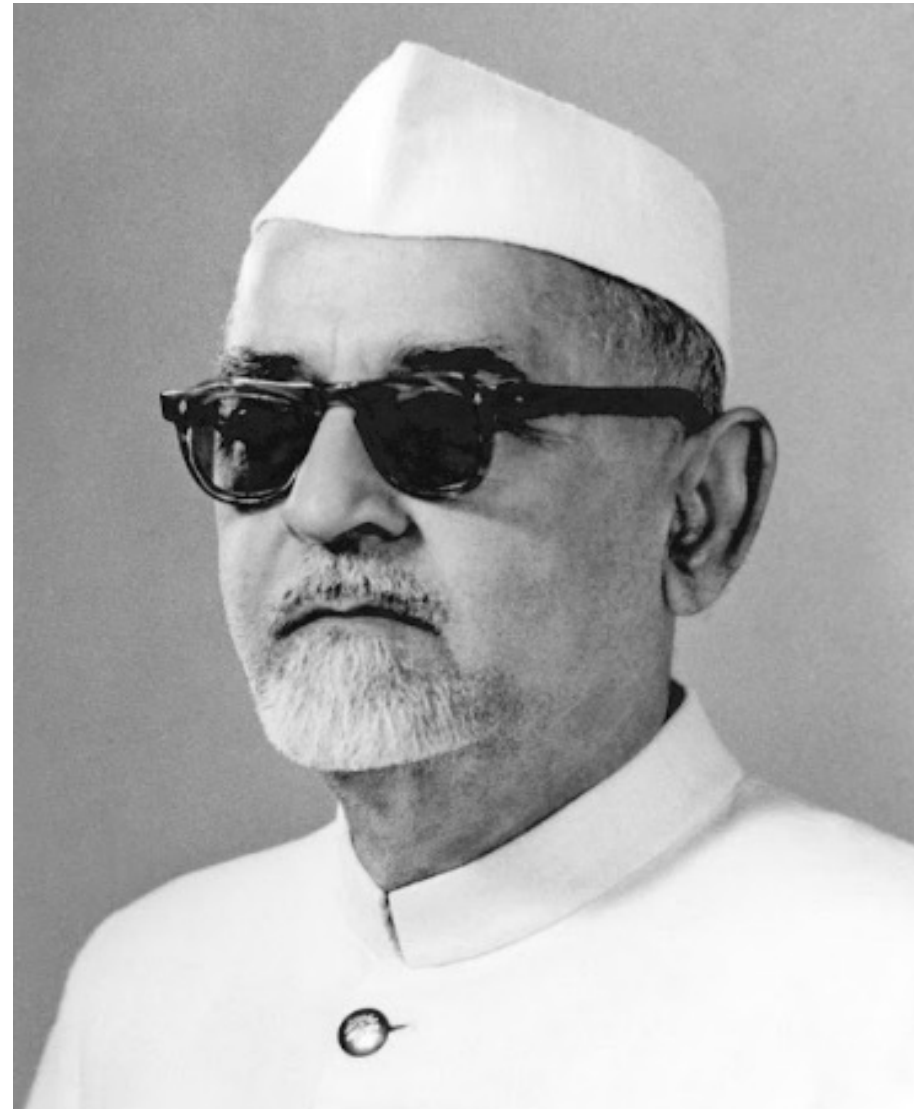
After ten years of Vice-Presidency, Dr. Radhakrishnan will, at the age of 74, succeed Dr. Rajendra Prasad as President. He will assume office on Sunday.

Dr. Radhakrishnan discharged the duties of President in June-July, 1960, while Dr. Rajendra Prasad was away on a tour abroad and acted as President during Dr. Prasad's illness in August-September last year.



Dr. Radhakrishnan

Media coverage of Presidential election



Dr. Zakir Husain

(1897-1969)

Term of Office: 13 May 1967 to 3 May 1969



FOURTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1967)

Dr. Zakir Husain, a noted educationist who had participated in the Freedom Movement under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, had been elected as the second Vice President of India in 1962. Five years later, he was to contest the election for the highest constitutional office.

In the fourth Presidential election, the ECI appointed the Secretary of the Rajya Sabha as the Returning Officer as per the rotation policy. The Deputy Secretary of the Rajya Sabha secretariat and the Secretaries of the 17 State Legislative Assemblies acted as the Assistant Returning Officers. Election was conducted under the supervision of Chief Election Commissioner K. V. K. Sundaram.

Dr. Zakir Hussain was declared 'Returned Candidate' and the notification announcing this was published on 9 May 1967. He assumed the office of the President of India on 13 May 1967.



Election Schedule

3 April 1967

Date of issue of Notification

13 April 1967

Last date of Nominations

6 May 1967

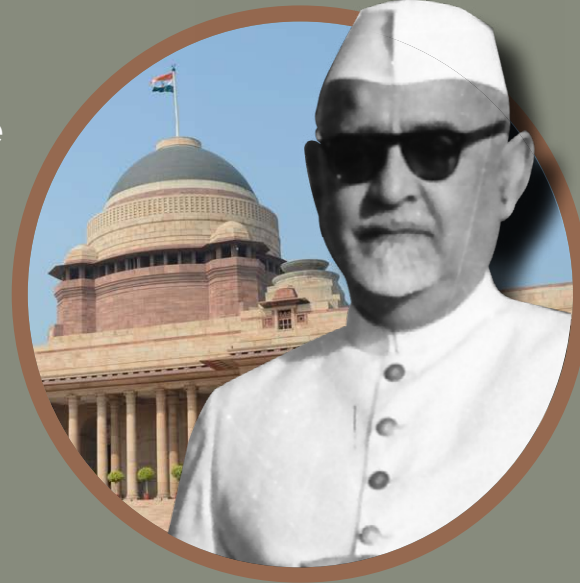
Date of Poll

9 May 1967

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha (520), Rajya Sabha (228) and 17 State Legislative Assemblies (3383). Thus, the total electors were 4,131.



Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 576 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of population.
- The lowest value of votes was for MLAs of Nagaland State (08) and the highest value of votes was for MLAs of Uttar Pradesh (174) on the basis of 1961 census.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Dr. Zakir Hussain	4,71,244
Kota Subbarao	3,63,971
Khubi Ram	1,369
Yamuna Prasad Trisulia	750
Bhamburkar Shrinivas Gopal	232
Brahma Deo	232
Krishna Kumar Chatterjee	125
Kumar Kamla Singh	125
Chandradutt Senani	0
U.P. Chugani	0
Dr. M.C. Davar	0
Ch. Hari Ram	0
Dr. Man Singh	0
Manohara Holkar	0
Motilal Bhikabhai Patel	0
S. R. Sharma Hoysala	0
Satyabhakt	0
TOTAL	8,38,048



Ram Manohar Lohia with other Members of Parliament on the Polling day



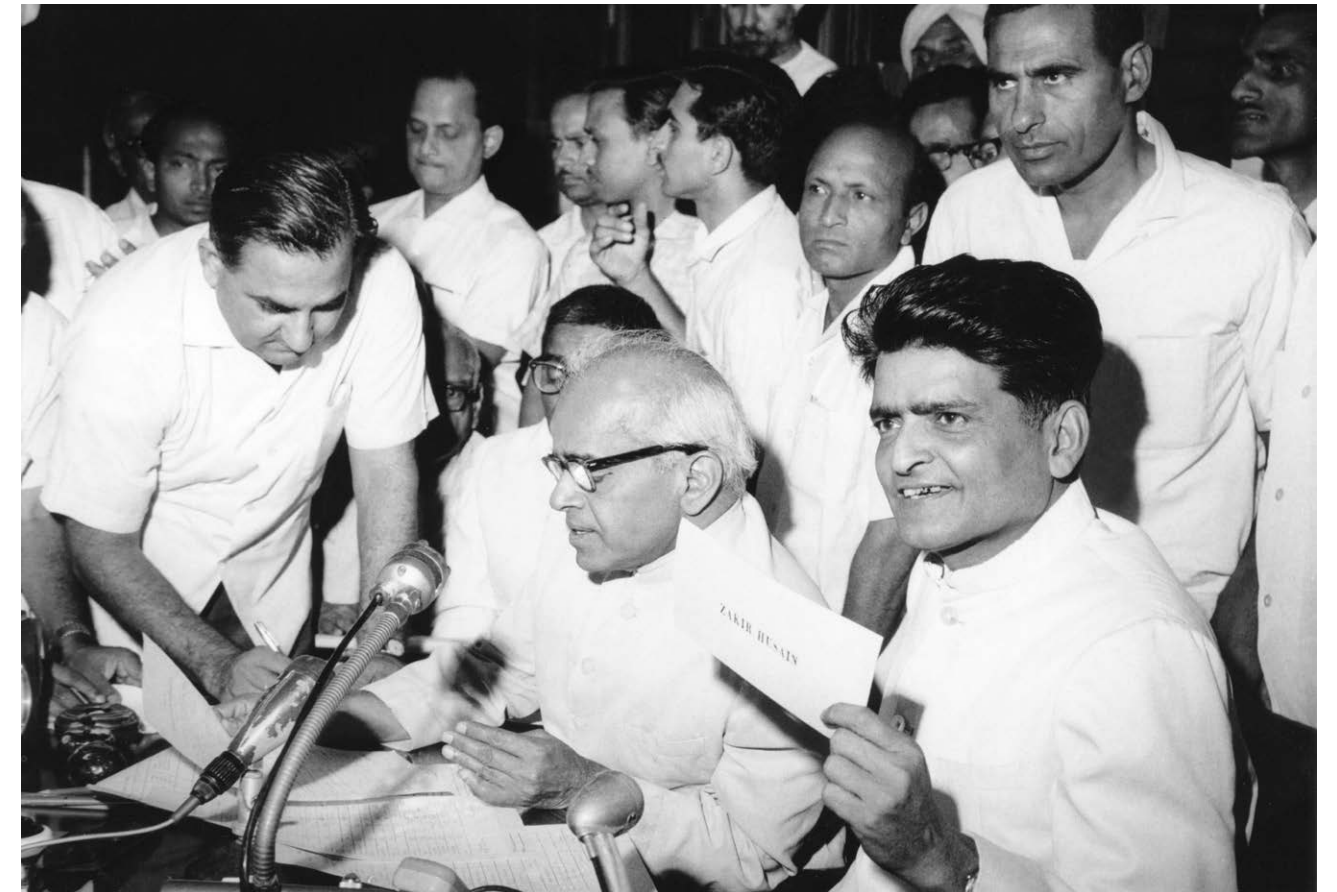
Minister for Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation, Jagjivan Ram casting his vote



Prime Minister Indira Gandhi with other Members of Parliament during Presidential poll



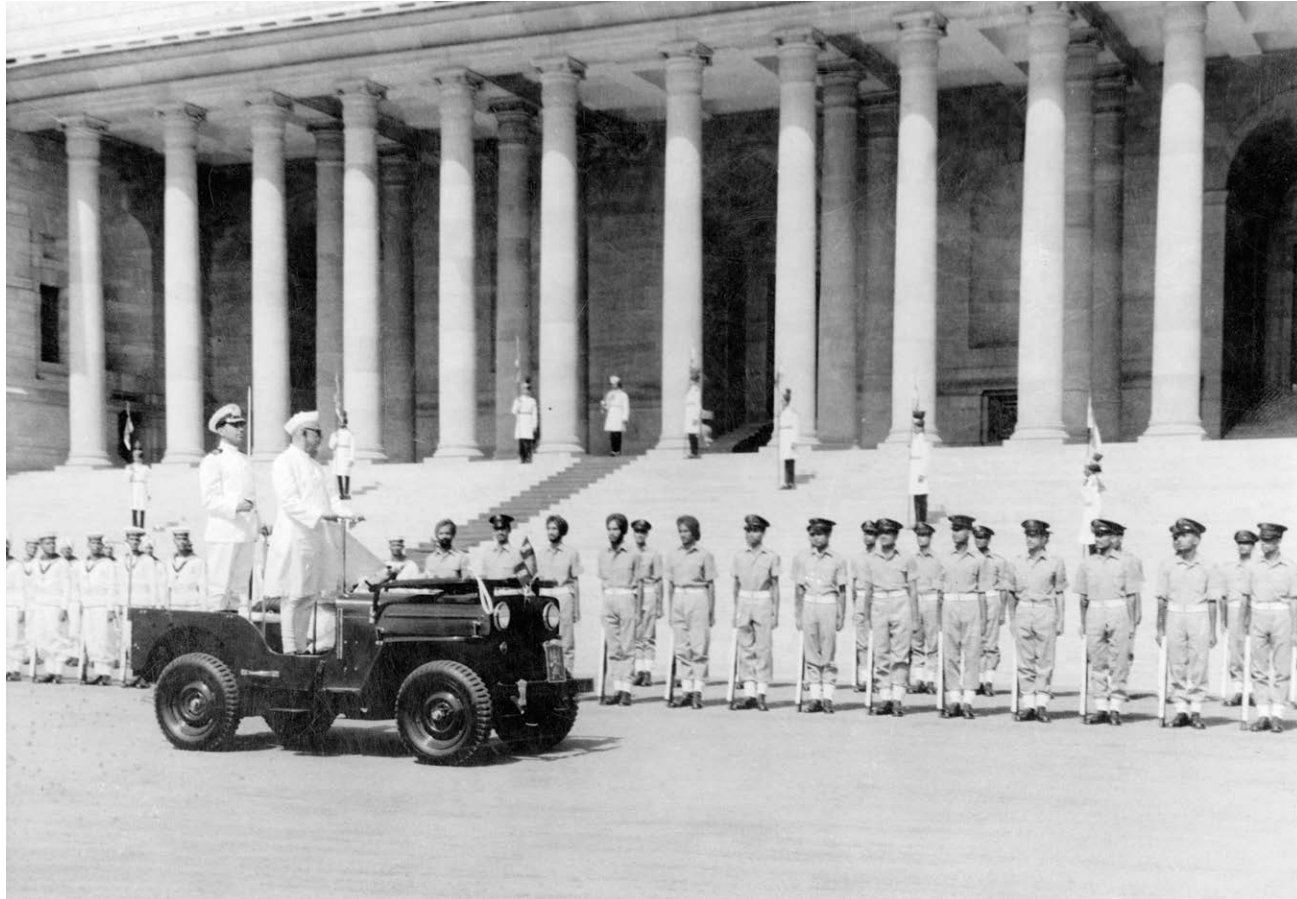
The voting under way for the Presidential election



▲ The Returning Officer declares Dr. Zakir Husain elected as President. With him is K.V.K. Sundaram, Chief Election Commissioner of India

▼ President-elect Dr. Zakir Husain being sworn in by the Chief Justice of India, Justice K. N. Wanchoo, as the outgoing President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan looks on





President Dr. Zakir Husain inspecting his first Guard of Honour



Media coverage of Presidential election



DR. ZAKIR HUSAIN ELECTED PRESIDENT

107,273-Vote Margin Over Subba Rao

CONGRESS GAINS IN SOME STATES

FROM OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY.—DR. ZAKIR HUSAIN WAS TODAY ELECTED THE COUNTRY'S NEXT PRESIDENT. HIS VICTORY WAS EXPECTED, BUT THE MARGIN OF 107,273 VOTES WITH WHICH HE DEFEATED MR. SUBBA RAO, THE CANDIDATE OF THE COMBINED OPPOSITION, WAS BOTH UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE AND DELICATE.

WHILE THE EAGERLY EXPECTED RESULT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL POLL WAS WELCOMED ENTHUSIASTICALLY IN THE CONGRESS PARTY AS WELL AS MANY OTHERS, DR. HUSAIN HIMSELF REACTED TO IT WITH CHARACTERISTIC HUMILITY. IN A STATEMENT HE THANKED THE NATION FOR REPOSING SO GREAT A CONFIDENCE IN A MEET TEACHER, AND ASSURED THE PEOPLE THAT HE WOULD STRIVE CONSTANTLY TO BE WORTHY OF THIS TRUST.

He defined his objectives as a "pure life", individual and social; an insistence on the means being as pure as the ends; an active and sustained sympathy for the work and the good of the underdog; and unity among the diverse sections of the Indian people. He also said: "I have to work hard and talk less, quarrel less, work hard and over hard and hold together."

Dr. Husain made his brief statement to the Press in the reception hall of his residence in Muzium Road, surrounded by a stream of people who had gone there to congratulate him. Among the first to do so was Mrs. Indira Gandhi, for whom Dr. Husain's election as President is a great personal triumph.

It was widely expected that the result of the Presidential election would be a narrow one, with the Congress Party's candidate, Dr. Zakir Husain, facing a stiff opposition from Mr. Subba Rao, who was backed by the combined forces of the Indian National Congress, the Communist Party, and the Forward Bloc. The margin of 107,273 votes was a surprise to many.

The election was held on August 13, 1952, and was the first time that a woman, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was present at the ceremony. Dr. Husain's victory was a significant one for the Congress Party, which had been in power since 1947.

The Vice-President, Mr. B. S. P. Srinivasan, was elected for a term of five years. The election was held in a free and fair manner, and the results were accepted by all sides.

Dr. Husain's election was a landmark event in the history of India. He was the first Indian to be elected President of the country. His tenure was marked by a commitment to the welfare of the people and a dedication to the principles of democracy.

Dr. Husain's election was a testament to the confidence of the Indian people in a leader who was known for his integrity and his commitment to the nation. His presidency was a period of stability and progress for India.

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DR. HUSAIN TO STRIVE FOR UNITY

Dr. Zakir Husain, the President-elect, has expressed his determination to work for the unity and integrity of the Indian nation. He has promised to be a "pure life" and to work for the welfare of the people.

The Voting Trend

The chart shows the votes polled by Dr. Zakir Husain and Mr. Subba Rao, who had to be elected by the people.

State	Dr. Husain	Mr. Subba Rao
National	1,100,000	1,000,000
Andhra	1,100,000	1,000,000
Assam	1,100,000	1,000,000
Bihar	1,100,000	1,000,000
Madhya Pradesh	1,100,000	1,000,000
Madras	1,100,000	1,000,000
U.P.	1,100,000	1,000,000
West Bengal	1,100,000	1,000,000
Other States	1,100,000	1,000,000

SITUATION IN TRIZPUR QUIET

SHILLONG, May 9.—The situation in the state of Assam is quiet. The government has taken steps to maintain law and order in the state.

MORATORIUM ON DEBT 'CERTAIN'

NEW DELHI, Tuesday.—It is now almost certain that the All-India Consortium countries will accept a "virtual moratorium" on India's current post-war debt repayments amounting to \$400 million.

WEEK GAINS RECORDED

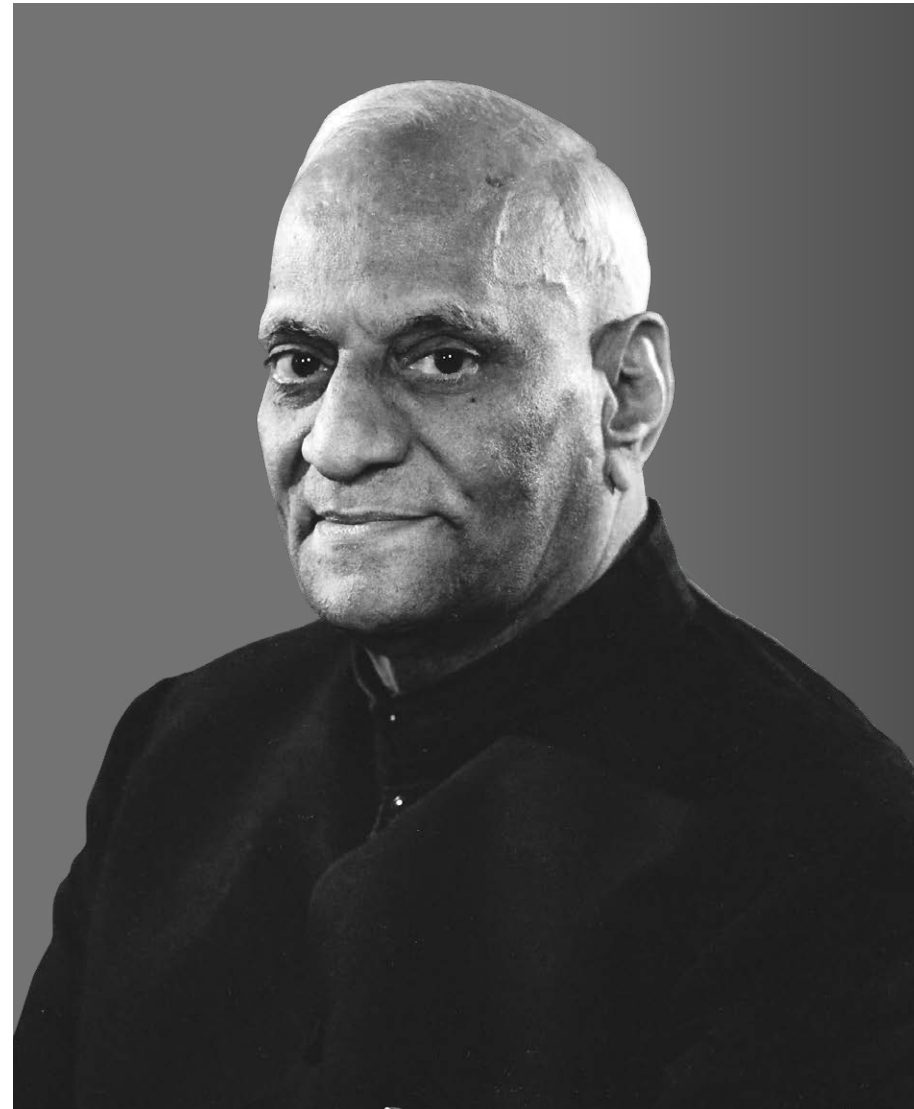
DELHI, May 9.—The week's trading in the stock market has been a record one. The Sensex has risen by 100 points.

DR. HUSAIN WELLS

DR. HUSAIN WELLS. The President-elect, Dr. Zakir Husain, is expected to be a successful one. He has a long and distinguished career behind him.

TODAY'S WEATHER IN DELHI

DELHI, May 9.—The weather in Delhi is pleasant. The temperature is in the mid-20s.



Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri
(1894-1980)

*Term of Office: 3 May 1969 to 20 July 1969 (as Acting President)
and 24 August 1969 to 24 August 1974*

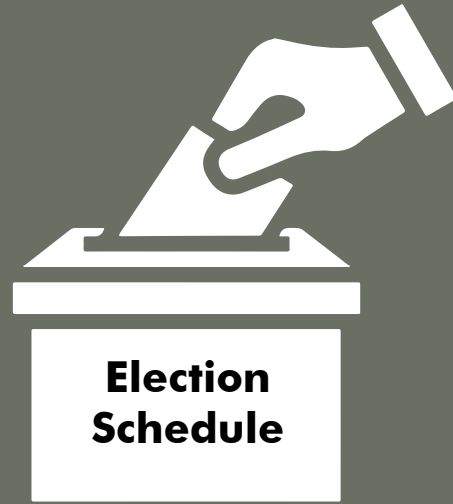


FIFTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1969)

Dr. Zakir Hussain died in office on 3 May 1969, necessitating an early election. Varahagiri Venkata Giri, a Gandhian freedom fighter who was then the Vice President of India, assumed the office of the President under the provisions of Article 61 of the Constitution. After the Presidential election was notified, Giri resigned from the office of the Vice President and also as the Acting President on 20 July 1969, in order to file his candidature. (The Chief Justice of India, Justice M. Hidayatullah then served as the acting President.)

In the fifth Presidential election, the ECI notified the then Secretary to the Lok Sabha as the Returning Officer. The Deputy Secretary of the Lok Sabha secretariat as per the convention and Secretaries of State Legislative Assemblies acted as the Assistant Returning Officers. Chief Election Commissioner S. P. Sen Verma supervised the election.

With another Gandhian freedom fighter, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, deciding to file his nomination, it turned out to be a closely contested election.



14 July 1969

Date of issue of Notification

24 July 1969

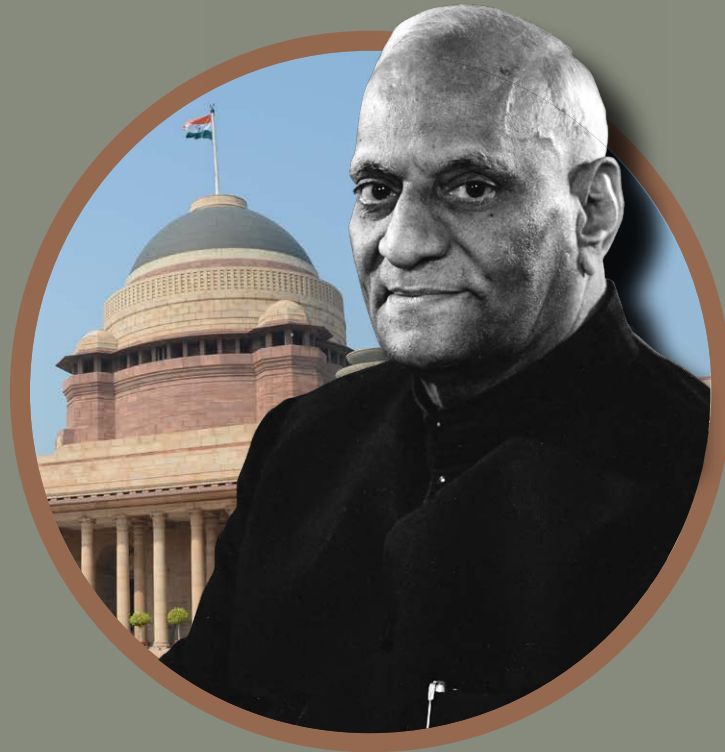
Last date of Nominations

16 Aug 1969

Date of Poll

20 Aug 1969

Counting of Votes



Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

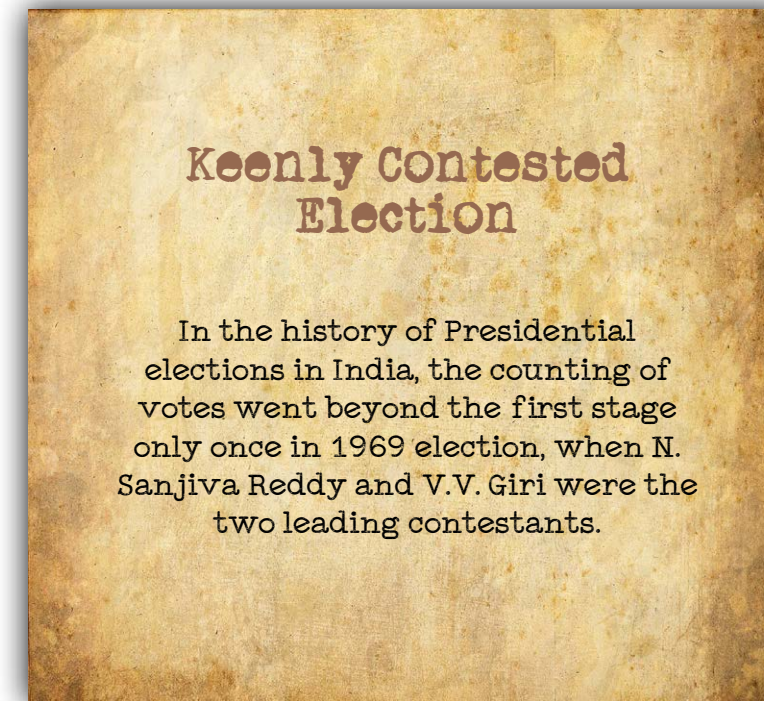
CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
V.V. Giri	4,01,515
Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	3,13,548
C.D. Deshmukh	1,12,769
Chandradatt Senani	5,814
Gurcharan Kaur	940
Rajabhoj Pandurang Nathuji	831
Pandit Babu Lal Mag	576
Ch. Hari Ram	125
Sharma Manovihari Anirudh	125
Khubi Ram	94
Bhagmal	Nil
Krishna Kumar Chatterjee	Nil
Santosh Kumar Kachhwaha	Nil
Dr. Ramdular Tripathi Chakor	Nil
Ramanlal Purushottam Vyas	Nil
TOTAL	8,36,337



V. V. Giri (centre) with Jyoti Basu and Ajoy Mukherjee of the West Bengal United Front parties in Calcutta on 2 August 1969

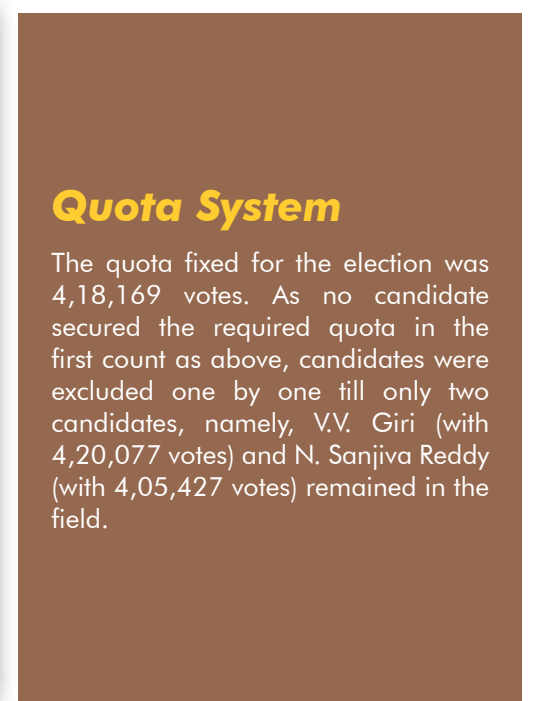


K. Kamraj casting his vote in the Presidential election of 1969



Keenly Contested Election

In the history of Presidential elections in India, the counting of votes went beyond the first stage only once in 1969 election, when N. Sanjiva Reddy and V.V. Giri were the two leading contestants.



Quota System

The quota fixed for the election was 4,18,169 votes. As no candidate secured the required quota in the first count as above, candidates were excluded one by one till only two candidates, namely, V.V. Giri (with 4,20,077 votes) and N. Sanjiva Reddy (with 4,05,427 votes) remained in the field.



Morarji Desai casting his vote during the Presidential election, 1969



Lok Sabha Speaker Dr. G.S. Dhillon on his way to cast vote for the Presidential election in New Delhi on 16 August 1969

Crowds gather to check election updates in the Parliament House



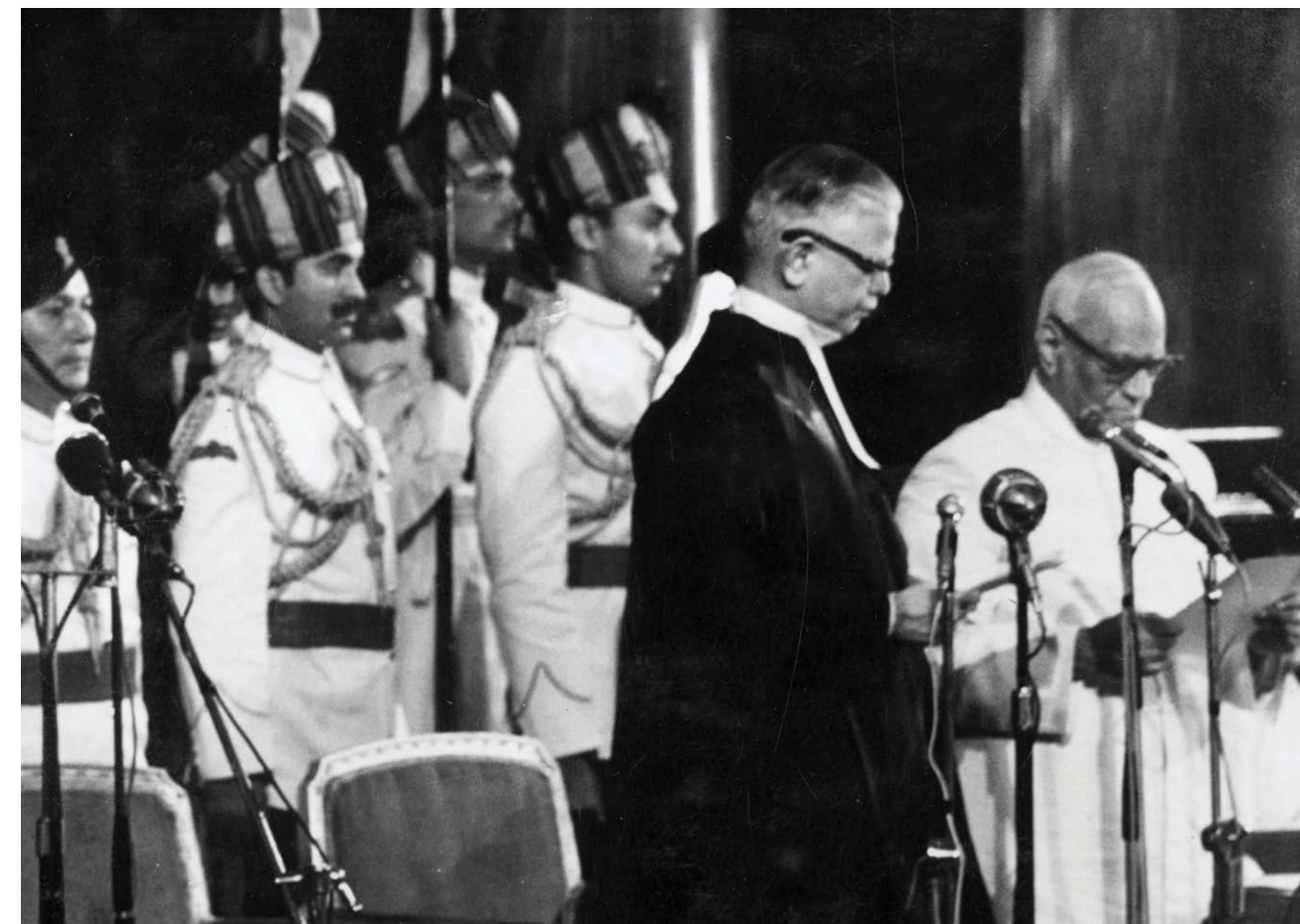
V.V. Giri and his wife, Saraswati Bai, after the results of the Presidential election were declared



Prime Minister Indira Gandhi greeting V.V. Giri on his success in the Presidential election



Presidential Candidate V.V. Giri with poll officials



President-elect V. V. Giri taking the oath of the office of the President of India

President V. V. Giri inspecting his first Guard of Honour



Innovation Introduced to Ensure Secrecy of Voting

The fifth Presidential election was significant not only because of it was held under an extraordinary situation that arose due to premature vacancy arising in the office of the President that necessitated hasty preparations on part of the ECI to fill in the vacant seats of legislators and Parliamentarians to maximise the number of electors.

An innovation was introduced for the first time to ensure strict secrecy of voting. The serial numbers on the back of the ballot papers were covered with coloured slips of paper pasted at the four corners. The ballot papers were shuffled three or four times during the polling so that the agents of the candidates find it difficult to note down the serial numbers to identify the votes cast by members during counting. For the first time, some MLAs were allowed to cast their votes at Parliament House in New Delhi instead of their state capitals.

As this was a close contest, it also witnessed some criticism from political parties. Some objected to the gap of four days between the date of polling and the date of counting. Some pointed out that the counting could have been arranged also in the state capitals apart from the National capital.

The ECI clarified its stand objectively to all:

- On the for-day gap, it was clarified that there were numerous postal ballot papers for electors who were under preventive detention. They were detained at outlying stations and the Commission wanted to ensure that they had sufficient time to send their votes to reach the Returning Officer before counting.
- The polled ballot boxes had to come from the States of the North-East, which are far from the national capital. All previous Presidential elections – in 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967 – were held in the first half of May when the weather was good. In 1969, for the first time, the election was held in August. Weather conditions in that month in the North-East were extremely inclement and unfavourable. The Commission was in constant touch with the meteorological authorities. Flights were delayed or cancelled. Ultimately the ballot boxes had to be carried from Guwahati by an Army courier plane under special escort.
- As for the venue of counting, it was a well settled procedure of the Presidential elections. In the proportional representation by a single transferable system of voting, counting could not be done in a piecemeal manner at different locations to arrive at a decisive result.

It was suggested that the agents of the candidate should be allowed to travel in the same flight, from various state capitals in which ballot boxes were being carried to New Delhi. The Commission agreed to this request. The Commission directed the civil aviation authorities to permit the escort of the polled ballot boxes (respective Assistant Returning Officers) to keep or place the sealed ballot boxes by his/her side or close to his/her seat in the flight.



Media coverage of Presidential election

GIRI IS PRESIDENT
14,650 -vote majority in second count
 NEW DELHI, Aug. 20. (UNI & PTI) Mr. V. V. Giri was today elected President of India. He defeated the Congress nominee, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy, by a margin of 14,650 votes in the second count in the most Presidential election in the history of the country.

Indira hails victory
 NEW DELHI, Aug. 20 (PTI) Prime Minister Indira Gandhi tonight celebrated Mr. V. V. Giri as the election as President. In a statement immediately after the announcement of Mr. Giri's election, Mrs. Gandhi said that Mr. Giri had been a "valiant fighter in our national life with a distinguished record as public servant. Ahead of a career in public life, Mrs. Gandhi said "we have to wait and see". A correspondent asked about the unity in the Congress party, she said, "I certainly would stick for unity. A surprise crowd gathered in front of the residence of Mr. Giri-Reddy some time after the result was known. She stood on an improvised platform and addressed them. Mrs. Gandhi said this was not the time for a speech. "I want to thank you for your congratulations."

Reddy: no comment
 NEW DELHI, Aug. 20 (PTI) Congress Presidential nominee Sanjiva Reddy said he would not comment on the result of the election.

'Democracy wins'
 NEW DELHI, Aug. 20 (PTI) The President-elect, Mr. V. V. Giri, in a statement said tonight: "I am indeed grateful to the electorate consisting of the representatives of the people for choosing me to the highest office in the land. In all humility I consider this as not my victory but the success of the democratic traditions for which we had laid a secure base. It will be my earnest endeavour to do my humble bit to the cause of our people. I deem this position as yet another opportunity of service to my fellow countrymen. "It will be my duty to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and in this I am sure the goodwill, support and co-operation of all sections of the population will be available to me in full measure."

Final tally
 The final tally of votes polled by the 15 Presidential candidates after the second count are:
 V. V. Giri 4,20,077
 Sanjiva Reddy 4,05,427
 C. D. Deshmukh 1,12,769
 Maharaj Gureharan
 Kaur of Naba 940
 Hari Ram 125
 Khubi Ram 94
 Babulal Mag 576
 P. N. Rajabhoj 831
 Chandras Datt Senani 5,814
 S. M. Anrudh 123
 The five other, Bhagmal, K. K. Chatterjee, Santosh Singh Kachhawa, Dr. R. T. Chakor and R. P. Vyas did not poll any votes.

High drama at counting: page 8; Statewise tally of votes: page 9; Big defections from Congress: page 9.

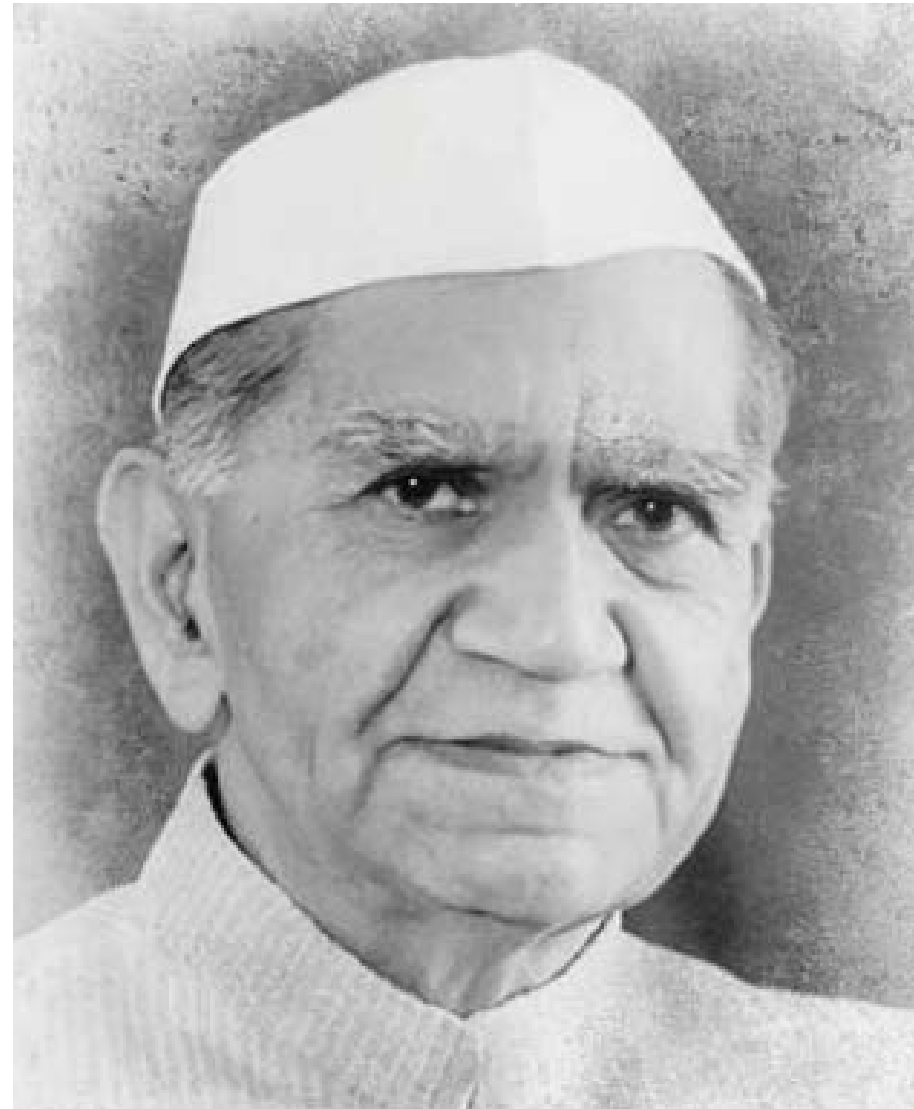
Mrs. Gandhi calls on Giri
 NEW DELHI, Aug. 21 (PTI & UNI) Mrs. Sarawati Bai Giri, First Lady-elect, warmly welcomed Mrs. Indira Gandhi as "my darling daughter" when the Prime Minister called on the President-elect this morning. Mrs. Giri also went up to the main gate of the house saying, "I was one and my darling daughter" when Mrs. Gandhi left after her brief, informal chat with Mr. Giri. Through Mr. V. V. Giri considered it "untraditional" to oblige press photographers, he shook hands with Mrs. Gandhi. The press were given access moments on Wednesday night when Mr. Giri showed an "overreaction" as his residence: "I don't get anything to the press." Mrs. Gandhi said, "I don't know the impact of his 'Please take my message from Mr. Giri' he said. (See) Pressed in his anti-theft with whom he is staying, at the Defence Colony. (See also page 7)

Progressive take-over of imports
 NEW DELHI, Aug. 21 (PTI) The Minister for Foreign Trade, H. R. Bhagat told government is to "take over progressively import of industrial raw materials". Mr. Bhagat was answering a question by Mr. A. G. Kulkarni in view of alleged abuses, the government thought it time was fit for nationalisation or canalising all export-trade through Government agencies.

Cotton may come

वरहगिरि वेंकट गिरि V.V.GIRI
 भारत के राष्ट्रपति PRESIDENT OF INDIA
 1969-1974

Commemorative postage stamp released by India Post in 1974 featuring V. V. Giri



Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed

(1905-1977)

Term of Office: 24 August 1974 to 11 February 1977

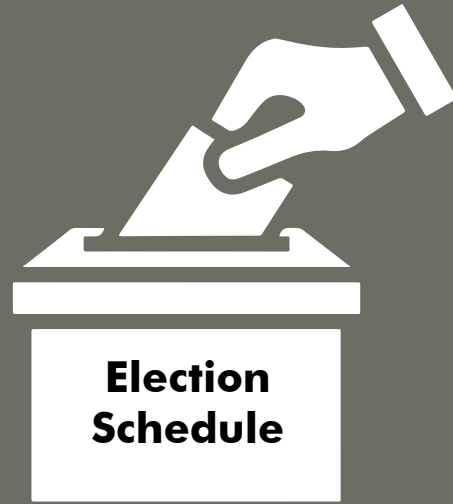


SIXTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1974)

Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was a Union Minister before he contested the sixth Presidential election. The other candidate was Tridib Chaudhuri, a freedom fighter who had been a member of every Lok Sabha till then.

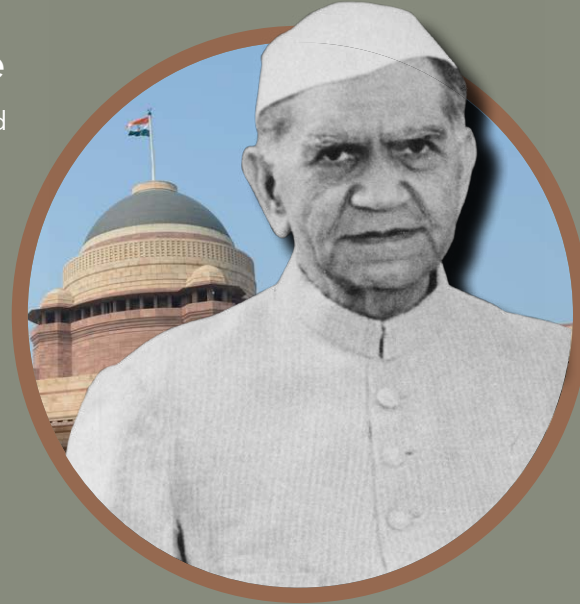
The sixth Presidential election had the Secretary to the Rajya Sabha as the Returning Officer. The Joint Secretary of the Rajya Sabha secretariat and the Secretaries of the 21 State Legislative Assemblies acted as the Assistant Returning Officers. T. Swaminathan, Chief Election Commissioner, supervised the election.

Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was declared the winner and he assumed office on 24 August 1974.

**16 July 1974***Date of issue of Notification***30 July 1974***Last date of Nominations***17 Aug 1974***Date of Poll***20 Aug 1974***Counting of Votes*

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha [521], Rajya Sabha [230] and 21 State Legislative Assemblies [3654]. Thus the total electors were 4,405. However, the Legislative Assembly of Gujarat with 182 members was not in existence as it was dissolved on 15 March 1974 and the new House could not be constituted before the Presidential election.



Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 723 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of population.
- The lowest value of votes was for the MLAs of Nagaland State (09) and the highest value of votes was for the MLAs of Uttar Pradesh (208) on the basis of 1971 census.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed	7,65,587
Tridib Chaudhuri	1,89,196
TOTAL	9,54,783



Changes in the Law

The experience of the five Presidential elections held in 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967 and 1969 had revealed that people often offered themselves as candidates for the highest office of President without even a remote chance of getting elected. Another matter of concern was the casual manner in which people approached a court of law to challenge the election to the office of the President.

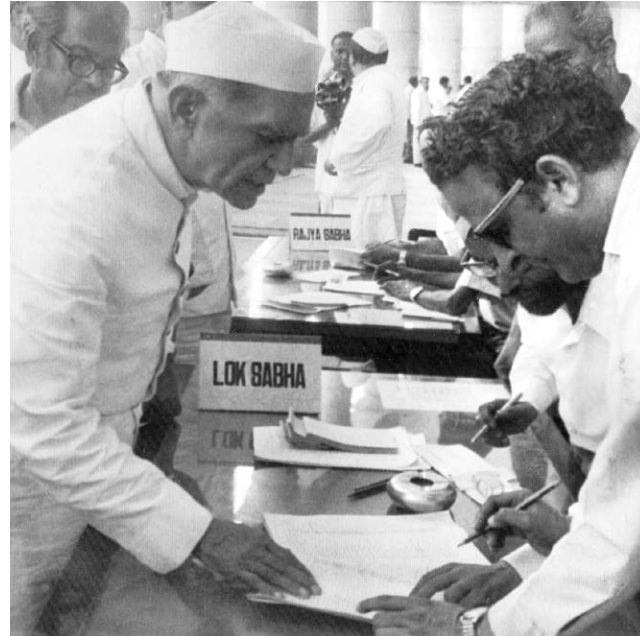
In order to remedy these shortcomings, the Government, on the recommendations of the Commission, presented a Bill in Parliament to amend the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Act, 1952, which was passed on 23 March 1974. The main features of the amendment are:

1. The nomination paper of a Presidential candidate shall be subscribed by at least 10 electors as proposers and 10 electors as seconders.
2. The security deposit is made at Rs. 2,500.
3. Election petitions challenging an election can be presented only before the Supreme Court by any contesting candidate or by minimum 20 electors joined together as petitioners.
4. The timetable for the elections to the office of the President and Vice President was made statutory.
5. It was provided that the last date for making nominations shall be the 14th day after the publication of the notification calling the election, the scrutiny will be on the day following such last date for filing nominations, the last date for withdrawal will be the second day following the date of scrutiny and the date of poll, if necessary, shall be not earlier than the fifteenth day after the last date for withdrawal.

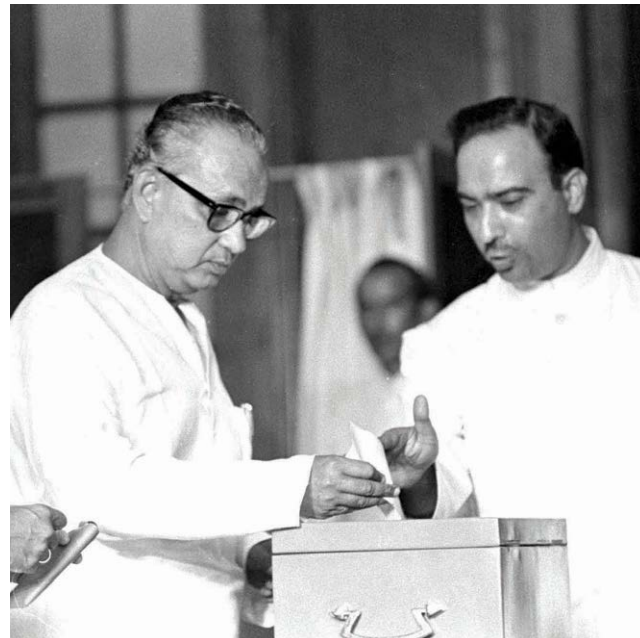
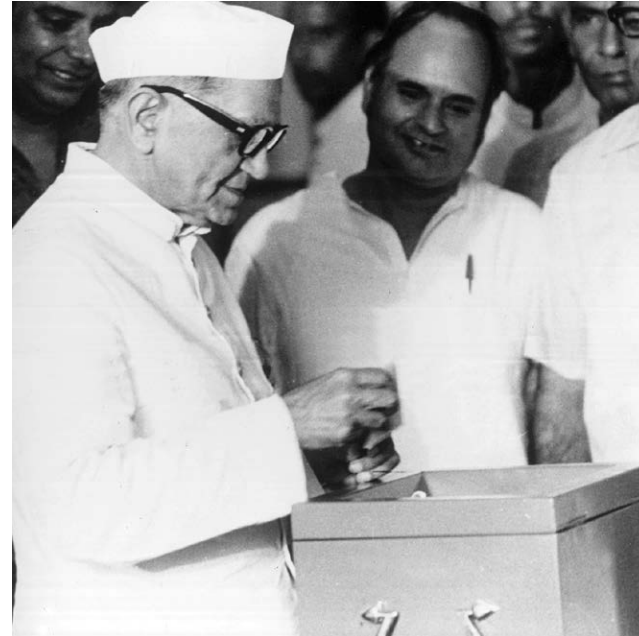
In view of the extensive amendments, the Government in consultation with the ECI issued a new set of Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, replacing the Rules of 1952.



Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed at the Parliament House during the polling



Presidential candidate Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed casts his vote at Parliament House in Delhi during the Presidential election on 17 August 1974



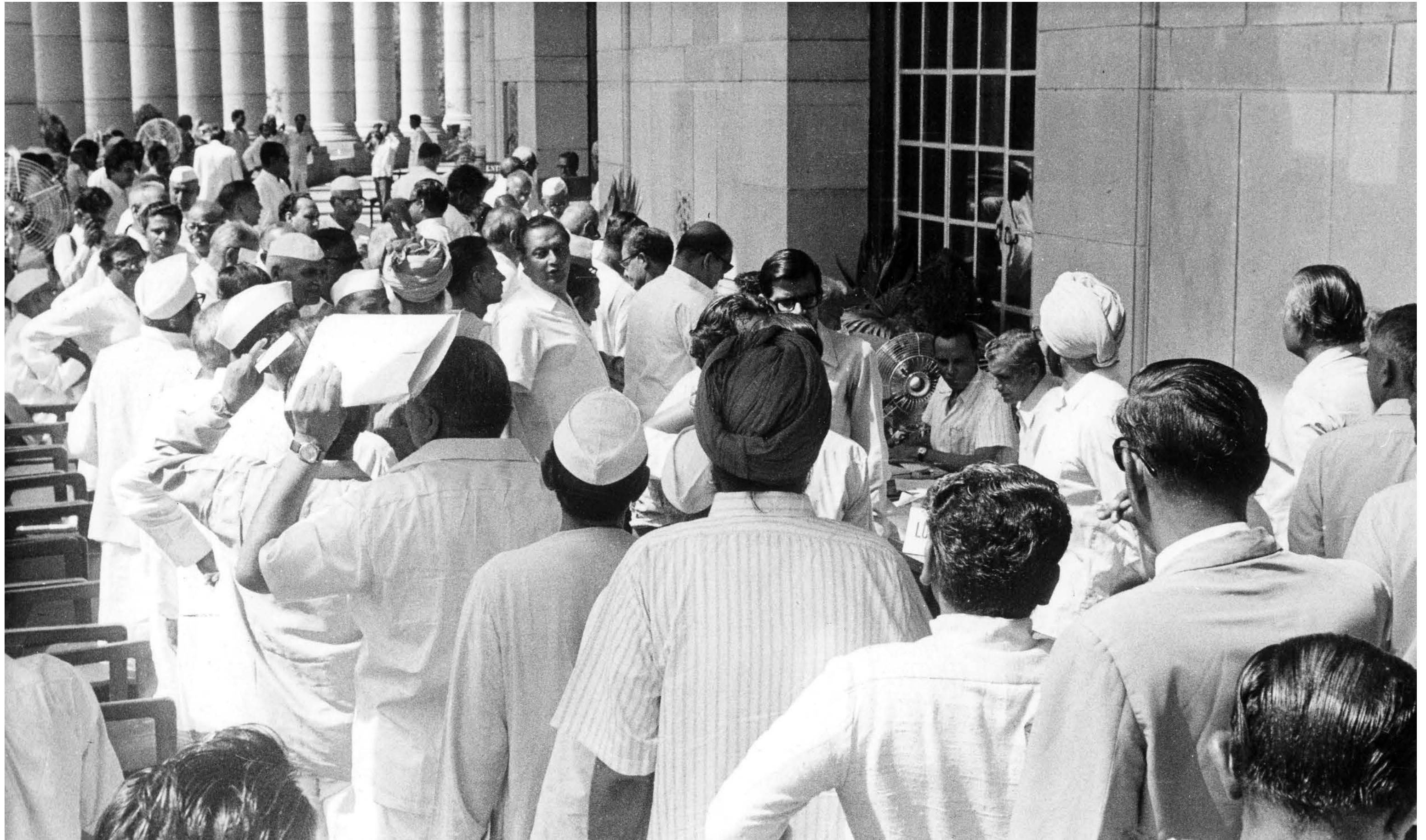
Tridib Chaudhuri, one of the two candidates, arrives to cast his vote in the Presidential election at Parliament House



Yashpal Kapoor (center) arrives during the voting process for Presidential election, at Parliament House



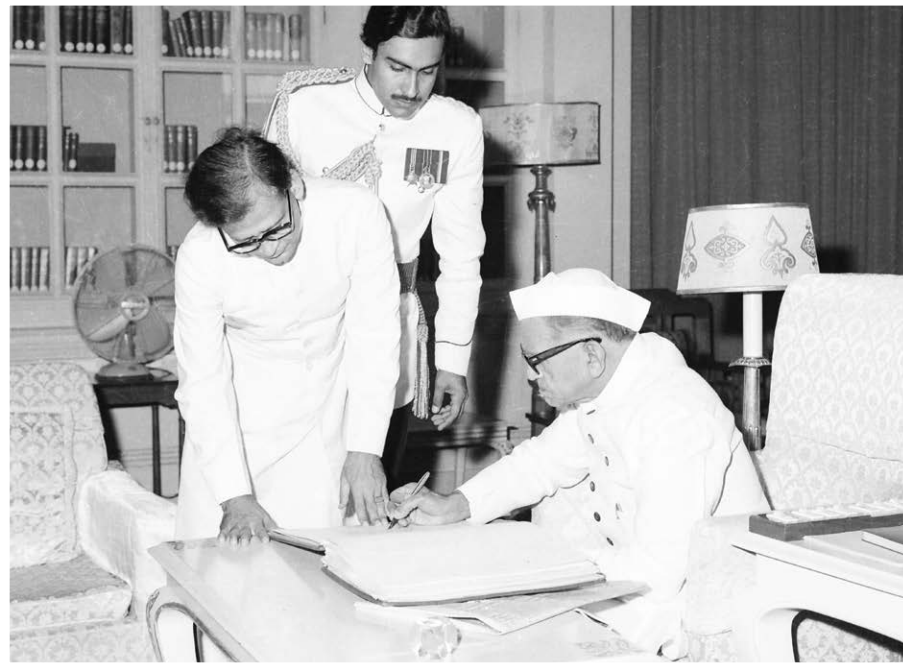
K. Kamraj with a team of MPs arrives to cast their votes in the Parliament House



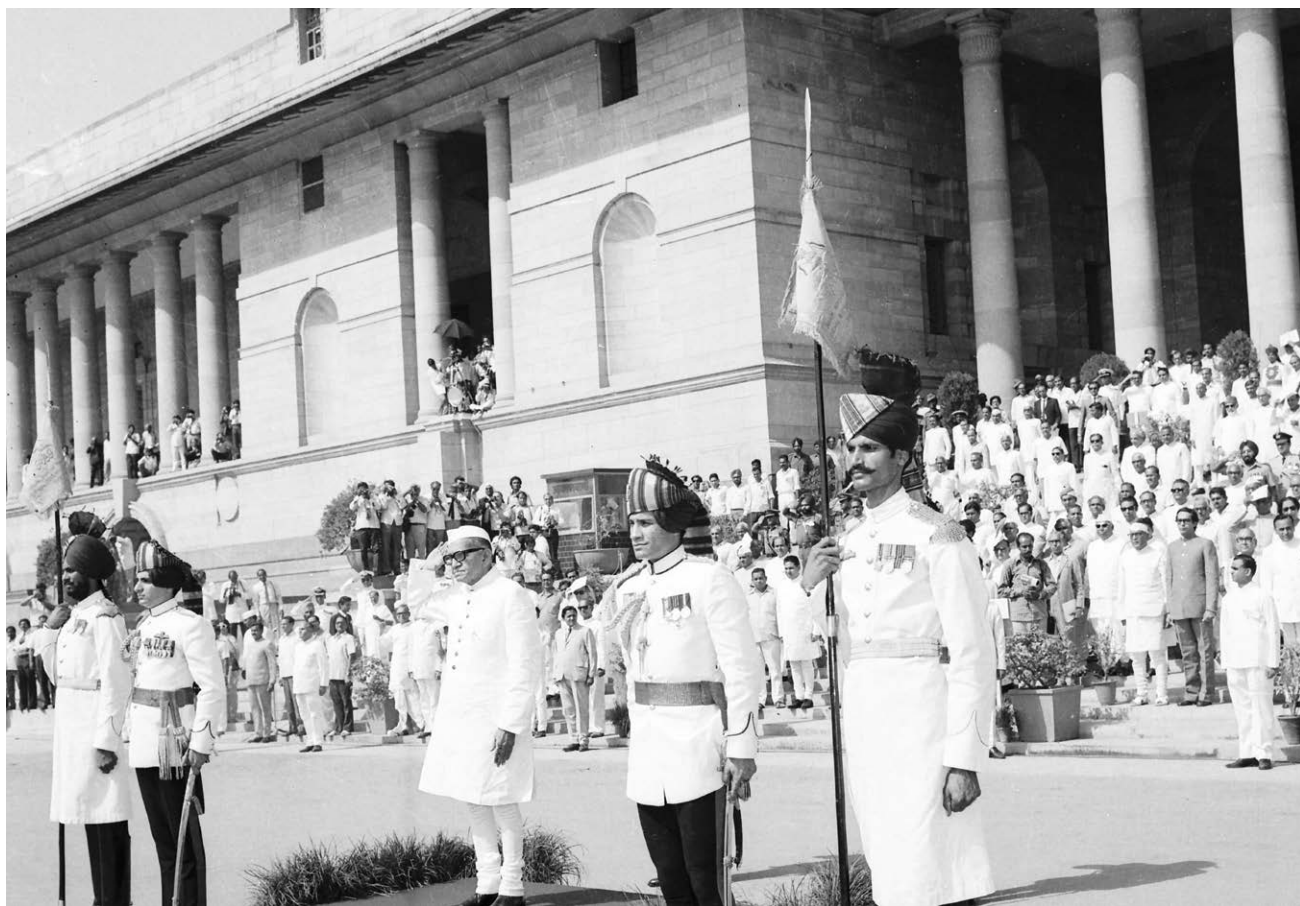
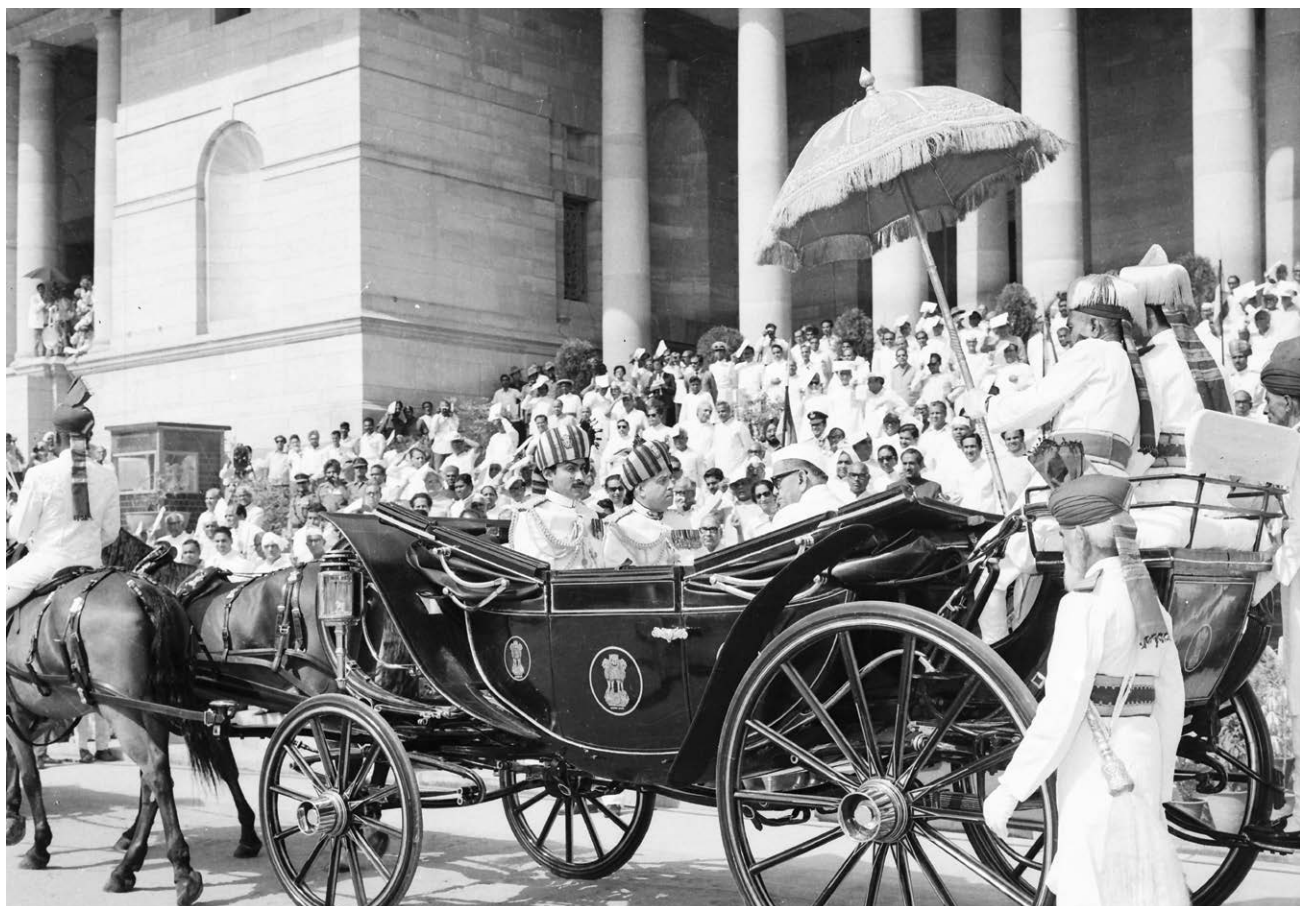
MPs await their turn outside the polling booth in the Parliament House



President-elect Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed taking the oath of office. Outgoing President V.V. Giri is also seen



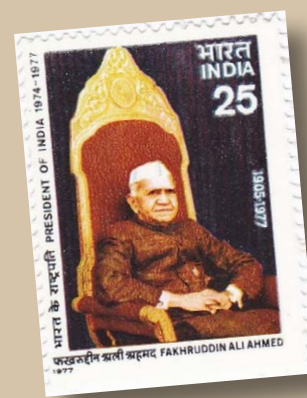
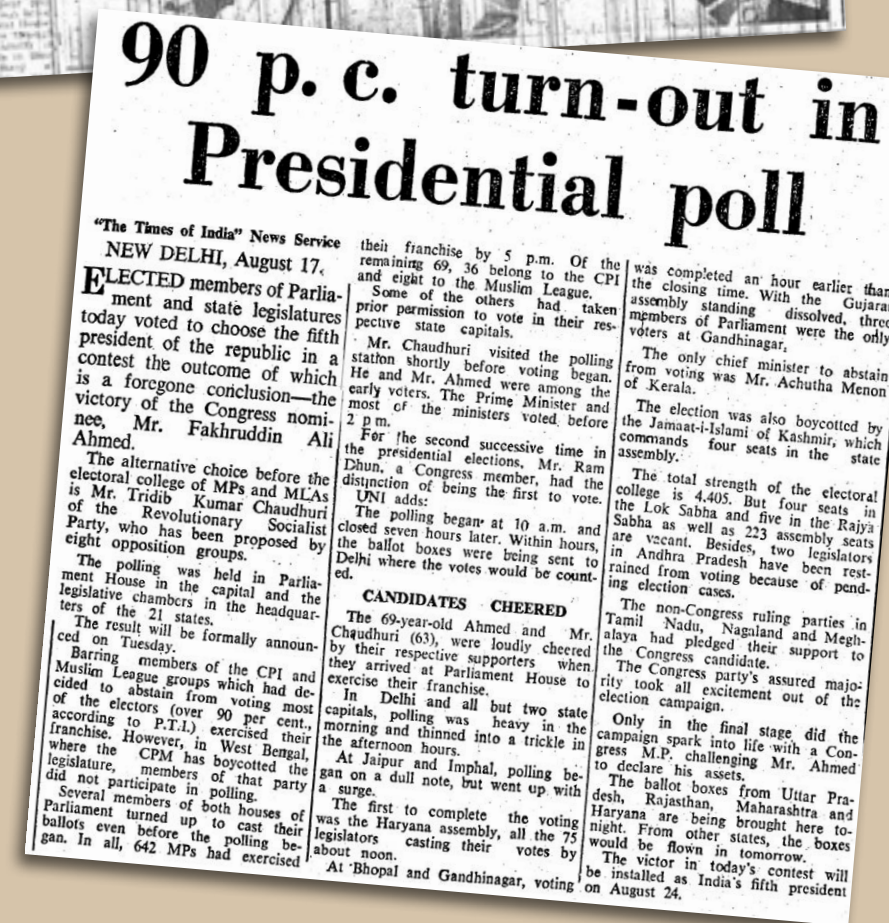
President Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed signing the register



President Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed inspecting his first Guard of Honour



Media coverage of Presidential election



Commemoration stamp issued by India Post featuring Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed in 1977



Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
(1913-1996)

Term of Office: 25 July 1977 to 25 July 1982

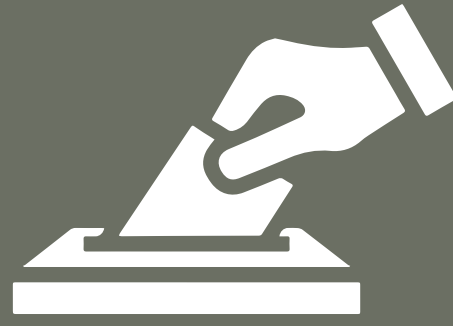


SEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1977)

Within a decade, there was another instance of an early election to the office of the President, as Dr. Fakhurddin Ali Ahmed died on 11 February 1977. Vice President B.D. Jatti was then sworn in as acting President. The Constitution mandates a fresh election within six months. For the ECI, scheduling the Presidential election was quite a challenge, as the elections to the Lok Sabha were held in May, followed by elections to the legislative assemblies of 11 states in June and July. Yet, the Presidential election was notified in early July and the process was wrapped up in August – well within the constitutionally mandated period.

The seventh Presidential election was conducted under the supervision of S. L. Shakhdar, Chief Election Commissioner. The ECI appointed Lok Sabha Secretary Avtar Singh Rekhi as the Returning Officer and J. R. Kapoor, Chief Legislative Committee Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat, and the Secretaries of the 22 State Legislative Assemblies were appointed as Assistant Returning Officers.

As many as 37 candidates had filed their nominations but 36 of them were found disqualified by the Returning officer. The only candidate who remained in the fray was Neelam Sanjiva Reddy. He had unsuccessfully contested the Presidential election in 1969, but this time he had unanimous support, and the former Lok Sabha speaker was thus elected unopposed – the only President so far with this distinction. At 64, he was the youngest person to be elected as the President of India (until Smt Droupadi Murmu in 2022). He was also the only notable Presidential candidate to have contested twice.



Election Schedule

4 July 1977

Date of issue of Notification

18 July 1977

Last date of Nominations

6 Aug 1977

Date of Poll

Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was elected unopposed.

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha [524], Rajya Sabha [232] and 22 State Legislative Assemblies [3776]. Thus the total electors were 4532.



Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 702 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of population.
- The lowest value of votes was for MLAs of Sikkim State (07) and the highest value of votes was for MLAs of Uttar Pradesh (208) on the basis of 1971 census.

Only One Valid Candidate

Out of 37 candidates who filed their nominations, the Returning Officer found only one nomination form of Shri. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, as valid. Therefore, there was no need for any Counting or Publication of the Poll result.



Neelam Sanjiva Reddy after filing nomination for Presidential election on 04 May 1977



President-elect Neelam Sanjiva Reddy being administered the oath of office by the Chief Justice of India, Justice M. Hameedullah Beg



President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy with Prime Minister Morarji Desai



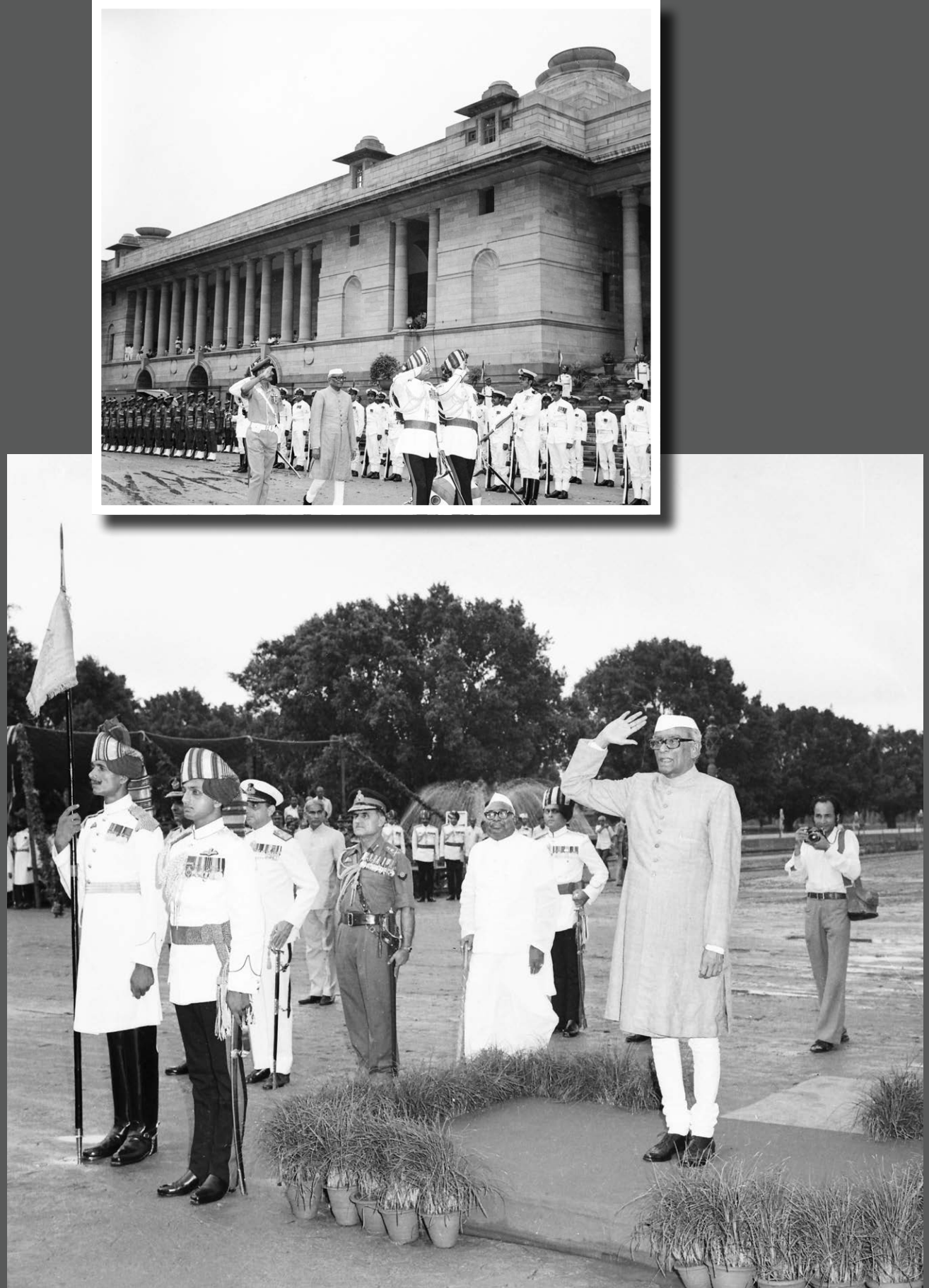
President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy with his wife, Neelam Nagaratamma



Media coverage of Presidential election



President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy inspecting his first Guard of Honour





Shri Giani Zail Singh
(1916-1994)

Term of Office: 25 July 1982 to 25 July 1987

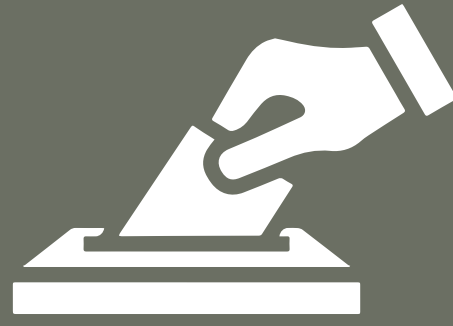


EIGHTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1982)

In the Eighth Presidential election, two stalwarts were in the fray: Giani Zail Singh, a former Union Home Minister, and H.R. Khanna, a former judge of the Supreme Court who had also been a Union Law Minister briefly.

The ECI named the Secretary-General to the Rajya Sabha, Sudarshan Agarwal, as the Returning Officer. K.K. Chopra, Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha, and the Secretaries of the 22 State Legislative Assemblies acted as the Assistant Returning Officers. Election was conducted under the supervision of R. K. Trivedi, the Chief Election Commissioner.

Giani Zail Singh emerged victorious on 15 July 1982, and was sworn in on 25 July.



Election Schedule

9 June 1982

Date of issue of Notification

23 June 1982

Last date of Nominations

12 July 1982

Date of Poll

15 July 1982

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha (524), Rajya Sabha (232) and 22 State Legislative Assemblies (3827). Thus the total electors were 4583.



Change in Candidature

The Opposition's candidate for the Presidential contest was Hiren Mukherjee initially, but he was later replaced by Hans Raj Khanna, as Mukherjee was not a registered voter, which is a prerequisite for any person contesting a presidential election.



H. R. Khanna filing his nomination paper for the Presidential election as opposition candidate in New Delhi on 22 June 1982

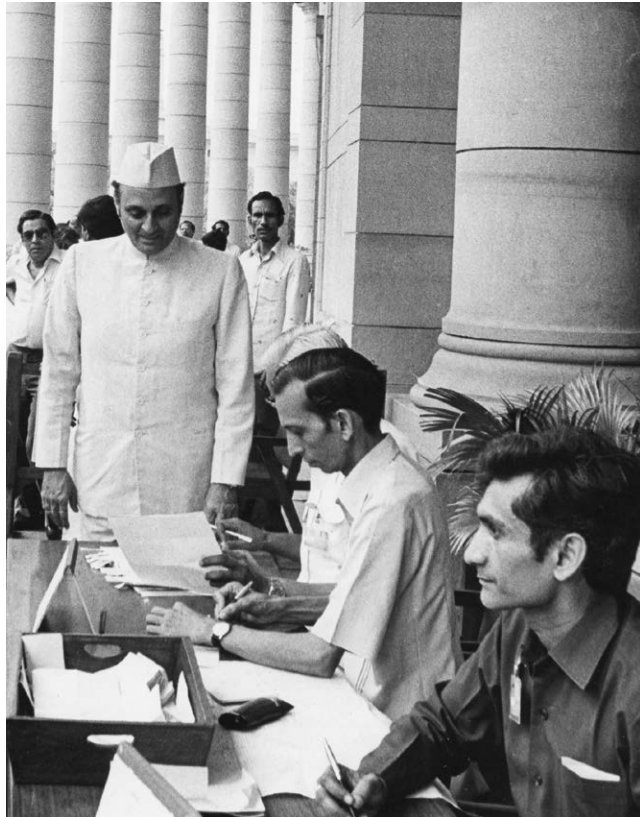
Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 702 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of population.
- The lowest value of votes was for MLAs of Sikkim State (07) and the highest value of votes was for the MLAs of Uttar Pradesh (208) on the basis of 1971 census. The Assam Legislative Assembly stood dissolved.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Giani Zail Singh	7,54,113
H. R. Khanna	2,82,685
TOTAL	10,36,798



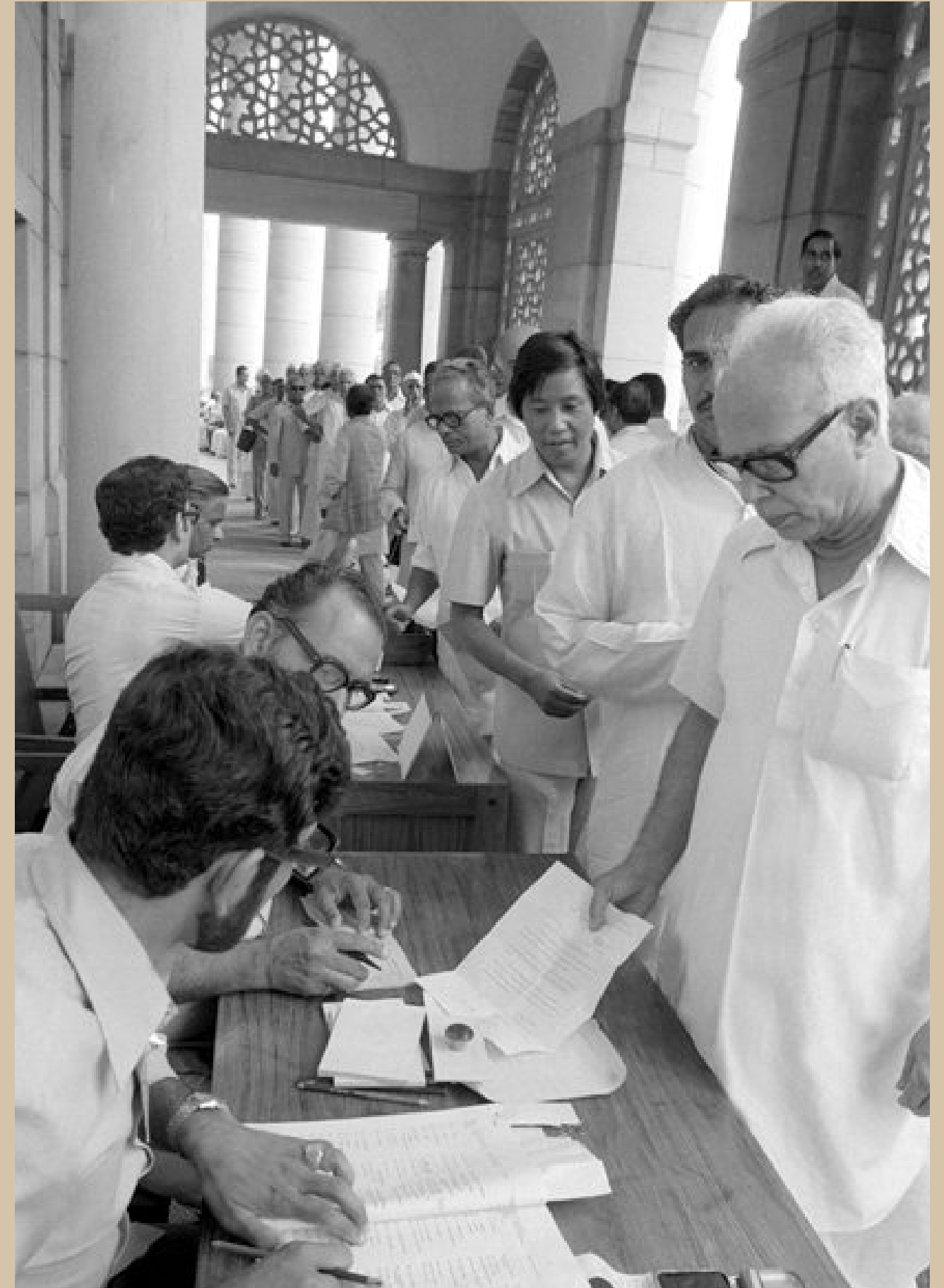
Karan Singh arrives to cast his vote at the Parliament House



Chandra Shekhar collects his ballot paper in Parliament House



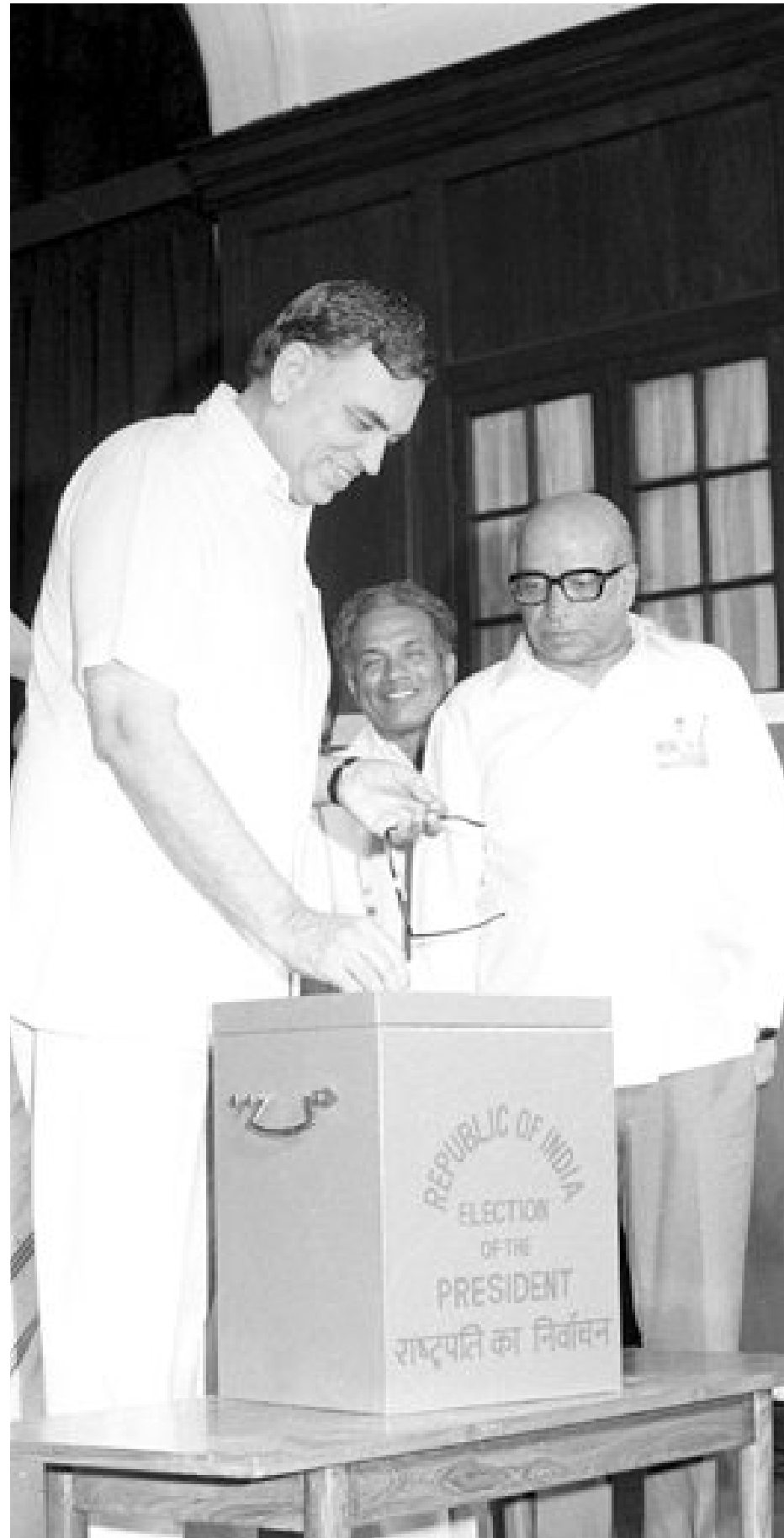
Sharad Pawar, Babanrao Dhakane and others arrive to cast their vote at Maharashtra Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai



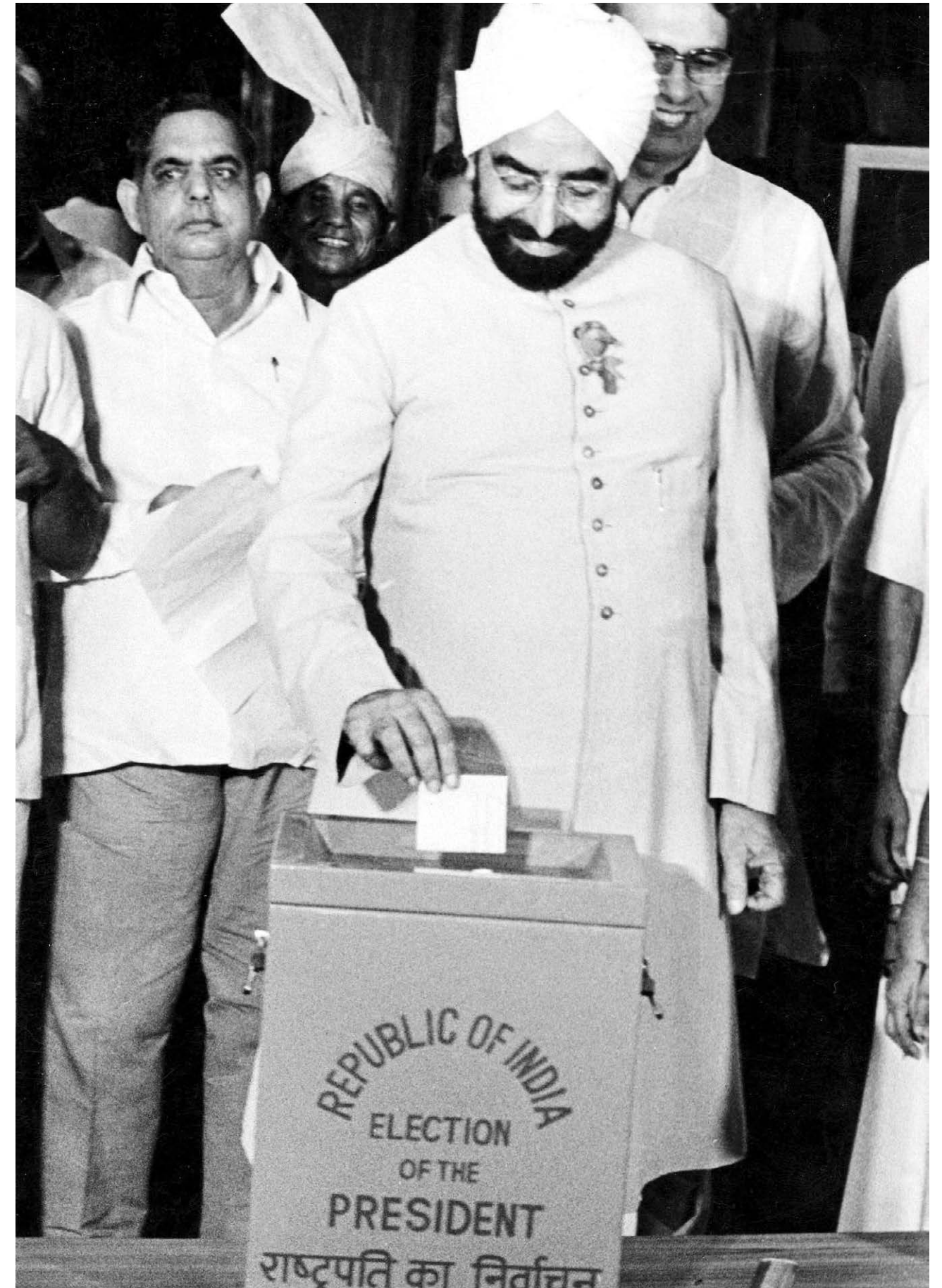
Polling under way



Prime Minister Indira Gandhi casting her vote



Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar casting his vote



Giani Zail Singh casting his vote in Parliament House



Voting going on during the Presidential election, 1982

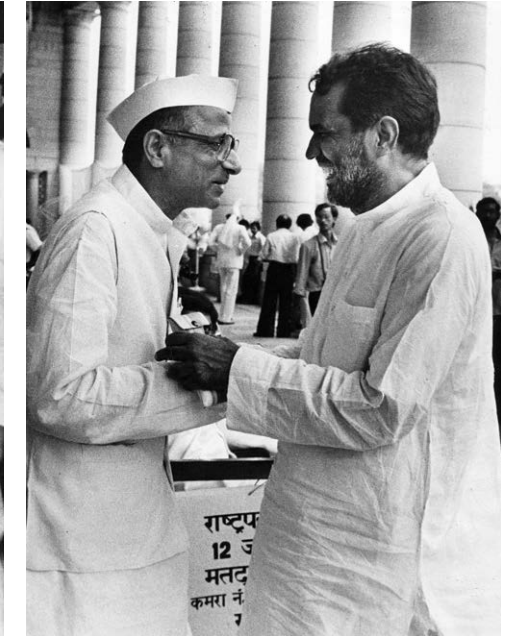


Rajiv Gandhi casting his vote

A group of Tamil Nadu MPs casting their vote in Parliament House



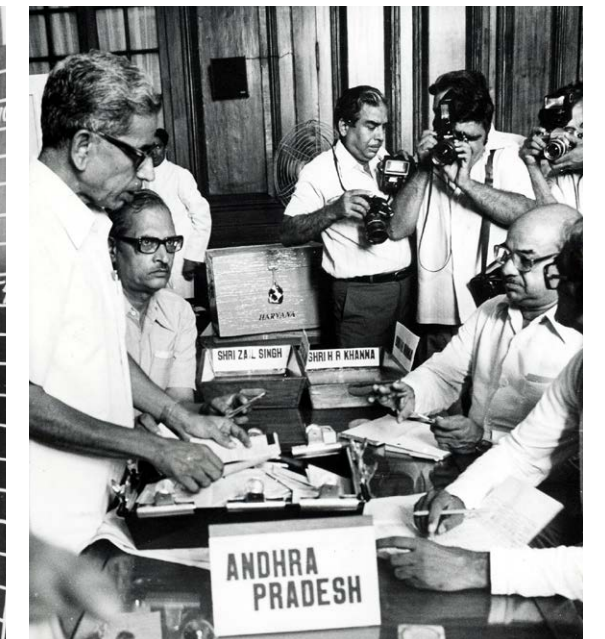
Chandra Shekhar (right) and Bhisma Narain Singh in the corridor of Parliament House, Delhi, after casting their vote for Presidential election on 12 July 1982



Madhavrao Scindia being brought on a stretcher to cast his vote in Parliament House. Sudershan Aggarwal, Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha who was the Returning Officer, dropped the ballot in the box on his behalf



The Returning Officer of Presidential poll writing the election results outside the room, while counting of votes was in progress in Delhi on 15 July 1982



Counting of votes in progress in Parliament House



President-elect Giani Zail Singh being sworn in by the Chief Justice of India, Justice Y. V. Chandrachud



President Giani Zail Singh inspecting his first Guard of Honour



President Giani Zail Singh inspecting his first Guard of Honour



ZAIL SINGH MAKES A PLEDGE

Stage set for Presidential poll today

Mr. Zail Singh, the Chief Minister of Punjab, today made a pledge to the people of India that he would do his utmost to bring about a united and united India. He said that he would do his utmost to bring about a united and united India. He said that he would do his utmost to bring about a united and united India.



Sweeping win for Zail

MR. ZAIL SINGH was today declared elected President of India. He will be the seventh President of the republic and the first Sikh to hold that post. Although his election was a foregone conclusion, he nevertheless scored a spectacular victory. Khanna's tally of 48 with the value of 8,400 votes.

Sanjiva not in the fray

By Our Staff Correspondent SRINAGAR, June 2. THE President, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy, today refuted reports that he would be a candidate in the ensuing presidential election. He said he had made it clear on many occasions that he had no more desire to seek office again.

Zail's life sketch, state-wise voting figures, Page 11

Leader comment: The New President, Page 6



Mr. Singh also won the backing of a majority of the elected members of state legislatures except in Tripura and West Bengal, where Marxist-led governments are in office.

Mr. Singh secured 72.7 per cent of the votes against 27.3 per cent by Mr. Khanna. In terms of total value of votes, Mr. Zail Singh won 754,113 against Mr. Khanna's 282,685.

The second highest majority in the presidential election ever. The highest recorded so far was Dr. S. Radhakrishnan - 246,726 - in 1962.

Of the 729 elected members of Parliament who exercised their franchise, Mr. Zail Singh had the support of 728 and Mr. Khanna 210. Twelve votes were declared invalid.

Commemorative stamp released by India Post featuring Giani Zail Singh on his first death anniversary in 1995





Shri R. Venkataraman

(1910-2009)

Term of Office: 25 July 1987 to 25 July 1992



NINTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1987)

The ninth Presidential election was a contest between R. Venkataraman, who was then Vice President of India, and V. R. Krishna Iyer, a former Supreme Court judge.

Dr. Subhash Kashyap, Secretary-General to the Lok Sabha, served as the Returning Officer, while N. N. Mehra, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha, and the Secretaries of the 25 State Legislative Assemblies were appointed as the Assistant Returning Officers.

On 16 July 1987, the Returning Officer declared R. Venkataraman as the 'Returned Candidate', who took oath of office on 25 July 1987.



Election Schedule

10 June 1987

Date of issue of Notification

24 June 1987

Last date of Nominations

13 July 1987

Date of Poll

16 July 1987

Counting of Votes



Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha [543], Rajya Sabha [233] and 25 State Legislative Assemblies [3919]. Thus the total electors were 4695.

Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 702 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of population.
- The lowest value of votes was for MLAs of Sikkim State (07) and the highest value of votes was for MLAs of Uttar Pradesh (208) on the basis of 1971 census.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
R. Venkataraman	7,40,148
V.R. Krishna Iyer	2,81,550
Mithilesh Kumar	2,223
TOTAL	10,23,921



Special feature of the Ninth Presidential Election

Ninth Presidential Election: The Case of 'Disqualified' Members

- The Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly had disqualified 22 members on the ground of defection. During the hearing of their Special Leave Petition, the Supreme Court in its interim Order dated 7 May 1987 held that if any Presidential election was to be held before concluding the hearing of the matter, the disqualified members would be entitled to participate in the poll and cast their votes as if they had not been disqualified.
- On a clarification sought by the Commission, the Supreme Court, by an Order dated 22 June 1987, held that participation includes proposing and seconding of nominations of candidates.
- The votes cast by these members might be separately marked and after counting kept separately until final disposal of the case.

ECI then laid down a detailed procedure to enable casting of vote by these members:

- Every ballot paper, issued to the above-mentioned 22 members or the postal ballot paper, if issued to any of them on the ground of their being under preventive detention, and the counterfoil thereof shall be prominently marked on their back with a rubber stamp to be supplied by the ECI containing the words "Permitted to vote under the direction of the Supreme Court."
- For the purpose of issue of ballot papers to the above-mentioned 22 Members, a separate packet consisting of the last 25 ballot papers supplied for use of electors at Chandigarh shall be set apart.
- An additional polling officer shall be posted for issue of ballot papers to the 22 members concerned. He shall be supplied with the list of members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.
- The additional polling officer shall be seated near the other polling officers and polling agents so that it does not become necessary for candidates to appoint additional polling agents.
- The procedure for issue and marking of ballot papers by the said 22 members and their insertion into the ballot box shall be the same as is applicable for the other members. After the close of poll, the marked copy of the list of electors supplied to the additional polling officer mentioned above, the counterfoils of ballot papers issued to the members referred to above, and the unused ballot papers with said additional polling officer shall be placed in separate packets by the Assistant Returning Officer and shall be sealed and secured in the manner prescribed under Rule 21 (1) of the Presidential and Vice- Presidential Elections Rules, 1974 and forwarded to the Returning Officer along with other election records pertaining to that polling station.

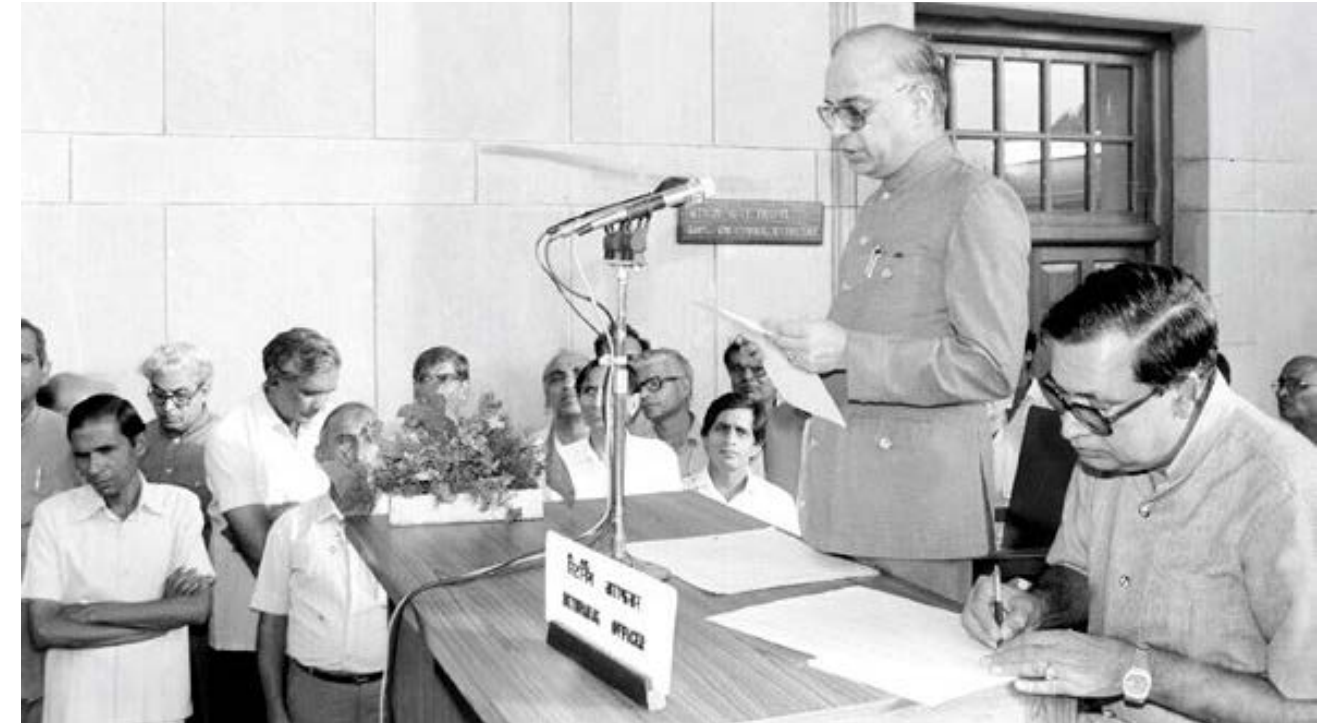


N.T. Rama Rao and Ramakrishna Hegde, the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka respectively, with other leaders, filing the nomination papers of V. R. Krishna Iyer



Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi casting his vote in the Parliament House

The Secretary General of Lok Sabha, Dr. Subhash Kashyap, declaring the results of the Presidential election



President-elect R. Venkataraman after being sworn in by the Chief Justice of India, Justice R. S. Pathak. Giani Zail Singh, the outgoing President, is also seen



President R. Venkataraman, accompanied by his immediate predecessor, Giani Zail Singh, inspecting his first Guard of Honour



The President-Elect

There are many reasons to rejoice over Mr R. Venkataraman's election as the country's eighth President but none is more compelling than the promise it holds for the speedy restoration of dignity in the highest office in the land. Given his record in public life and his temperament, the new President can be trusted to put an end to the unseemly controversies which have surrounded Rashtrapati Bhavan in recent months. Their bitterness and intensity threatened to plunge the nation in a protracted political and constitutional crisis the like of which has never been witnessed in the history of independent India. Indeed, the atmosphere in the capital is so heavily charged with suspicion that even today, with the presidential election behind us, no one is quite prepared to discount the possibility that the outgoing President will not spring an unpleasant surprise on the nation before he formally lays down office on July 25. This is a pity for the country besieged as it is by social and political turmoil at home and a deteriorating security environment abroad. It cannot afford to be kept on tenterhooks.



Commemorative stamp released by India Post during 2012 featuring R. Venkataraman

Against this background, Mr Venkataraman's presence in Rashtrapati Bhavan is bound to bring about stability where it is desperately needed at the moment — in the President's relations with the Prime Minister. On the issue that sparked off the row between Giani Zail Singh and Mr Rajiv Gandhi — the interpretation of Article 78 related to the President's right to information and the Prime Minister's duty to furnish it — the President-elect has taken an eminently sensible stand. While he has described such a right as being absolute he has also taken care to add that it is not possible to expect the Prime Minister to answer every question that the President may decide to ask. He has wisely argued that "no one from outside" can draw the line about the President's right to be informed by the government. On the larger issue of the President's role and prerogatives Mr Venkataraman has been equally forthright. He has forcefully reiterated the cardinal principle of our parliamentary democracy, viz., that the Prime Minister is responsible and answerable not to the President but to the Lok Sabha. All this is not to argue that the many issues raised by the "interventionist" Giani will disappear overnight. They will not, if only because they have got enmeshed with messy political problems. But Mr Venkataraman can be expected to handle them with grace.

Media coverage of Presidential election



Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
(1918-1999)

Term of Office: 25 July 1992 to 25 July 1997



TENTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1992)

Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma had been elected as Vice President of India in 1987, and served almost the full term. In 1992, he contested the Presidential election. The other candidates were G.G. Swell, a former Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Ram Jethmalani, a legal luminary, and Kaka Joginder Singh, who was famed for having contested (and lost) an unusual number of elections.

The ECI appointed the Secretary General to the Rajya Sabha, Sudarshan Agarwal, as the Returning Officer. Two Directors in the Rajya Sabha secretariat and the Secretaries of the 25 State Legislative Assemblies acted as the Assistant Returning Officers. Election was conducted under the supervision of T. N. Seshan, Chief Election Commissioner.

On 16 July 1992, the Returning Officer declared Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma as the 'Returned Candidate'. He took oath of office on 25 July 1992.



Election Schedule

10 June 1992

Date of issue of Notification

24 June 1992

Last date of Nominations

13 July 1992

Date of Poll

16 July 1992

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha [543], Rajya Sabha [233] and 25 State Legislative Assemblies [3972]. Thus, the total electors were 4748.



Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 702 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of population.
- The lowest value of votes was for MLAs of Sikkim State (07) and the highest value of votes was for MLAs of Uttar Pradesh (208) on the basis of 1971 census. At the time of this election the Legislative Assemblies of J & K and Nagaland were under dissolution.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma	6,75,804
G.G. Swell	3,46,485
Ram Jethmalani	2,704
Kaka Joginder Singh (Urf Dharti-Pakad)	1,135
TOTAL	10,26,188



Expansion of Electoral College

While considering the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1991 and the Government of National Capital Territory Bill, 1991, views were expressed in both the Houses of Parliament in favour of including the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of Union territories in the electoral college for the election of the President under Article 54 of the Constitution. Earlier, Article 54 provided for an electoral college consisting of only the elected Members of Parliament as well as the Legislative Assemblies of the States - not Union Territories. Eventually, the Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Act of 1992 expanded the electoral college to include the members of the Legislative Assemblies of the Union Territories of NCT of Delhi and of Puducherry.



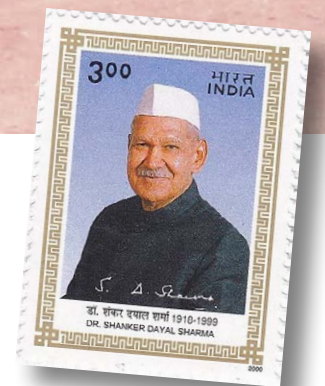
President-elect Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma at the swearing-in ceremony along with the Chief Justice of India, Justice M. H. Kania, outgoing President R. Venkataraman, Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Najma Heptulla



President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma inspecting his first Guard of Honour



Commemorative stamp released by India Post during 2000 featuring Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma





Shri K. R. Narayanan

(1920 - 2005)

Term of Office: 25 July 1997 to 25 July 2002



ELEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (1997)

The eleventh Presidential election had an unusual feature: T. N. Seshan, who as Chief Election Commissioner had overseen the previous Presidential election, was a candidate this time. Facing him was the then Vice President of India, K. R. Narayanan, who had been an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.

The ECI appointed S. Gopalan, then Secretary General to the Lok Sabha, as the Returning Officer. Two Joint Secretaries in the Lok Sabha secretariat and the Secretaries of the 27 State Legislative Assemblies acted as the Assistant Returning Officers. Election was conducted under the supervision of M. S. Gill, Chief Election Commissioner.

After the voting, Narayanan was declared the 'Returned Candidate', and he was sworn in on 25 July 1997.



Election Schedule

9 June 1997

Date of issue of Notification

23 June 1997

Last date of Nominations

14 July 1997

Date of Poll

17 July 1997

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha (543) Rajya Sabha (233) and 27 State Legislative Assemblies (4072). Thus, The Total Electors were 4848.



Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 708 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of the 1971 census.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
K.R. Narayanan	9,56,290
T.N. Seshan	50,631
TOTAL	10,06,921



Presidential candidate K.R. Narayanan at the polling booth

Changes in Law

The President of India promulgated an Ordinance on 5th June, 1997 to further amend the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Act, 1952. The Parliament approved the Ordinance on 29-08-1997.

The following amendments to the Act were made:-

- In the case of the Presidential Election, the number of Proposers and Seconders for any nomination paper was increased from ten Proposers to fifty Proposers and from ten Seconders to fifty Seconders.
- In the case of Vice-Presidential Election, the number of Proposers and Seconders for any nomination paper was likewise increased from five Proposers and five Seconders to twenty Proposers and twenty Seconders.
- The amount of security was increased from Rs.2,500 to Rs.15,000



President-elect K. R. Narayanan being sworn in by the Chief Justice of India, Justice J. S. Verma



95 per cent turnout for presidential poll

Sanjay Sekhri

NEW DELHI: A massive 95 per cent turnout was recorded on Monday for the eleventh presidential election across the country with vice-president K.R. Narayanan's victory by a huge margin a foregone conclusion.

Prime Minister I.K. Gujral, former prime ministers, P.V. Narasimha Rao, H.D. Deve Gowda, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Chandrashekhar, Lok Sabha speaker P.A. Sangma, former speaker Shivraj Patil, Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson Najma Heptulla, Congress president Sitaram Kesri, and Union ministers cast their votes at Parliament House.

Mr Narayanan is assured of victory as his candidature is supported by all major political formulations including the United Front, the BJP and the Congress accounting for over 90 per cent of vote value of the 4,833-strong electoral college comprising elected MPs and MLAs.

Mr Narayanan's challenger and former chief election commissioner T.N. Seshan, is backed by Shiv Sena MPs and MLAs and some independent legislators from Maharashtra.

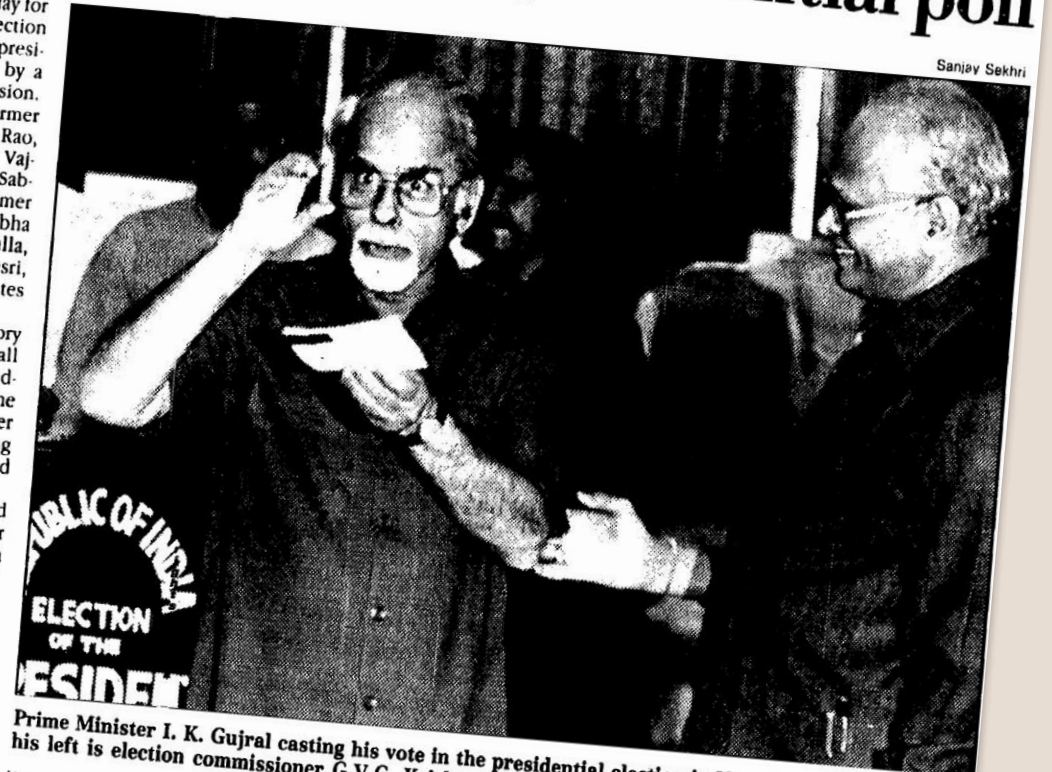
Counting of votes will be held in Parliament House on July 17 and the result is expected by afternoon.

The five-year term of the President, Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, expires on July 24 and Mr Narayanan is expected to take oath of the highest office on July 25.

Deputy election commissioner Subas Pani, said 4,625 MPs and MLAs exercised their franchise at Parliament House, in 25 state capitals and Union territories of Delhi and Pondicherry. The total polling percentage was 95.70.

Mr Pani said a total of 732 out of 775 MPs voted while 3,893 out of 4,058 MLAs cast their ballots. There was one vacancy in the Rajya Sabha and 14 in various assemblies.

The Lok Sabha secretary general and returning officer S. Gopalan, told reporters that 13 MLAs voted in Par-



Prime Minister I. K. Gujral casting his vote in the presidential election in New Delhi on Monday. To his left is election commissioner G.V.G. Krishnamurthy.

liament House while 108 MPs, including 80 from the Lok Sabha, were given permission by the Election Commission to vote in their home states.

Mr Gopalan said Mr Narayanan was represented by his lawyer, Mr P.H. Parekh, while there was no representative from Mr Seshan's side.

Mr Gopalan said ballot boxes from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Delhi would reach Parliament House on Monday night and kept there under tight security.

He said no complaint had been re-

ceived from anywhere.

For the first time, no political party issued any whip to its members to vote in favour of either of the two candidates.

Interestingly, neither Mr Narayanan nor Mr Seshan could vote in the presidential election as they were not members of parliament or any assembly. **Our Staff Reporter adds from Mumbai:** In the Presidential election held at the Council Hall in Mumbai on Monday 268 members of the legislative assembly out of a total number of 288 cast their votes, according to the secretary of the legis-

lature Ramesh Kambli.

Two Congress MLAs Bhaskarrao Khatgaonkar and Balasaheb Thorat had sought permission to vote in Delhi. Among those who did not vote were Ratnappa Kumbhar, who seldom attends the house due to old age, Sitaram Ghandat, who is arrested in connection with the Abhyudaya bank scam and Pappu Kalani and Harendra Thakur who were arrested under TADA.

Prominent among the voters were chief minister Manohar Joshi and deputy chief minister Gopinath Munde.

Media coverage of Presidential election



President K.R. Narayanan inspecting his first Guard of Honour



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

(1931-2015)

Term of Office: 25 July 2002 to 25 July 2007



TWELFTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (2002)

The first Presidential election of the new millennium had two unusual personalities in the contest. Lakshmi Sahgal, an iconic revolutionary who served as an officer in the Indian National Army, was nearing 90 years of age when she decided to file her candidature for the highest constitutional office. The other candidate was Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the 'Missile Man of India'.

The ECI appointed R. C. Tripathi, Secretary General to the Rajya Sabha, as the Returning Officer. One Additional Secretary, one Joint Secretary in the Rajya Sabha secretariat and the Secretaries of the 30 State Legislative Assemblies (also including the National Capital Territory of Delhi and Puducherry Union Territory) acted as the Assistant Returning Officers. Election was conducted under the supervision of Chief Election Commissioner J. M. Lyngdoh.

Dr. Kalam garnered more votes than Sahgal, and thus Rashtrapati Bhavan had a scientist as its occupant for the first time.



Election Schedule

11 June 2002

Date of issue of Notification

25 June 2002

Last date of Nominations

15 July 2002

Date of Poll

18 July 2002

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha (543), Rajya Sabha (233) and 30 State Legislative Assemblies (4120) including NCT of Delhi and UT of Pondicherry. Thus, the total electors were 4896.



Presidential candidate Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam filing his nomination papers in the presence of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Leader of Opposition Sonia Gandhi and other leaders

Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 708 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of the 1971 census.

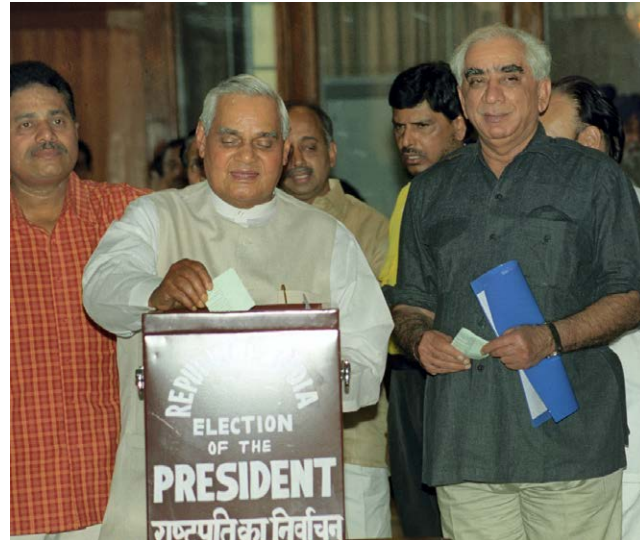
Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

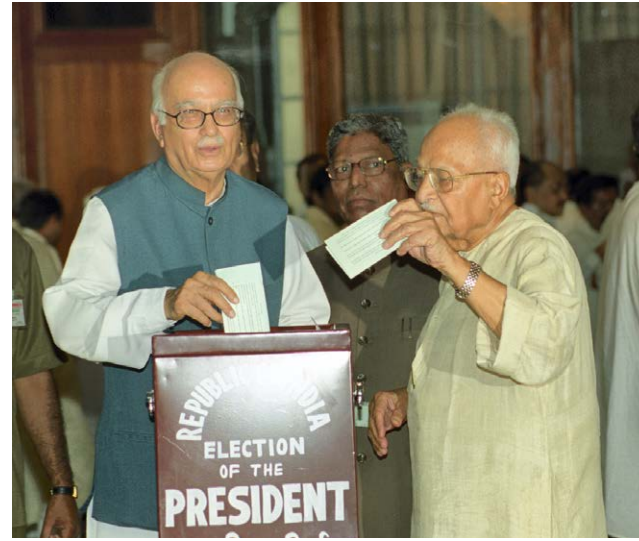
CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam	9,22,884
Lakshmi Sahgal	1,07,366
TOTAL	10,30,250



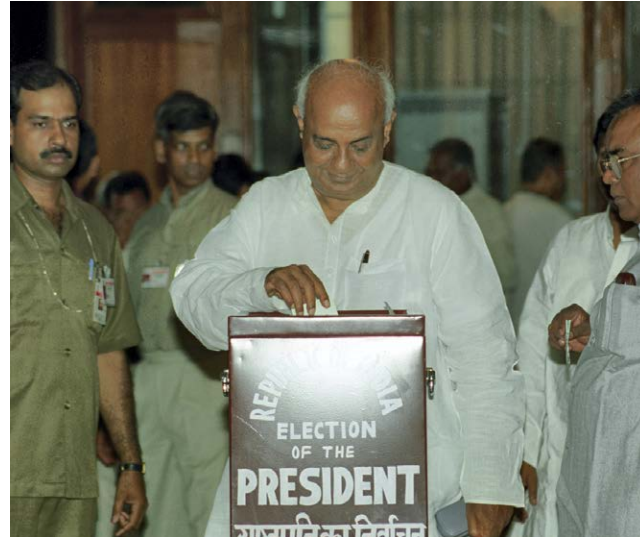
Presidential candidate Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other Parliamentarians



Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee casting his vote



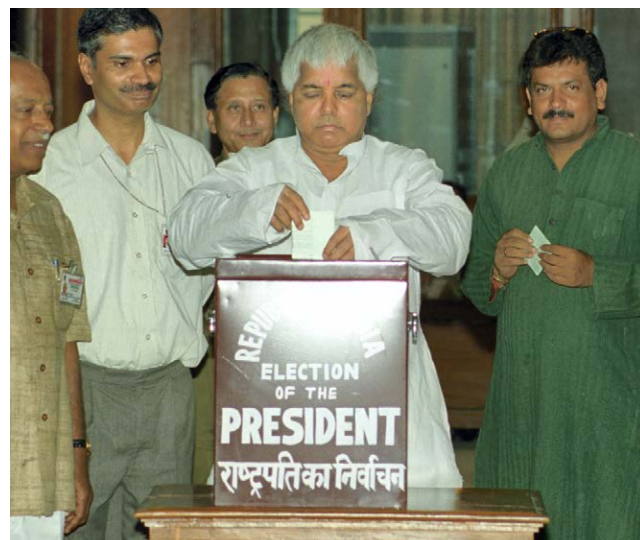
Deputy Prime Minister of India L. K. Advani casting his vote



H. D. Deve Gowda, former Prime Minister of India casting his vote



Ram Vilas Paswan casting his vote



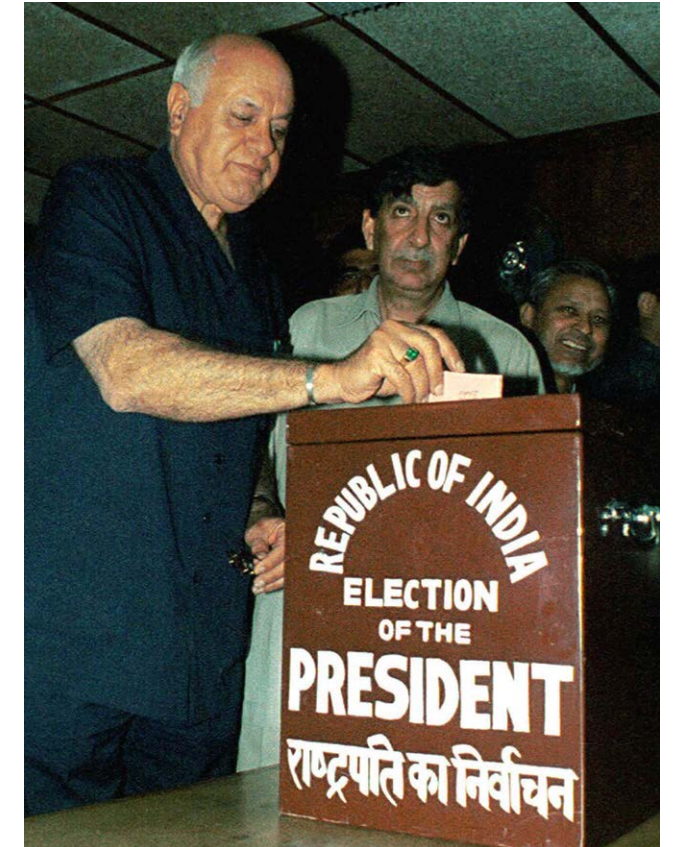
Lalu Yadav casting his vote



The Ballot Box Checking in front of the representatives of Presidential Candidates



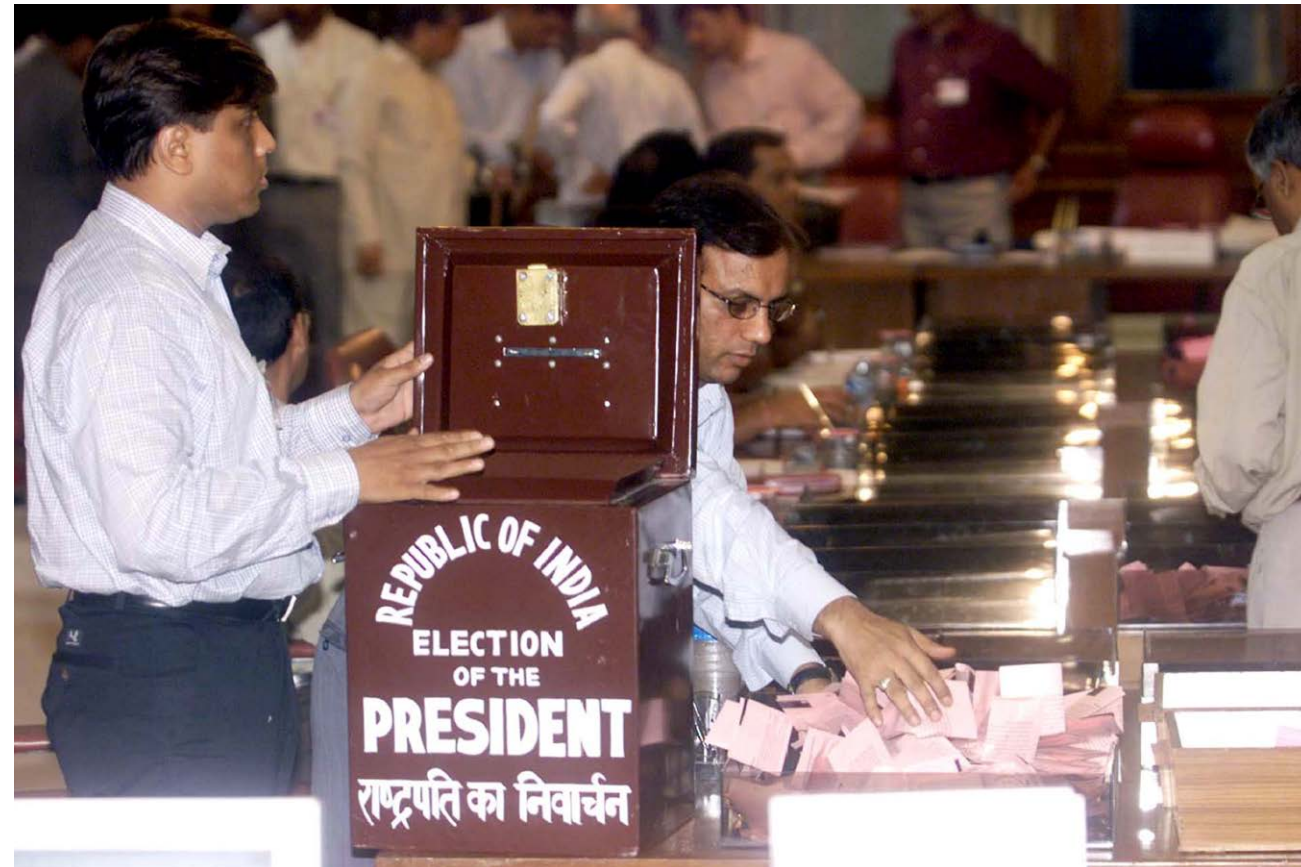
Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Rajnath Singh casting his vote for the Presidential election in Lucknow



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah casting his vote for the Presidential election at the state legislative assembly in Srinagar



Shabnam Mausi, a transgender MLA from Shahdol (Madhya Pradesh), casting her vote for the Presidential election in Bhopal



An election official takes out Presidential election votes for counting at Parliament House in New Delhi



Election officials count Presidential election votes at Parliament House in New Delhi



President-elect Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam being sworn in by the Chief Justice of India, Justice B. N. Kirpal



President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam inspecting his first Guard of Honour



Presidential poll is on July 15

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) on Friday announced the timetable for the Presidential election and fixed July 15 as the poll date. Incumbent President K.R. Narayanan's five-year term ends at midnight of July 24. The EC will issue a formal poll notification on Tuesday and will allow nominations till June 25 a doubling of the traditional week's time given for this part of the poll. Scrutiny of nominations will take place the next day, with withdrawals allowed till June 28. The poll, if there is more than one valid candidate, will be on July 15. Counting of votes will take place on July 18.

The Rajya Sabha's secretary-general will be the returning officer (RO). The RO's job alternates between him and his Lok Sabha counterpart; in 1997, the latter was RO.

The electoral college comprises elected (not nominated) members of Parliament and legislative assemblies, of all states and the two Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry. The value of each MLA's vote depends on the population of his state; the population is divided by the number of elected MLAs and each of them will have as many votes as there are multiples of 1,000 in the result; this formula is given in the country's Constitution. Thus, the range is 208 for each MLA in Uttar Pradesh to seven for each MLA of Sikkim.

Dividing the total of all state assembly votes got this way by the number of eligible MPs gives the value of each MP's vote; the total votes of Parliament must, this way, equal that of all state assemblies. Currently, each MP has 708 votes.

There are 4,896 electors; 776 eligible MPs and the rest MLAs. Each valid nomination must have at least 50 proposers and 50 seconders from the electoral college; each voter can be either a proposer or a seconder, and for only one candidate.

To ensure the highest possible college numbers, the EC has scheduled polls to three vacant assembly seats—one each in Andhra Pradesh, Bengal and Orissa—and one vacant Rajya Sabha seat, on July 2. Even so, nine vacancies will be there on the poll date: there are six vacancies in the state assembly of Jammu and Kashmir and one each in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. Since these three assemblies have to go in for general re-election within a year, bypolls will not be held here. In addition, one seat in Karnataka is the subject of a court petition, and no poll is possible there.

Media coverage of Presidential election



Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

(Birth - 1934)

Term of Office: 25 July 2007 to 25 July 2012



THIRTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (2007)

The thirteenth Presidential election had two candidates: Pratibha Devisingh Patil, who was the Governor of Rajasthan, and Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, a veteran leader from Rajasthan, who was then the Vice President of India.

The ECI appointed P. D. T. Achary, Secretary-General to the Lok Sabha, as the Returning Officer. Two Joint Secretaries in the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Secretaries of the 30 State Legislative Assemblies (including of the NCT of Delhi and Puducherry Union Territory) acted as the Assistant Returning Officers.

Elections were conducted under the supervision of N. Gopalswami, Chief Election Commissioner.

On 21 July 2007, the Returning Officer declared Pratibha Devisingh Patil as the 'Returned Candidate', who thus became the first woman to hold the highest constitutional office of India.



Election Schedule

16 June 2007

Date of issue of Notification

30 June 2007

Last date of Nominations

19 July 2007

Date of Poll

21 July 2007

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha (543), Rajya Sabha (233) and 30 State Legislative Assemblies (4120) including NCT of Delhi and UT of Puducherry. Thus, the total electors were 4896.



Presidential candidate Pratibha Devisingh Patil, along with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Sonia Gandhi and Union Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmuni, arrives at Parliament House to file her nomination papers

Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 708 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of the 1971 census.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Pratibha Devisingh Patil	6,38,116
Bhairon Singh Shekhawat	3,31,306
TOTAL	9,69,422



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh arrives to cast his vote for the Presidential election at Parliament House



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah casts his vote for the Presidential election at Assembly complex in Srinagar



Injured BSP MP Kadir Rana casting his vote for the election of the President in Parliament House in New Delhi

No Whip in Presidential Election

During Presidential Elections, whip cannot be issued by any party and members are free to vote for any candidate of their choice.

On 14 July 2007, the Leader of Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, J. Jayalalithaa announced that the United National Progressive Alliance (UNPA) had unanimously decided to abstain from the Presidential election. However, the ECI, citing Section 171 C of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), held that the UNPA cannot ask its legislators to abstain from voting.

The ECI issued the following clarification:

“The Commission would like to clarify in this context that the voting at election to the Office of President of India is not compulsory, like the voting at elections to the House of the People and State Legislatures where also there is no compulsion to vote. The ‘electoral right’ of a voter is defined in Section 171 A(b) of the Indian Penal Code to ‘mean the right of a person to stand, or not to stand as, or to withdraw from being, a candidate or to vote or refrain from voting at election’. Thus, every elector at the Presidential election has the freedom of making a choice to vote for any of the candidates or not to vote at the election, as per his free will and choice. This will equally apply to the political parties and they are free to canvas or seek votes of electors for any candidate or request or appeal to them to refrain from voting. However, the political parties cannot issue any direction or whip to their members to vote in a particular manner or not to vote at the election leaving them with no choice, as that would tantamount to the offence of undue influence within the meaning of section 171 C of the IPC.”



President-elect Pratibha Devisingh Patil being sworn in by the Chief Justice of India, Justice K. G. Balakrishnan



President Pratibha Devisingh Patil inspecting her first Guard of Honour





Shri Pranab Mukherjee
(1935-2020)

Term of Office: 25 July 2012 to 25 July 2017



FOURTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (2012)

Pranab Mukherjee, one of the most experienced leaders – he had held the portfolios of Finance and External Affairs in the Union Council of Ministers – was one of the two candidates. The other was Purno Agitok Sangma, a former Chief Minister of Meghalaya who had also been the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

The ECI appointed Dr. V. K. Agnihotri, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, as the Returning Officer and two Joint Secretaries in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Secretaries of the 30 State Legislative Assemblies (including those of the NCT of Delhi and Puducherry Union Territory) as the Assistant Returning Officers. Election was conducted under the supervision of V. S. Sampath, Chief Election Commissioner.

On 22 July 2012, the Returning Officer declared Pranab Mukherjee as the 'Returned Candidate' who took the oath as the President of India on 25 July 2012.



Election Schedule

16 June 2012

Date of issue of Notification

30 June 2012

Last date of Nominations

19 July 2012

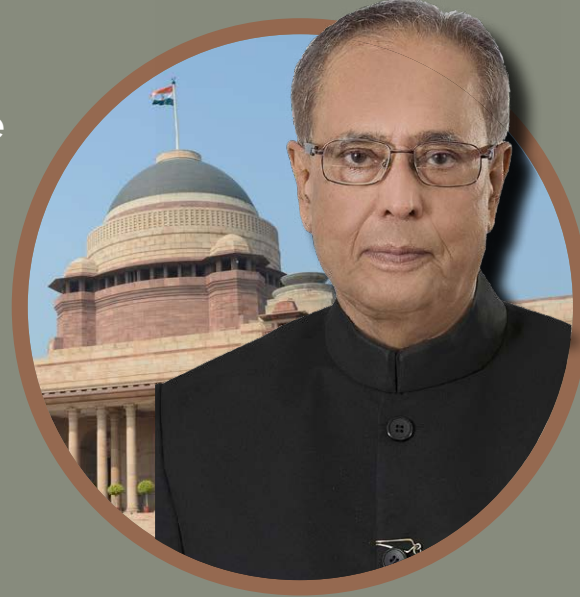
Date of Poll

22 July 2012

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha (543), Rajya Sabha (233) and 30 State Legislative Assemblies (4120) including NCT of Delhi and UT of Puducherry. Thus, the total electors were 4896.



Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 708 votes.
- The number of votes for each member of the State Legislative Assemblies differs from State to State on the basis of the 1971 census.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Pranab Mukherjee	7,13,763
Purno Agitok Sangma	3,15,987
TOTAL	10,29,750



No Mobile Phones!

Innovations in technology often compel changes in rules and regulations. When the mobile phones started becoming ubiquitous, the ECI had to bring out the directions that on the day of poll, no cellular phones, cordless phones, wireless sets etc. in any case, be allowed to be carried inside the polling station, by anyone including candidates, their representatives, members of the electoral college or even the Observer.

Examination of Nomination Papers

On the day of scrutiny of nomination papers, an objection was raised with regard to eligibility of Shri Pranab Mukherjee to stand as a candidate on the ground that he was allegedly holding an office of profit under the Government by virtue of being the Chairman of Council of Indian Statistical Institute. At the request of the authorised representative of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the scrutiny proceedings were adjourned by the Returning Officer to the following day and completed by him on that day rejecting the objection.



Presidential candidate Pranab Mukherjee filing his nomination papers. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Sonia Gandhi and other leaders are also seen



Presidential candidate Pranab Mukherjee shakes hands with Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray



Presidential candidate Pranab Mukherjee being greeted on his arrival in Thiruvananthapuram for the presidential election campaign, on 4 July 2012



Presidential candidate Pranab Mukherjee tries his hands on a spinning wheel during his visit to the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 5 July 2012



Presidential candidate Pranab Mukherjee with Samajwadi Party chief, Mulayam Singh Yadav on his way to have lunch hosted by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav



Uttar Pradesh MLAs waiting for their turn to cast their votes for the Presidential polls in the Vidhan Sabha in Lucknow on 19 July 2012



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, J. Jayalitha casting her vote for the Presidential election



Sushma Swaraj casting her vote as Lok Sabha member; Jaswant Singh and others are also seen



Ongoing voting Process during Presidential election



L. K. Advani casting his vote in the Presidential poll



Sonia Gandhi casting her vote in the Presidential poll



Dimple Yadav, MP, during the voting for the Presidential elections



M. Karunanidhi, along with other MLAs, after casting their votes for the Presidential election



Mayawati after casting her vote for the Presidential election



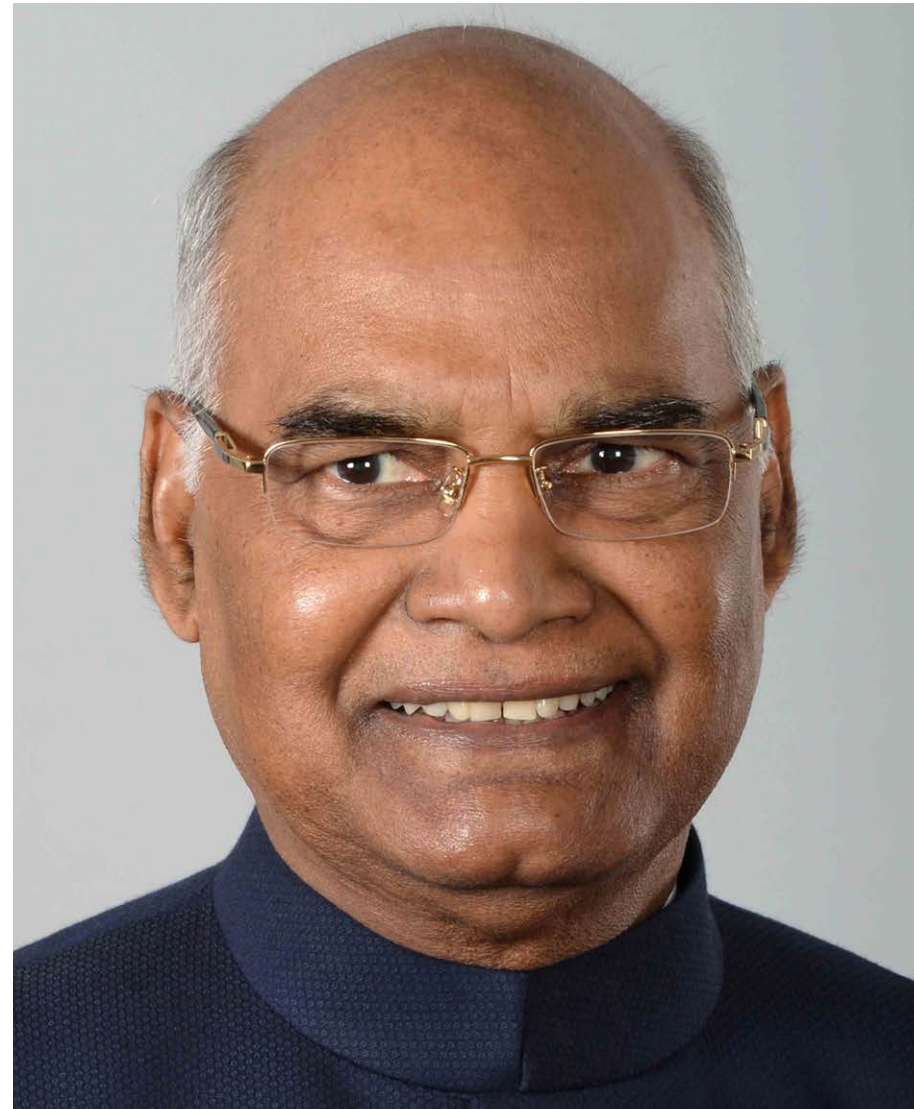
President-elect Pranab Mukherjee after his victory in the election



President-elect Pranab Mukherjee being administered the oath of office by the Chief Justice of India, Justice S. H. Kapadia



President Pranab Mukherjee inspecting his first Guard of Honour



Shri Ram Nath Kovind

(Birth - 1945)

Term of Office: 25 July 2017 to 25 July 2022



FIFTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (2017)

The fifteenth President election had two veteran leaders as candidates: Ram Nath Kovind, a former Rajya Sabha member, was then the Governor of Bihar, and Meira Kumar had been a Union Minister and also former Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

The ECI appointed Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha, as the Returning Officer. A Joint Secretary and a Director in the Lok Sabha Secretariat as well as the Secretaries of the 31 State Legislative Assemblies (including those of the NCT of Delhi and Puducherry Union Territory) acted as the Assistant Returning Officers.

While the election was announced and nominations were filed when Dr. Nasim Zaidi was the Chief Election Commissioner, polling took place after A. K. Joti took charge as Chief Election Commissioner.

Kovind was declared the 'Returned Candidate', and was sworn in on 5 July 2017.



Election Schedule

14 June 2017

Date of issue of Notification

28 June 2017

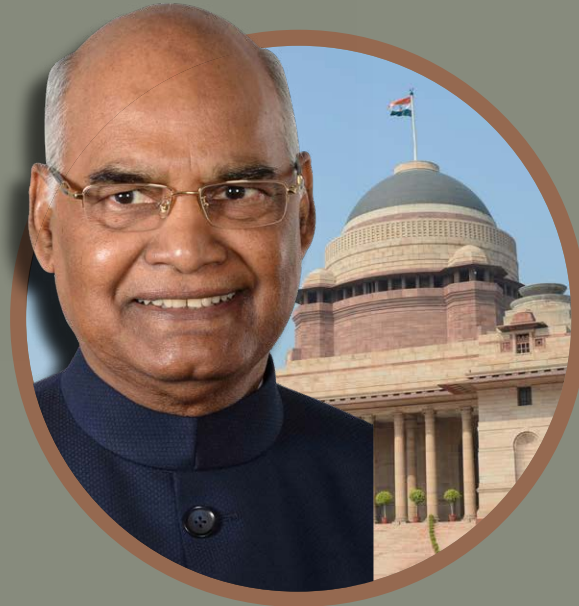
Last date of Nominations

17 July 2017

Date of Poll

20 July 2017

Counting of Votes



Electoral College

The Electoral College consisted of elected members of Lok Sabha (543), Rajya Sabha (233) and 31 State Legislative Assemblies (4120) including NCT of Delhi and UT of Puducherry. Thus, the total electors were 4896.

Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 708 votes based on 1971 census.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Ram Nath Kovind	7,02,044
Meira Kumar	3,67,314
TOTAL	10,69,358



Media as Friend and Ally

The ECI considers the media as both a friend and an ally. Media personnel holding authority letters issued by the ECI are allowed inside the polling hall and in its immediate vicinity. Areas of video recording are clearly demarcated and videographers are not allowed beyond the designated area. Photography or videography is strictly prohibited inside the voting compartment so that there is no violation of secrecy of voting - even by accident.



Ram Nath Kovind filing his nomination papers. Also seen are Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, L. K. Advani, Sushma Swaraj and other leaders



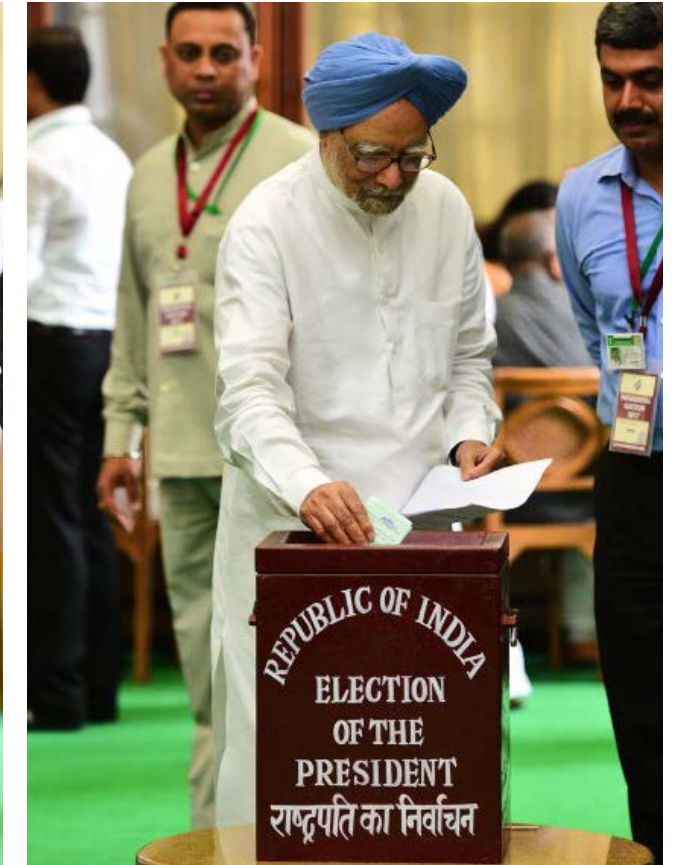
Members await their turn to cast their vote



Members await their turn to cast their votes



Prime Minister Narendra Modi casting his vote as Lok Sabha member



Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh casting his vote



Sonia Gandhi casting her vote as the Member of the Lok Sabha



Supriya Sule casting her vote as a Lok Sabha Member



Voting Process ongoing during the Presidential Election



M. Venkaiah Naidu casting his vote



Mayawati casting her vote



Amit Shah casting his vote



Rahul Gandhi casting his vote in the Presidential election in New Delhi



Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje casts her vote at Rajasthan Assembly during the Presidential election in Jaipur



Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav casts his vote for Presidential election at Bihar Vidhan Sabha in Patna



Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar casts his vote for Presidential election at Legislative Assembly in Panaji



MP from Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi casts his vote during Presidential election in New Delhi



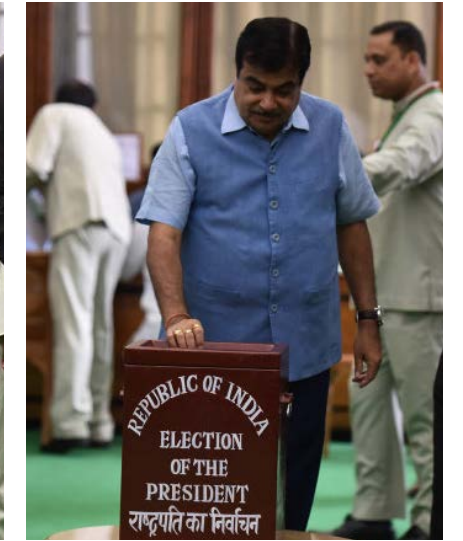
Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti casts her vote for the Presidential election at Assembly Complex in Srinagar



L.K. Advani casting his vote



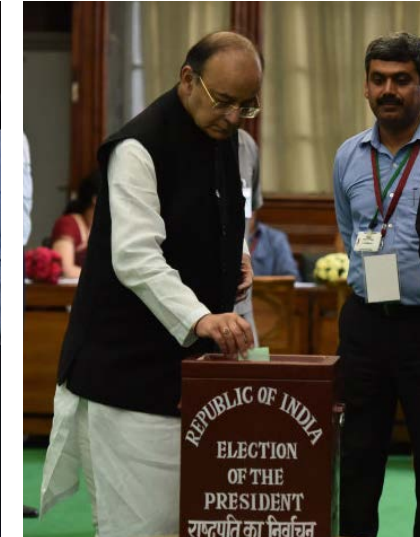
Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan casting her vote



Nitin Gadkari casting his vote



Jyotiraditya Scindia casting his vote



Arun Jaitley casting his vote



Smriti Irani casting her vote



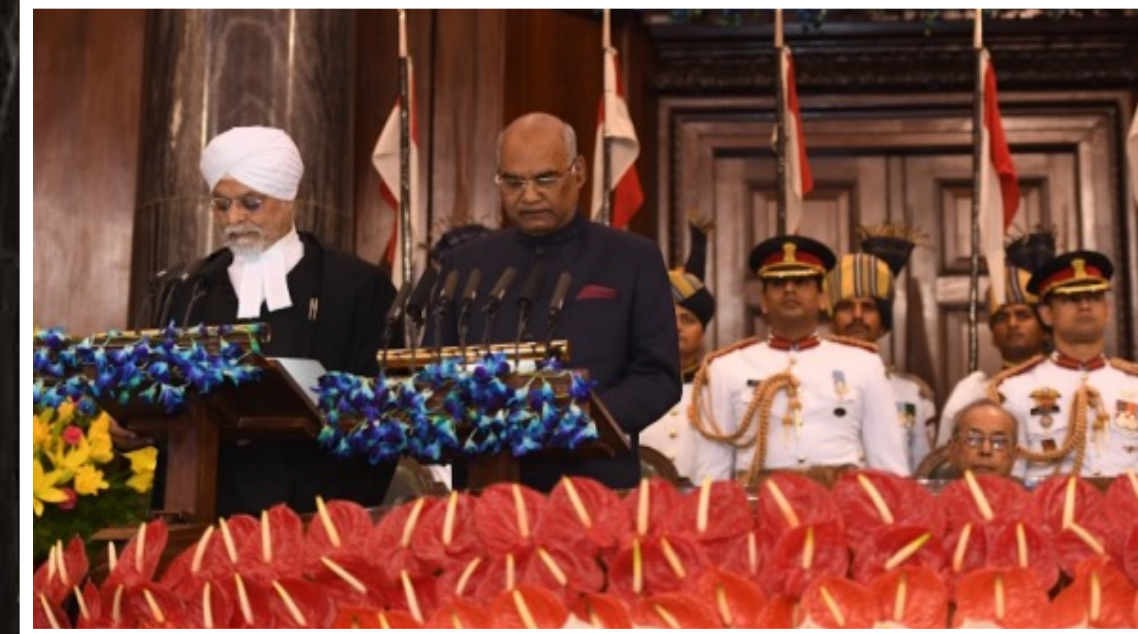
Nirmala Sitharaman casting her vote



Ravi Shankar Prasad casting his vote



Anurag Thakur casting his vote



President-elect Ram Nath Kovind being sworn in by the Chief Justice of India, Justice J. S. Khehar

Outgoing President Pranab Mukherjee congratulates Ram Nath Kovind after the swearing-in ceremony



President Ram Nath Kovind inspecting his first Guard of Honour





Smt. Droupadi Murmu

(Birth - 1958)

Term of Office: 25 July 2022 to the Present



SIXTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (2022)

The sixteenth Presidential election was contested by two candidates: Droupadi Murmu, who had been the Governor of Jharkhand and a member of the Council of Ministers in Odisha, and Yashwant Sinha, a former Indian Administrative Service officer who had been a Union Minister in charge of the Finance and External Affairs portfolios.

The ECI appointed P. C. Modi, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, as the Returning Officer. Mukul Pandey, OSD, and Surendra Kumar Tripathy, Joint Secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat as well as the Secretaries of the 30 State Legislative Assemblies (including those of the NCT of Delhi and Puducherry Union Territory) as the Assistant Returning Officers. Election was conducted under the supervision of Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner.

After the vote count, Droupadi Murmu was declared as the 'Returned Candidate'. She was sworn in on 25 July 2022, and thus Rashtrapati Bhavan had a second woman occupant. She is also the first tribal leader to hold the highest constitutional office. Moreover, she is the first President who was born after Independence and is thus the youngest to become the Head of the State.



Election Schedule

15 June 2022

Date of issue of Notification

29 June 2022

Last date of Nominations

18 July 2022

Date of Poll

21 July 2022

Counting of Votes

Electoral College

Two members were not eligible to vote, and there were five vacancies in Rajya Sabha and six in State Legislative Assemblies. Total 4,796 electors participated in the election.

As the newly formed UT of J&K does not come under the definition of 'state' under Article 54, it was not included in the listing as well as calculation of value of votes of electors. As a result, the value of vote of each Member of Parliament was reduced from 708 to 700.



MPs await their turn at the polling station

Election in a Nutshell

- Each Member of Parliament had 700 votes based on 1971 census.

Presidential Candidates

The contesting candidates and the votes secured by them were as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTES POLLED
Droupadi Murmu	6,76,803
Yashwant Sinha	3,80,177
TOTAL	10,56,980

Nomination Filing Process

In all, 115 Nomination Papers were filed by 98 candidates by 3:00 PM on the 29 June 2022, out of which 28 Nomination Papers of 26 candidates were summarily rejected under Section 5B(4) of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952. The remaining 87 Nomination Papers of 72 candidates were taken up for scrutiny on the 30 June 2022.

After scrutiny, 79 nomination papers filed by 70 candidates were rejected under sections 5B(1)(a) and 5C of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and four sets of nomination papers each filed by Smt. Droupadi Murmu and Yashwant Sinha were accepted by the Returning Officer.



Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh casting his vote as a Lok Sabha member



Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, casting his vote in the Presidential election



Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister of Mizoram, casting his vote in the Presidential election



Neiphiu Rio, Chief Minister of Nagaland, casting his vote in the Presidential election

Prime Minister Narendra Modi casting his vote during the Presidential election 2022



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla casting his vote



Union Minister Kiren Rijiju casting his vote



Bhagwant Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab, casting his vote in the Presidential election



Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, casting his vote in the Presidential election



Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana, casting his vote in the Presidential Election



Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri casting his vote



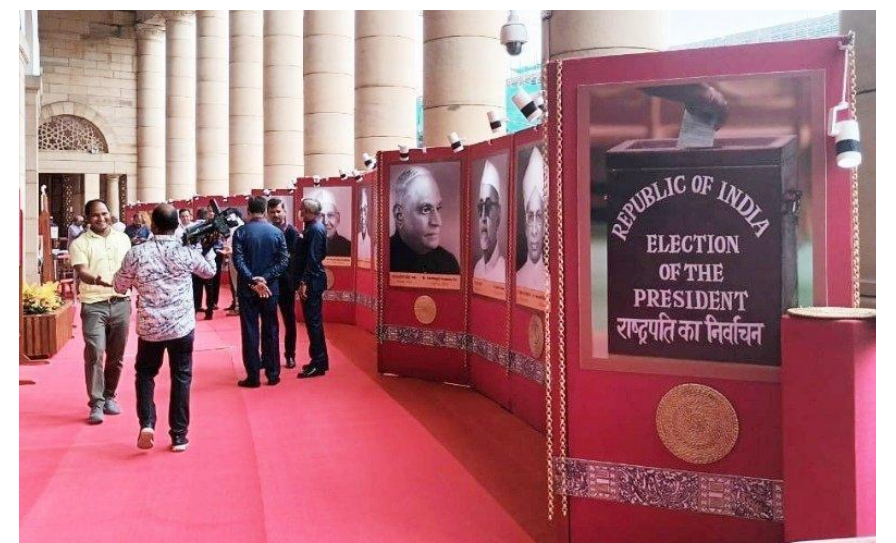
J.P. Nadda casting his vote



Sonia Gandhi casting her vote



Mamta Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, casting her vote in the Presidential election



Parliament House gallery with a display of Presidential election



President-elect Droupadi Murmu being sworn in by the Chief Justice of India, Justice N. V. Ramana



President Droupadi Murmu signing the register after taking the oath



President Droupadi Murmu inspecting her first Guard of Honour



Chapter 4

Selecting the
15TH
President of India



ELECTING THE 15TH PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Holding the 16th Presidential election successfully was the first major challenge before Rajiv Kumar, the 25th Chief Election Commissioner of India, who assumed the charge on 15 May 2022. The term of office of Ram Nath Kovind, the then President of India, was ending on 25 July 2022. As per Article 62 of the Indian Constitution, an election to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the outgoing President was required to be completed before the expiration of the term. Accordingly elections were announced, through a press conference held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.



Rajiv Kumar assuming the charge as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner of India at Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi



THERE WERE TWO
CONTESTING CANDIDATES
NAMELY, **DROUPADI MURMU**
AND **YASHWANT SINHA**
FOR THE 16TH PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION.

POLLING WAS HELD BETWEEN 10 AM TO 5 PM AT THE 31 LOCATIONS.



Presidential Election with COVID-19 Safeguards

- Two members, Anant Kumar Singh and Mahendra Hari Dalvi, were not eligible to vote in the election, owing to disqualification under Section 8 of R.P. Act, 1951, subsequent to the judgment of competent court.
- There were 5 vacancies in Rajya Sabha and 6 vacancies in State Legislative Assemblies.
- A total of 4,796 electors in the list of the Electoral College for this Presidential Election did participate in the election.
- Room No. 63 in Parliament House and 30 polling stations in all State Legislative Assembly Secretariats (including those of the NCT of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry) were fixed as places of polling.
- 44 MPs were permitted to vote at State Headquarters, 9 MLAs at Parliament House and 2 MLAs in other State Headquarters.
- Out of a total of 771 Members of Parliament entitled to vote (5 vacant) and similarly out of total 4,025 Members of the Legislative Assemblies entitled to vote, over 99% did cast their votes during the election.
- 100% voting by MLAs was reported from Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.
- This was the first Presidential Election, which was held with all Covid-19 related safeguards and protocols.
- After going through the narrative reports of the Presidential elections held in 1974, 1979, 1982, 1987 and file records of the Presidential election of 1992, the ECI decided not to include the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the listing and calculation of value of votes of electors. Accordingly, the value of votes of each MP was reduced from 708 to 700, as approved by the Commission.

The Case of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

- The erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir (with legislature) and Ladakh (without legislature) vide the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- The electoral college for the Presidential Election consists of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament; and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States, including the NCT of Delhi and UT of Puducherry.
- Since the newly formed UT of J&K does not come under the definition of “state” in Article 54, the UT of J&K was not included in the listing as well as calculation of value of votes of electors for Presidential Election 2022.
- As a result, the value of vote of each Member of Parliament was reduced from 708 to 700.
- Moreover, in consonance with Rule 7 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, no place of poll was set up (and consequently, no AROs were appointed) in the UT of J&K.



Measures to ensure secrecy of voting and free and fair election

- Unique serial numbered pens of violet ink were supplied centrally by the ECI so as to ensure that no other instrument is used by the voter for marking of preference of vote.



- Special posters on the use of special pens and Do's & Don'ts for electors for casting of vote were provided by ECI for displaying at prominent places outside the polling stations.
- Instant chat messaging app groups were created for RO, AROs, CEOs, ECI officers, ECI Observers, security personnel, etc. and were extensively used to closely monitor and coordinate the activities with State Headquarters, Parliament and ECI.
- Observers were deputed at all places of poll setup in States/UTs as well as in Parliament to keep a watch on poll process as well as any irregularities occurred during the poll process.
- Two Observers are also deployed for the counting process at Parliament House.

Interesting Fact

The total value of votes for MLAs for 16th Presidential Election was 5,43,231. The total value of votes for MPs was 5,43,200.

The total value of vote of electors for the Presidential Election, 2022 was 10,86,431.



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2022

A TIMELINE

01

The Presidential Election was announced on 9 June 2022 in a press conference held at Vigyan Bhawan, fixing inter-alia 15 June 2022 as date of notification, 18 July 2022 as the date of poll and 21 July 2022 as the date of counting.

02

A workshop was held for the RO/AROs, CEOs and other staff involved in the election at Vigyan Bhawan on 13 and 14 June 2022. The workshop was addressed by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey. The officers were imparted training by K.F. Wilfred, Sr. Consultant and Narendra N. Butolia, Sr. Principal Secretary. A Hands-on training was imparted to the officers of Rajya Sabha for counting of votes on 14 June 2022 at IIIDEM campus of Election Commission of India.

03

The places of poll for Presidential Election were notified on 15 May 2022. Places of poll were set up at Parliament House, New Delhi and each Legislative Assembly except Jammu & Kashmir. The place of counting was same as place of poll set up at Parliament House.

04

05

06

07

08

A Video Conference with RO/AROs and CEOs was held on 6 July 2022 to discuss Poll Preparedness. During the VC attended by CEC and EC, matter related to polling and transportation of ballot boxes and other election material were discussed. Various doubts/queries were raised during the VC, which were clarified, some during the VC itself and others vide Commission's letter dated 13 July 2022.

09

A briefing meeting of the Observers was held on 11 July 2022 at India Habitat Center where appointment letters as well as Observers' Kits were handed to the Observers. The meeting was addressed by Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commissioner and the Observers were made familiar with the election process by K.F. Wilfred, Sr. Consultant and Narendra N. Butolia, Sr. Principal Secretary.

10

11

As scheduled, the poll was taken on 18 July 2022 at Parliament House in New Delhi and at all State Capitals (including NCT of Delhi and UT of Puducherry). Out of total 4796 electors who were eligible to vote, (771 MPs and 4025 MLAs), 4754 electors (763 MPs and 3991 MLAs) exercised their franchise.

12

13

The Certification of the Election of Shrimati Droupadi Murmu as the 15th President of the Republic of India was signed by Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner of India and Anup Chandra Pandey, Election Commissioner. The Certification was sent to the Prime Minister by Chief Election Commissioner. A signed copy of the Certification was also handed over to the Union Home Secretary by Dharmendra Sharma, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner and Narendra N. Butolia, Senior Principal Secretary which was read out at the time of oath taking ceremony of the new President of India on 25 July 2022 i.e. on the date of assumption of office.

14

15

A Presidential Cell was constituted in the Commission which worked with various divisions of ECI as well as Departments/Ministry outside the ECI such as DoPT, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Home Affairs, Directorate of Printing, BCAS, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Ministry of Law and Justice, PMO in a concerted effort during course of Presidential Election-2022.

The Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officers for the election were notified on 13 June 2022. As per convention, P.C. Mody, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha was appointed as Returning Officer and two senior officers of Rajya Sabha Secretariat as AROs at Parliament House, New Delhi. Moreover, the Secretary and one other senior officer of each Legislative Assembly Secretariat were appointed as Assistant Returning Officers in the States/UTs.

The electoral college for Presidential election-2022 was prepared as per Article 54 of the Constitution which included total 4809 electors. It was decided not to include the newly formed UT of Jammu & Kashmir in the listing and calculation of value of votes of electors as UT of Jammu & Kashmir does not come under the definition of 'State' mentioned in Article 52 of the Constitution. The value of votes of each MP was 700 while that of MLAs of different States ranged from 7 to 208.

For the polling at Presidential Election-2022, 1850 Green Coloured Ballot Papers for MPs and 2500 Pink Coloured Ballot Papers for MLAs were printed. The ballot papers to be used by MPs as well as MLAs of 14 States (where official languages are either Hindi and English or English only) were printed by Govt of India Press, New Delhi while those for other States were printed by concerned States.

The Commission appointed 41 IAS Officers as Observers for polling for Presidential Election-2022, i.e. 2 at Parliament House, 30 in States/UTs and 9 in reserve list. 2 Observers were also appointed for counting of votes at Parliament House.

For smooth conducting of Presidential Election, 2022 various agencies were involved in the process. These agencies include Ministry of Railway, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Home Affairs, Resident Commissioners, Air India and other Airlines, Delhi Police, CISF, Bureau of Civil Aviation and Security, Rajya Sabha Secretariat. A meeting was held with these agencies wherein action plan for hassle free and safe transportation of teams arriving in Delhi for collection as well as return of Ballot boxes and other election material on 12-14 July 2022 and 18-19 July 2022.

All above agencies came together with overall supervision of ECI to provide their services for smooth transportation of Ballot boxes to and from Delhi.

Help desk were setup by the ECI in coordination with officers of BCAS, Air India and other airlines, DIAL round the clock on 12-13 July 2022 as well as 18-19 July 2022.

Delhi Police provided necessary security and escort to all the teams arrived for collection as well as submission of Polled ballot boxes in New Delhi.

Necessary instructions were also issued to all the Airlines to book tickets in the name of "Mr. Ballot Box" for polled ballot boxes arriving Delhi after polling.

During the distribution of Ballot Boxes and other election material to RO and AROs of all States and UT concerned, the Commission reviewed/inspected the status of distribution of material on 12 July 2022 at 12:00 Noon.

On 21 July 2022, the counting of votes was taken place, out of total 4754 votes polled, with a value of 10,72,377; 4701 votes, with a value of 10,56,980 were valid; and 53 votes, with a value of 15,397 were invalid. The quota for said election was fixed as 5,28,491. The Returning Officer of the said election, the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, after the counting of votes was over, declared Shrimati Droupadi Murmu elected as the next President of India securing 2824 votes, value of which was 6,76,803 on 21 July 2022.

During the Presidential Election, Election Commission of India brought out various publications which includes booklets on "Election to the Office of President of India", "The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974", the Electoral College for Presidential Election-2022, Instructions for Observers, Frequently Asked Questions etc.



Innovations during the Presidential Election, 2022

New features introduced for the 16th Presidential election included:

1. Facilitation for COVID-19 positive electors

- a. The ECI allowed the electors who were COVID-19 positive to cast their vote in the last hour of polling or after all the non-COVID electors would have cast their vote by following all the extant COVID guidelines/instructions issued from time to time by the National Disaster Management Authority/ respective State Disaster Management Authority.
- b. Two COVID-19 positive electors cast their vote in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and one COVID-19 positive Member of Parliament chose to cast his vote in Thiruvananthapuram.



S. Gnanathiraviam, MP from Tamil Nadu, casting his vote with Covid protocol from Thiruvananthapuram



Thiru.O.Panneerselvam - MLA, Bodi Assembly Constituency casting his vote with Covid protocol

2. Green Election Measures

- a. This time, the ECI directed the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officers to ensure use of eco-friendly and biodegradable material and eliminate the use of prohibited plastic/materials as per extant instructions of the Government of India.

Commission stated that

“It has always been the Commission’s endeavour to make elections eco-friendly. The election to the office of President of India, being an indirect election, does not involve election campaigning in the conventional way of displaying banners, posters etc. Still, the Commission, in view of importance of this election, has directed the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officers concerned to ensure use of eco-friendly and biodegradable material and eliminate the use of prohibited plastic/materials as per extant instructions of Government of India.”



In 16th Presidential election, a few states like Meghalaya and Goa took ‘Green Election’ initiative

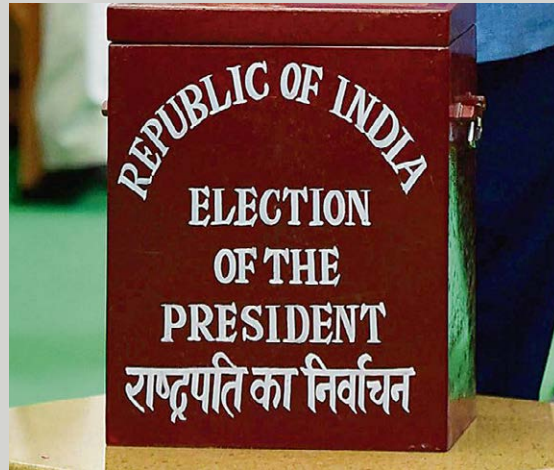




Specific Instructions

Commission instruction regarding sealing of 'Key Purse'

The Commission decided that after the poll is over and the ballot box has been closed and kept in the wooden box and the same has also been locked and sealed, the Key Purse containing the key of ballot box and wooden box shall also be kept in an envelope, duly superscribed "Key of Ballot Box and Wooden Box", and the name of the State, shall also be sealed in the presence of Observers and candidates' representative and shall be kept in the strong room. While bringing the polled ballot box to Parliament House on 18 July 2022 and 19 July 2022, this sealed envelope will be brought in such a way that the seal thereon is not broken and will be handed over to Returning Officer alongwith polled ballot box and other election materials.



A ballot box



Ballot Boxes safely put in strong room till boarding time in Telangana during the Presidential elections, 2022



The Concept of "Mr. Ballot Box"

- The ballot box has a prominent role in the process of the Presidential election. It is no ordinary box, as it is to hold the fate of the highest office of the largest democracy on the planet.
- Thus, the mandated procedure specifies special caution during the transportation, storage, and use of these boxes.
- The process, particularly for the conduct of Presidential elections, also involves a fascinating journey of the ballot box reaching every state capital and returning after the conduct of elections.
- During transportation, the ballot boxes fly on a separate air ticket booked in the name of 'Mr. Ballot Box' seated in the front row of the aircraft beside the seat of the officer transporting the materials under personal supervision.



The air ticket for 'Mr. Ballot Box'



'Mr. Ballot Box', accompanied by an officer, occupies a seat in the aircraft



Behind the Scenes: Preparations of the Presidential Elections

The Training of the Officials

The ECI led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey reviewed the poll preparedness for the elections to the office of President of India with the RO, AROs and CEOs of all States/UTs on 6 July 2022.

Another crucial preparation for the presidential election is preparing the team for the entire process. Officers involved in the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections are trained and informed before the election in an extensive workshop. For the sixteenth Presidential elections, the workshop was conducted on 13 June 2022.

The Commission issued detailed guidelines for conduct of polls and AROs and Observers were trained on the same lines. The training workshop involved various aspects including instructions for proper sitting arrangements, entry of authorised people at the polling place, proper placement of the posters for the use of specified pen and poster for the voters, proper videography, issuing of the ballot paper to the elector, different reports to be sent to the Commission by the RO and the ASOs, and proper maintenance of the account of the ballot.

The training was attended by the CEOs of States and the UTs of NCT of Delhi and Puducherry. The Returning Officer P. C. Mody, Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha, also attended the meeting.



A training workshop being held before the sixteenth presidential elections

Inspection of Polling material before its dispatch

Before the dispatch of Mr. Ballot Box, the same was inspected by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and A. C. Pandey, Election Commissioner along with other senior officers of the Commission.



Election Commission officials addressing the media during the Presidential Election 2022 after Observers' briefing meeting



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey inspecting a ballot box



रजिस्ट्री सं. सी.एन.-33004/99

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
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PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (iii)
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भारत निर्वाचन आयोग अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 15 जून, 2022

आ.अ. 40(अ)— वतः भारत के राष्ट्रपति श्री रामनाथ कोविंद की पदावधि की समाप्ति संविधान के अनुच्छेद 56 के खण्ड (1) के अनुसार तारीख 24 जुलाई, 2022 को होने वाली है; और

यतः संविधान के अनुच्छेद 62 के खण्ड (1) के अनुसार, उनकी पदावधि समाप्त होने से पूर्व पदधारी राष्ट्रपति की पदावधि समाप्त होने के कारण उत्पन्न होने वाली रिक्ति को भरने के लिए निर्वाचन कराया जाना अपेक्षित है; और

यतः राष्ट्रीय और उपराष्ट्रीय निर्वाचन अधिनियम, 1952 (1952 का 31) की धारा 4 की उपधारा (3) के अधीन, भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के पद को भरने के लिए निर्वाचन के लिए तारीख इस तरह तय की जानी अपेक्षित है कि यह निर्वाचन समय के अन्दर पूरा हो जाए ताकि इस प्रकार निर्वाचित राष्ट्रपति अपना पदभार वर्ष 2022 की जुलाई के पन्चमिंसे दिन को ग्रहण कर सके।

अतः अब, भारत निर्वाचन आयोग एतद्वारा:—

अ) संविधान के अनुच्छेद 54 में निर्दिष्ट निर्वाचक मंडल से यह अपेक्षा करता है कि वे संविधान के प्रावधानों के अनुसार, राष्ट्रीय और उपराष्ट्रीय निर्वाचन अधिनियम, 1952 (1952 का 31) और तदधीन बनाए गए नियमों और उनके तहत जारी किए गए आदेशों के अनुसार, वर्तमान राष्ट्रपति की अवधि खत्म होने से पूर्व भारत के राष्ट्रपति के पद को भरने के लिए एक व्यक्ति निर्वाचित कर दें; और

आ) उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 4 की उपधारा (1) के अनुसार में निम्नलिखित निर्धारित करता है:

- (क) नाम-निर्देशन करने की अंतिम तारीख : 29 जून, 2022(बुधवार)

4031 GI/2022 (1)

The notification for the 16th Presidential elections issued on 15 June 2022

2	THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : EXTRAORDINARY	[PART II—Sec. 3(iii)]
(क)	नाम-निर्देशन की संवीक्षा की तारीख	: 30 जून, 2022(गुरुवार)
(ग)	अभ्यर्थितों के बापस लेने की अंतिम तारीख	: 02 जुलाई, 2022(शनिवार)
(घ)	वह तारीख जिनको, यदि आवश्यक हुआ, तो मतदान होगा	: 18 जुलाई, 2022(सोमवार)

[फा. सं. 479/2022]
आदेश में,
नरेंद्र ना.बुटोलिया, वरिष्ठ प्रधान सचिव

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 15th June, 2022

O.N. 40(E).— : Whereas, the term of office of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, is due to expire, in terms of clause (1) of Article 56 of the Constitution, on the 24th Day of July, 2022; and

Whereas, an election is due to be held, in terms of clause (1) of Article 62 of the Constitution, to fill the vacancy to be caused by the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent President before the expiration of term of his office; and

Whereas, under sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 (31 of 1952), the Election Commission of India is required to so appoint the dates for the election to fill the vacancy in the office of the President of India that the election will be completed at such time as will enable the President thereby elected to enter upon his/her office on the 25th Day of July, 2022;

Now, therefore, the Election Commission of India hereby—

- (A) calls upon the Electoral College, referred to in Article 54 of the Constitution, to elect a person to fill the above vacancy in the Office of President of India before the expiration of the term of the incumbent President, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 (31 of 1952), and the Rules and Orders made thereunder; and
- (B) in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the said Act, appoints -
 - a) the 29th June, 2022 (Wednesday), as the last date for making nominations;
 - b) the 30th June, 2022 (Thursday), as the date for scrutiny of the nominations;
 - c) the 02nd July, 2022 (Saturday), as the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures; and
 - d) the 18th July, 2022 (Monday), as the date on which a poll shall, if necessary, be taken.

[F. No. 479/2022]

By Order,

NARENDRA N. BUTOLIA, Sr. Pr. Secy.

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The Returning Officer and his colleagues



The schedule of the Presidential election 2022 being announced at a press conference



Certification of Election

- Certification of Election of Smt. Droupadi Murmu as 15th President of India was signed by the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar and Hon'ble Election Commissioner, Anup Chandra Pandey on 22 July 2022 i.e. the day following the day of counting of votes.



The Commission signing the Certification of Election of Droupadi Murmu

- The said certificate was sent to the PMO by the Protocol Division on 22 July 2022 and the other copy of the said certificate was handed over to the Home Secretary, MHA, by Sr. DEC Dharmendra Sharma and Sr. Principal Secy. N.N. Butolia.

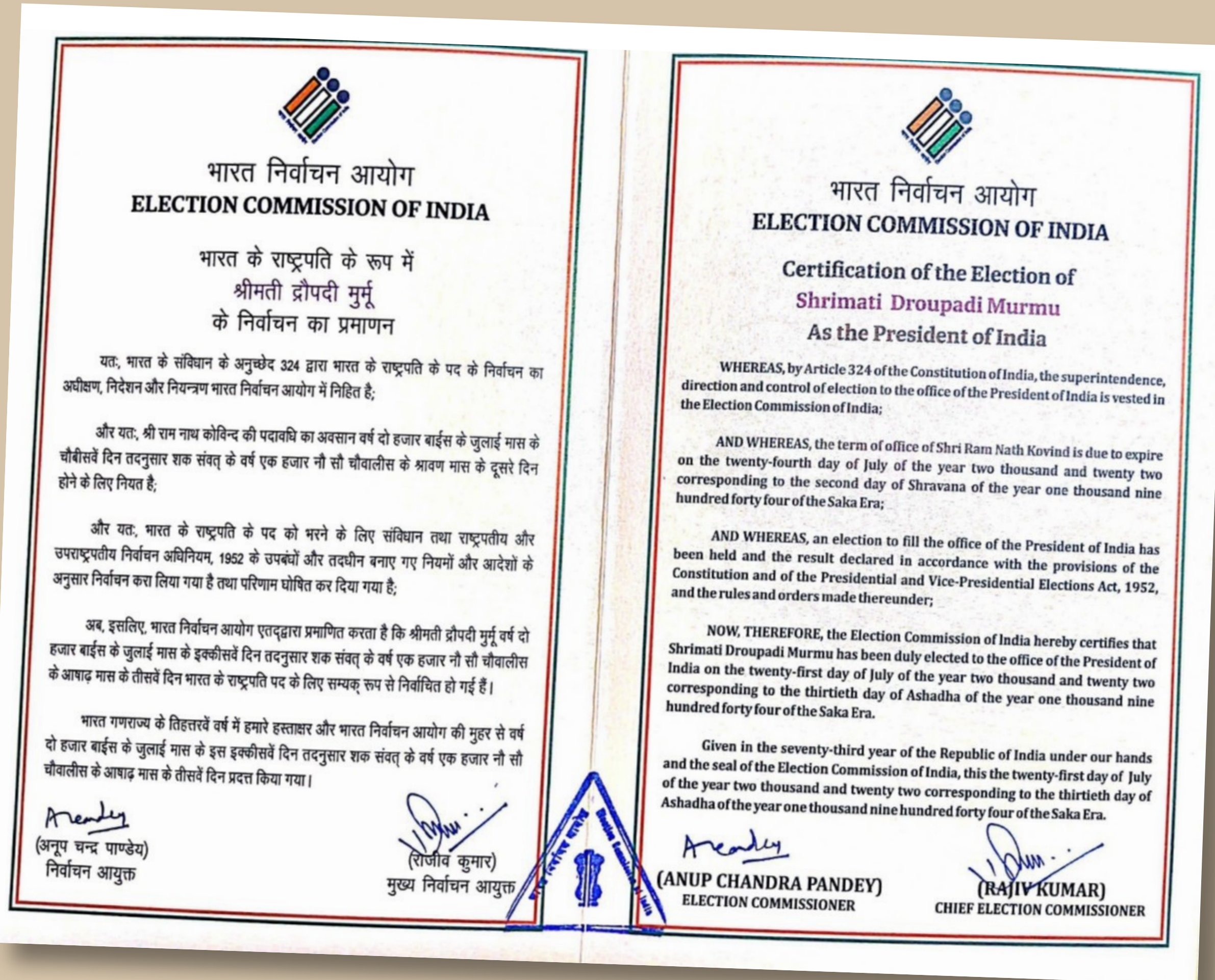


Dharmendra Sharma (centre), Sr. DEC, and N.N. Butolia (left), Sr. Principal Secy, handing over the Certificate of Presidential election to Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 2022 STATEMENT OF VALUE OF VOTES OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES AND BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AS PER PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 55(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

SL. No.	NAME OF STATE/ UNION TERRITORY	NUMBER OF ASSEMBLY SEATS (ELECTIVE)	POPULATION (1971 CENSUS)	VALUE OF VOTE OF EACH M.L.A.	TOTAL VALUE OF VOTES FOR THE STATE
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	175	27800586	159	159 X 175 = 27825
2.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	60	467511	8	008 X 060 = 480
3.	ASSAM	126	14625152	116	116 X 126 = 14616
4.	BIHAR	243	42126236	173	173 X 243 = 42039
5.	CHHATTISGARH	90	11637494	129	129 X 090 = 11610
6.	GOA	40	795120	20	020 X 040 = 800
7.	GUJARAT	182	26697475	147	147 X 182 = 26754
8.	HARYANA	90	10036808	112	112 X 090 = 10080
9.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	68	3460434	51	051 X 068 = 3468
10.	JHARKHAND	81	14227133	176	176 X 081 = 14256
11.	KARNATAKA	224	29299014	131	131 X 224 = 29344
12.	KERALA	140	21347375	152	152 X 140 = 21280
13.	MADHYA PRADESH	230	30016625	131	131 X 230 = 30130
14.	MAHARASHTRA	288	50412235	175	175 X 288 = 50400
15.	MANIPUR	60	1072753	18	018 X 060 = 1080
16.	MEGHALAYA	60	1011699	17	017 X 060 = 1020
17.	MIZORAM	40	332390	8	008 X 040 = 320
18.	NAGALAND	60	516449	9	009 X 060 = 540
19.	ODISHA	147	21944615	149	149 X 147 = 21903
20.	PUNJAB	117	13551060	116	116 X 117 = 13572
21.	RAJASTHAN	200	25765806	129	129 X 200 = 25800
22.	SIKKIM	32	209843	7	007 X 032 = 224
23.	TAMIL NADU	234	41199168	176	176 X 234 = 41184
24.	TELANGANA	119	15702122	132	132 X 119 = 15708
25.	TRIPURA	60	1556342	26	026 X 060 = 1560
26.	UTTARAKHAND	70	4491239	64	064 X 070 = 4480
27.	UTTAR PRADESH	403	83849905	208	208 X 403 = 83824
28.	WEST BENGAL	294	44312011	151	151 X 294 = 44394
29.	UT OF NCT OF DELHI	70	4065698	58	058 X 070 = 4060
30.	UT OF PUDUCHERRY	30	471707	16	016 X 030 = 480
TOTAL		4033	543002005		= 543231



The certificate of the Election of Droupadi Murmu as the President of India

EC announces election for President on July 18

Media coverage of Presidential election

Electing the next President of India

The Election Commission of India on Thursday announced that notification for polls will be issued on June 15, kicking starting 16th presidential elections. A look at what it entails

JULY 24 ELECTION PROCEDURE

TERM OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND ENDS

Article 62 of Constitution says that the procedure of polls begins before the expiration of a President's term

SCHEDULE

JUNE 29 Last date for filing nominations

JULY 2 Last date for withdrawal of candidature

JULY 18 Polls to take place

JUNE 30 Scrutiny of nominations

July 21: Counting of votes, if needed

1,086,431 Total value of

543,200 for 776 MPs

543,231 for 4,033 MLAs

HOW PARTIES

WHO VOTES:

- Members of both Houses of Parliament
- Members of legislative assemblies of states, and NCT of Delhi and UT of Puducherry

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए विधानसभा पहुंची मतपेटी

नई दिल्ली। 18 जुलाई को होने वाले राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के मद्देनजर बुधवार को चुनाव संबंधी सामग्री को सुरक्षा के बीच दिल्ली विधानसभा लाया गया। इससे पूर्व दिल्ली विधान सभा के सहायक रिटर्निंग ऑफिसर (एआरओ) सी वेलुमुर्गन ने चुनाव आयोग (ईसीआई) से नामित मतपेटी, मतपत्र, विशेष पेन और अन्य सीलबंद चुनाव सामग्री प्राप्त की। विधानसभा में स्ट्रांग रूम में उचित सुरक्षा उपाय किए गए हैं। दिल्ली विधान सभा के सभी 70 सदस्य 16वें राष्ट्रपति का चुनाव करने के लिए अपना वोट देंगे।

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए मतदान 18 जुलाई को

मतों की गिनती 21 जुलाई को होगी

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव की तारीखों का ऐलान, 18 जुलाई को मतदान

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। निर्वाचन आयोग ने गुरुवार को राष्ट्रपति चुनाव की तारीखों का ऐलान कर दिया। देश का अगला राष्ट्रपति (16वें) चुनने के लिए 18 जुलाई को वोट डाले जाएंगे और 21 जुलाई को मतगणना होगी। सांसदों-विधायकों वाले निर्वाचक मंडल के 4,809 सदस्य राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविंद का उत्तराधिकारी चुनेंगे।



राजीव कुमार, मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त

मौजूदा समीकरण

49% मत एनडीए के पास अभी

51% वोट संपूर्ण विपक्ष मिल जाए तो होगा

एनडीए को बीजद, वाईएसआर कांग्रेस जैसे दलों का मिल सकता है साथ, इसलिए उसका पलड़ा भारी

सांसदों के मत का मूल्य घटा

विशेष स्याही वाले पेन का मतदान में किया जाएगा इस्तेमाल, गड़बड़ी पाए जाने पर रद्द कर दिया जाएगा मत। नए मतदाताओं के लिए जल्द ही जारी की जाएगी नई सूची। इस बार सांसदों के मत का मूल्य घटा।



4,809 मतदाता तय करेंगे नए मतदाताओं का नाम

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव की तारीख के एलान के बाद गुरुवार को राजनीतिक हलकों से लेकर सड़कों पर चर्चा शुरू हो गई। संसद में विधानसभा के रूप में विधानसभा के सबसे अधिक उम्र के केरल के राज्यपाल अरिफ मोहम्मद खां के तैयारी अभियान अतिमान बख्त तक शांति

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव : मतदान पेटी व अन्य चुनाव सामग्री दिल्ली विधानसभा परिसर लाई गई

जनसत्ता संवाददाता नई दिल्ली, 13 जुलाई।

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव की सरगमी राजधानी दिल्ली समेत पूरे देश में देखने को मिल रही है। बुधवार को इसकी हलचल दिल्ली विधानसभा परिसर में भी दिखी। राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए मतदान पेटी और अन्य महत्वपूर्ण चुनाव सामग्री बुधवार को दिल्ली विधानसभा परिसर में लाई गई और उन्हें 'स्ट्रांग रूम' में रखा गया है। दिल्ली के सभी 70 सदस्य राष्ट्रपति



विधायकों सहित 4,809 निर्वाचक मौजूदा राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविंद के उत्तराधिकारी को चुनने के लिए मतदान करेंगे।

निर्वाचन आयोग के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने यहां कहा- आगामी राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए तैयारियों के क्रम में दिल्ली विधानसभा के सहायक चुनाव अधिकारी (एआरओ) के नेतृत्व में बुधवार को मतदान पेटी, मतपत्र, विशेष पेन और अन्य सीलबंद चुनाव सामग्री को सुरक्षा के बीच दिल्ली विधानसभा लाया गया। इससे पूर्व दिल्ली विधान सभा के सहायक रिटर्निंग ऑफिसर (एआरओ) सी वेलुमुर्गन ने चुनाव आयोग (ईसीआई) से नामित मतपेटी, मतपत्र, विशेष पेन और अन्य सीलबंद चुनाव सामग्री प्राप्त की। विधानसभा में स्ट्रांग रूम में उचित सुरक्षा उपाय किए गए हैं। दिल्ली विधान सभा के सभी 70 सदस्य 16वें राष्ट्रपति का चुनाव करने के लिए अपना वोट देंगे।

PRESIDENTIAL POLLS Electors to use special pen with violet ink

NEW DELHI: Seeking to maintain secrecy of voting, the EC has directed returning officer and assistant returning officers to provide voters with a specially designed pen to mark their ballot papers in the presidential poll.

In a direction to Rajya Sabha secretary general, who is the returning officer for the July 18 poll, and assistant returning officers in states, the EC

in the presidential poll, every elector should be given a "specially designed pen" for marking preferences on the ballot paper. The EC will provide ROs and AROs with violet ink so as to ensure that preferences are marked in violet ink only and with that pen alone.

"Any ballot paper marked with any other pen, ball point pen, etc. may be liable to be rejected."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday kicked off the distribution of ballot boxes, ballot



Ballot papers, other poll paraphernalia handed over to assistant returning officers

'मिस्टर बैलेट बॉक्स' विमान की अगली सीटों पर बैठ हुए रवाना

यात्रियों की तरह विमान का टिकट कटाकर भेजे 14 बैलेट बॉक्स, 16 आज भेजेंगे

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए मतपेटियों को विमानों से विभिन्न राज्यों में यात्रियों की तरह भेजा जा रहा है। उनके लिए विमान में 'मिस्टर बैलेट बॉक्स' नाम से टिकट बुक किए जा रहे हैं और उन्हें अंग्रेजी के सर्वनाम 'ही' से संबोधित किया जा रहा है। सीट भी सबसे आगे की दी जा रही है ताकि चुनाव अधिकारी को उनसे नजर न हटे।

लखनऊ सहित 14 राजधानियों के लिए मंगलवार तक मिस्टर बैलेट बॉक्स रवाना कर



मुख्य चुनाव

'Mr Ballot Box' takes front-row plane seat

EC Dispatches Poll Items For Prez Election

New Delhi: Ballot boxes meant for use in Presidential polls "travel" to all states and Union territories



State Droupadi Murmu being greeted by in Kolkata on Tuesday

Election for 16th Prez...

joint candidate. The vote value of the Electoral College (MPs and MLAs minus those nominated) for the 16th presidential election is 10,86,431 with 5,43,215 votes being the halfway mark. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the Electoral College will consist of 776 MPs (vote value 5,43,200) and 4,033 MLAs (vote value 5,43,231) with the Rajya Sabha Secretary General designated as Returning Officer (RO) for the election.

The value of each MP vote has fallen from 708 in the 2017 election to 700 now because of the absence of the Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir. The MP vote strength is calculated after dividing the value of the number of

ular, progressive credentials. Much will depend on the stance West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee takes in these discussions, having made adverse remarks against Congress-led UPA in the recent past.

Overall, Opposition sources said the idea was to not let the NDA get a walkover. Meanwhile, analysis of the Electoral College data reveals the contest by the Opposition would be symbolic as the UPA's estimated vote value is 1,51,900, far behind the NDA's 5,36,303 - which is just 6,912 votes short of simple majority of 5,43,215 in the Electoral College.

The BJD, YSRCP and AIADMK are likely to back

Chapter 5

*Presidential Musings on Democracy
and Elections*





PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS ON DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS

The sincere efforts, hard work and dedication often get their due! Something similar is applicable even for the Election Commission of India. An independent body, which has conducted numerous elections over the period of last seven decades, has often received accolades for integrity of its processes and transparent procedures, even from the highest office of the Indian Republic. This chapter traces the views and appreciation of the former Presidents of India about the magnanimity of elections in India. It is just a representative depiction.

Some people have doubted the wisdom of adult franchises. Personally, although I look upon it as an experiment the result of which no one will be able to forecast today, I am not dismayed by it. I am a man of the village and although I have had to live in cities for a pretty long time, on account of my work, my roots are still there. I, therefore, know the village people will constitute the bulk of this vast electorate. In my opinion, our people possess intelligence and commonsense. They also have a culture which the sophisticated people of today may not appreciate, but which is solid. In the case of the Legislature, the High Courts, the Public Services Commission, the comptroller and Auditor-General and the Election Commissioner, the Staff which will assist them in their work has also been placed under their control and in most of these cases their appointment, promotion and discipline vest in the particular institution to which they belong thus giving additional safeguards about their independence.

- Dr. Rajendra Prasad

From the 'Select Speeches' in the Eminent Parliamentarians
Monogram series, published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat in 1990.





Today, when I met a lady member of your House of Representatives I asked her: "How many lady members do you have in your Congress?" She said: "Eleven — in the Senate, two." Eleven plus two — thirteen. We have in the two Houses in our country 52 ladies, four times your number. And we are not satisfied with that representation. We want to see it increased, go up, that's what we are all anxious about. The Minister in Waiting on me here is my friend, Lakshmi Menon.

Now, all I wish to say is we have been trying to implement the ideals of equality. We have a long way to go, but yet the steps we have taken are not inconsiderable. We are aware of the little done and the vast undone. Democracy has taken roots in our country. The general elections demonstrate it. We had in the last election over 220 million voters, of whom 120 million actually voted, and we had 2,38,000 polling booths.

These elections are conducted in a quiet, peaceful way.

- **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**

In reply to Mr. Dean Rusk's address at a State Department luncheon, Washington, 3 June 1963.



In February this year, the nation went to the polls throughout the country in the fourth General Elections. About 18,870 candidates contested 4,083 seats in Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly constituencies. Some 119.5 million voters, representing about 48 per cent of the electorate, exercised their franchise. The orderly manner in which the elections were conducted reflects great credit on the State Governments for the efficiency of their arrangements. It also testifies to the political awareness of our people and their inherent belief in democratic processes.

- **Dr. Zakir Husain**

From the inauguration speech at the conference of State Governors, New Delhi, November 10 1967.

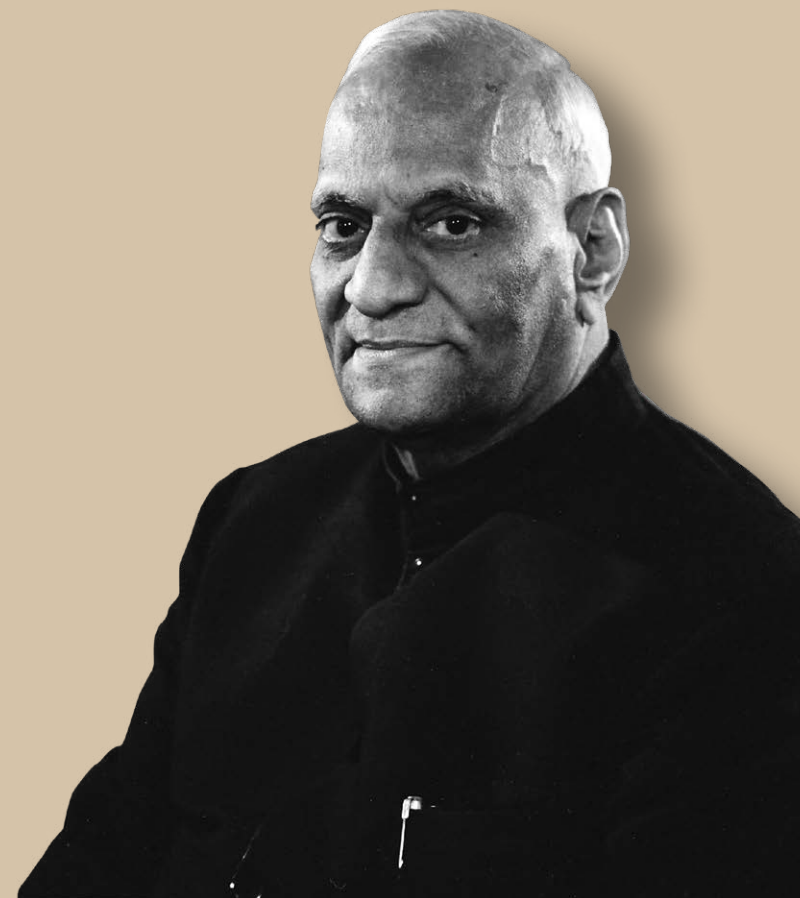




Independent India's Constitution laid great emphasis on the promotion of the welfare of the people by securing and protecting effectively a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of national life, In elections to our Legislatures, adult franchise was deliberately introduced so that the Governments formed would have the widest possible representative character. It also meant that the people's needs and the people's voice should be the dominant consideration in all affairs of State. Our parliamentary system provides the necessary means and machinery for a process of orderly change and a revolution by general consent.

- **Varahagiri Venkata Giri**

From a parliamentary address, published in 'Speeches of President V. V. Giri' (Vol. II), February 1977.



Government has under consideration basic reforms in electoral laws and procedures in order to make the electoral process more equitable, and less susceptible to pernicious influences...It needs to be noted that our system has withstood the strains and stresses of the times, largely as a result of restoration of civil liberties, the free play of democratic processes and the containing of inflationary pressures.

- **Neelam Sanjiva Reddy**

From a parliamentary address on 19 February 1979.





With the attainment of national Independence the message of democracy message of freedom and equality — has become the cornerstone of our political framework. Democracy is not a mere political technique of statecraft, but a live social philosophy with social awareness and discipline which makes for a creative living and fulfilment.

- **Giani Zail Singh**

From a speech while inaugurating the New Assembly Hall Building, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, 2 May 1983.



It is imperative that elections be free from the maladies of coercion, violence and booth capturing. I am happy that the recent election to the Ninth Lok Sabha has by and large reflected the people's will, though instances of election malpractices and violence were reported from various areas. That nearly 300 million people exercised their franchise and brought about a smooth transition in government especially at a time when, elsewhere, changes of governments have occurred through bitter and violent processes, is the highest tribute to the Indian people and Indian democracy.

The people of India may be poor, many of them may be illiterate, but few societies in the world can match the Indian people in the confidence and maturity with which they exercise their democratic rights. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the people of India as a whole on the disciplined exercise of their democratic rights. I also wish to compliment the Election Commission, the Electoral Officers and other administrative staff for their methodical, systematic and fair conduct of the elections. I am confident that in the elections to State Legislatures which lie ahead of us, some of the electoral malpractices noticed during the Lok Sabha elections will be eschewed by political parties and their associates.

India is acknowledged as the largest democracy in the world. Nowhere either now or in the world's history have over 500 million people been given the right to choose their government through the ballot box.

- **R. Venkataraman**

From 'Selected Speeches' (Vol. II)





We are well aware now of the strengths and advantages that democracy confers. Equally, we ought to be sensitive to the principles and proprieties that need to be safeguarded to maintain and develop democratic institutions and processes on a wholesome basis in tune with interest of our nation and people.

- **Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma**

From his Address to the Nation on the occasion of the Republic Day, 1997.



Indian democracy is a result of several complicated elements put together. As a result of the interaction of these elements and methodologies, a unique kind of democracy was created whose significance wasn't just limited to India but also pertinent to the new pluralistic world that was parallelly developing. In addition, the revolutionary effects of universal adult suffrage became clearer every day. Women and members of the lowest socio economic classes took active interest in politics and the electoral process.

The Election Commission of India was successful in conducting national as well as state elections since 1952. With passage of time, the Commission started to play a more active role to ensure fair, accessible and ethical elections. The Commission had gone to the extent of disciplining the political parties with a threat of derecognizing if the parties failed in maintaining inner-party democracy. It upheld the values enshrined in the Constitution viz, equality, equity, impartiality, independence; and rule of law in superintendence, direction, and control over the electoral governance.

- **K. R. Narayanan**

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Election Commission.





We can today look back with pride on the functioning of the Election Commission during the last five decades. It has organised 13 General Elections, and many State elections. These were colossal enterprises involving millions of voters spread throughout the length and breadth of this vast country. The efficiency and the unquestioned impartiality with which these elections were conducted went a long way in consolidating the democratic process in this country. The Election Commission thus emerged as an independent institution that enjoyed credibility among the political parties and elicited the faith of the people.

In a public opinion poll it was found that people rated the Election Commission very high, far ahead of the police, the bureaucracy, the political parties, the Central Government, local self Government and even the judiciary. Mr. Chief Election Commissioner, you and your colleagues in the Commission, can be proud of the high estimation of the Indian public of the institution you head.

- Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

On the conduct of the 14th Lok Sabha elections



I have been assured by the Election Commission that all the polling officers and professionals responsible for conduct of polls will provide easy-to-follow clarifications and guidance to the voters for their doubts, help them with a smile in exercising their franchise and be people friendly.

- Pratibha Devisingh Patil

On the occasion of the first National Voters Day which also marked the Diamond Jubilee of the ECI, 2011.





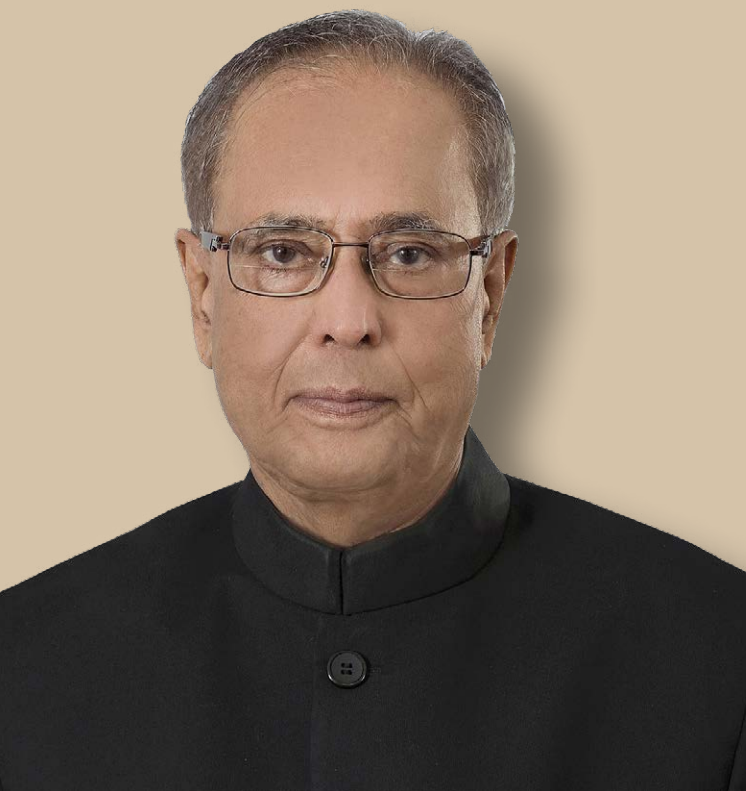
In 1962, when I fought my first election, the voting process moved from the balloting system to the marking system, and then gradually to the present system based on Electronic Voting Machines. Printed electoral rolls have now been substituted by computerised photo-electoral rolls. The Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC), has been issued to voters. Results are now declared in one day, as opposed to phased announcements earlier.

The Election Commission, as an independent entity has not only helped strengthen democracy at home, but also enhanced the global prestige of India as a democracy. It has often been called upon to share its experiences of the conduct of elections in the world's largest democracy with other countries.

In the years that followed, the President of India inaugurated subsequent National Voters' Day celebrations and honoured the Commission with their words of appreciation.

- Pranab Mukherjee

While inaugurating the 4th National Voters Day, in 2014.

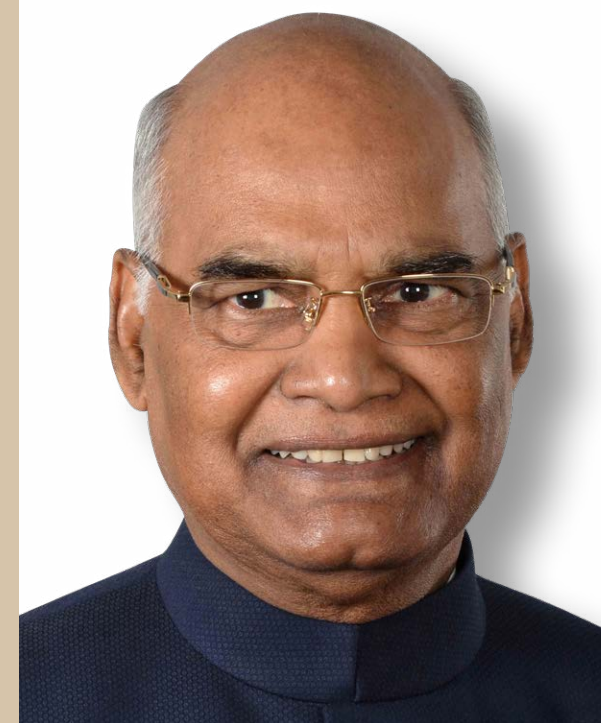


To ensure that the Election Commission retains its independence and status, the Constitution itself vide Article 324 gives it the powers of "superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President". It is, therefore, an organisation that has immense responsibilities and whose efficient functioning has a singular bearing on the quality of democracy in the country.

The Election Commission of India deserves our appreciation for delivering to the citizens of this country, a system that ensures transparent, free and fair elections. Its role in promoting democracy has been so efficient that it has gained global recognition as a model worthy of emulation. I compliment the Election Commission for this laudable achievement.

- Ram Nath Kovind

While inaugurating the 9th National Voters Day, in 2019.





"I started my journey of life from a small tribal village in Odisha in the eastern part of the country. From the background that I come from, it was like a dream for me to get elementary education. But despite many obstacles, my determination remained strong and I became the first daughter of my village to go to a college. I belong to tribal society. I have got the opportunity to rise from serving as a ward councillor to becoming the President of India. This is the greatness of India, the mother of democracy. It is a tribute to the power of our democracy that a daughter born in a poor house in a remote tribal area can reach the highest constitutional position in India. That I attained the post of President is not my personal achievement, it is the achievement of every poor person in India. My election is a proof of the fact that the poor in India can have dreams and fulfil them too."

- Droupadi Murmu

On her assumption of office as President of India, 25 July 2022.





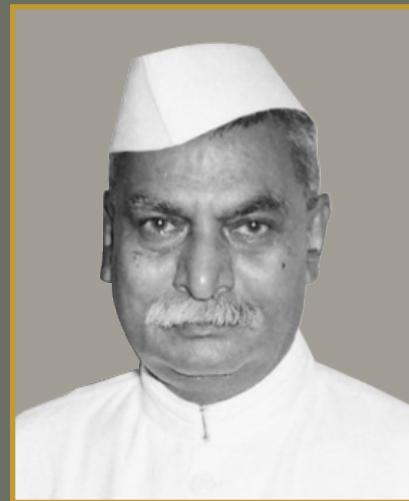
Chapter 6

Tracing the Legacy

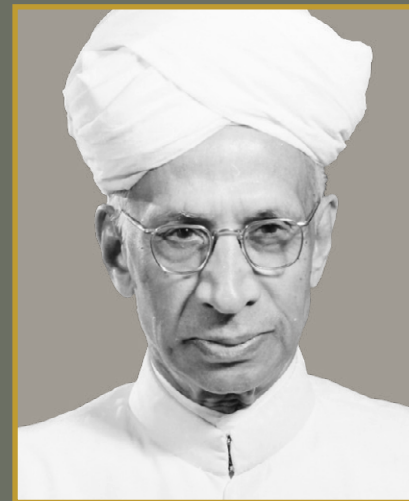


TRACING THE LEGACY

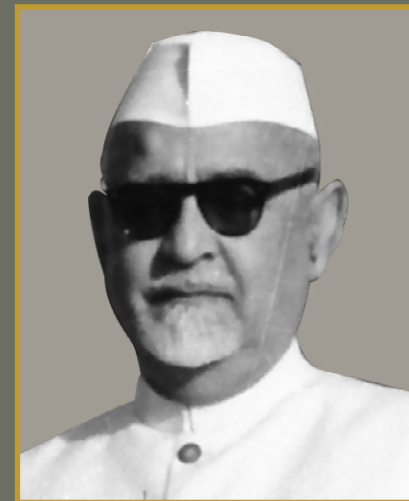
PRESIDENTS OF INDIA



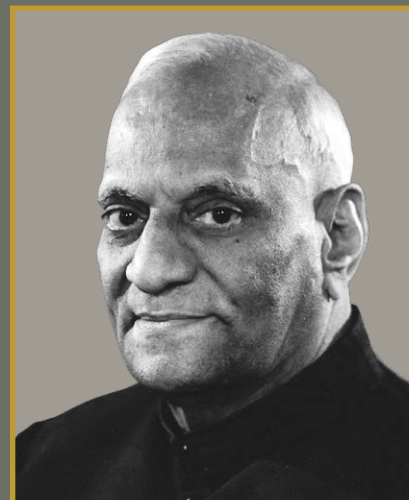
Dr. Rajendra Prasad
Term of Office
26 January, 1950 to 13 May, 1962



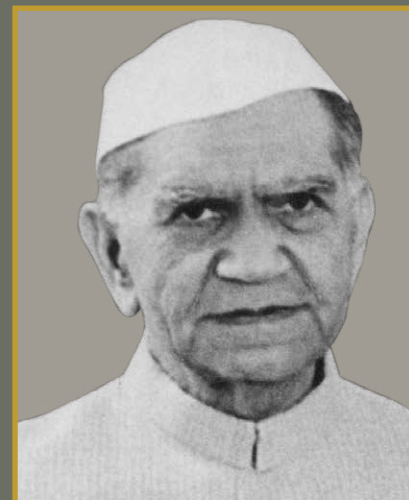
Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
Term of Office
13 May, 1962 to 13 May, 1967



Dr. Zakir Husain
Term of Office
13 May, 1967 to 3 May, 1969



Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri
Term of Office
3 May, 1969 to 20 July, 1969 and 24 August, 1969 to 24 August, 1974



Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
Term of Office
24 August, 1974 to 11 February, 1977



Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
Term of Office
25 July, 1977 to 25 July, 1982



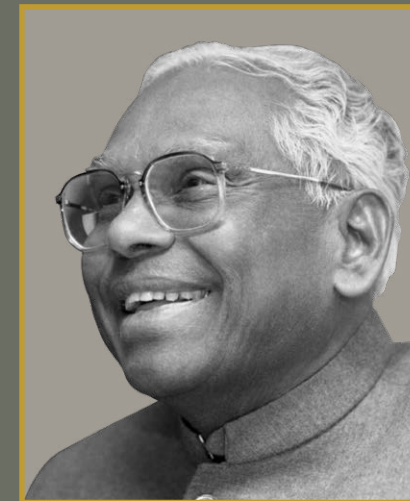
Giani Zail Singh
Term of Office
25 July, 1982 to 25 July, 1987



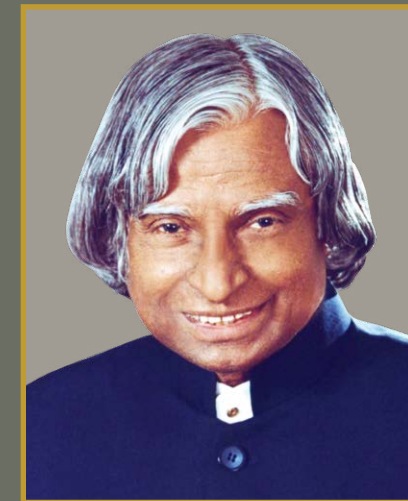
Shri R Venkataraman
Term of Office
25 July, 1987 to 25 July, 1992



Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma
Term of Office
25 July, 1992 to 25 July, 1997



Shri K. R. Narayanan
Term of Office
25 July, 1997 to 25 July, 2002



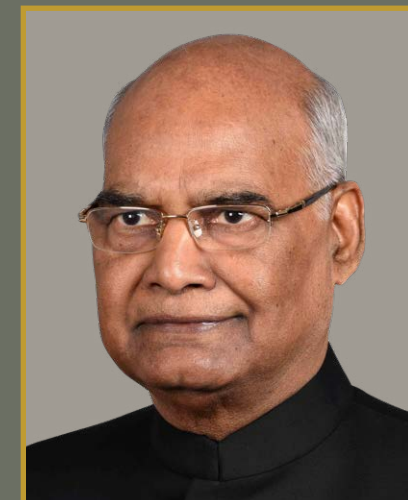
Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
Term of Office
25 July, 2002 to 25 July, 2007



Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil
Term of Office
25 July, 2007 to 25 July, 2012



Shri Pranab Mukherjee
Term of Office
25 July, 2012 to 25 July, 2017



Shri Ram Nath Kovind
Term of Office
25 July, 2017 to 25 July, 2022



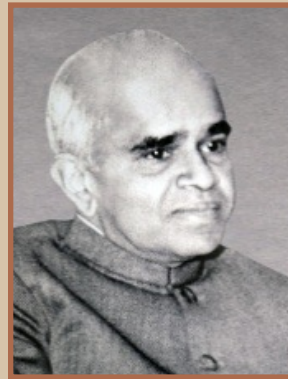
Smt. Droupadi Murmu
Term of Office
25 July, 2022 –



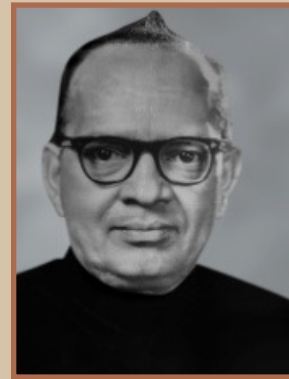
CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF INDIA



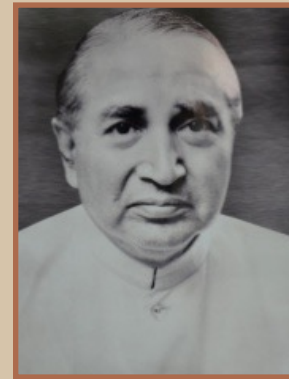
Sukumar Sen
21 Mar 1950 to 19 Dec 1958



K. V. K. Sundaram
20 Dec 1958 to 30 Sep 1967



S. P. Sen Verma
1 Oct 1967 to 30 Sep 1972



Dr. Nagendra Singh
1 Oct 1972 to 6 Feb 1973



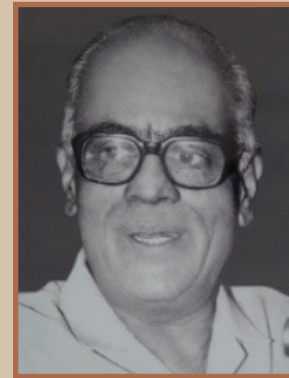
T. Swaminathan
7 Feb 1973 to 17 Jun 1977



S. L. Shaktihar
18 Jun 1977 to 17 Jun 1982



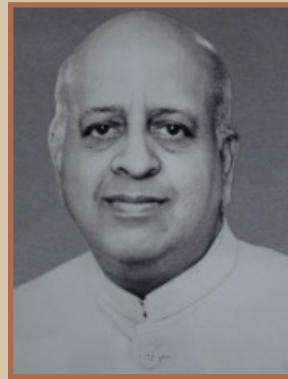
R. K. Trivedi
18 Jun 1982 to 31 Dec 1985



R. V. S. Peri Sastri
1 Jan 1986 to 25 Nov 1990



V. S. Ramadevi
26 Nov 1990 to 11 Dec 1990



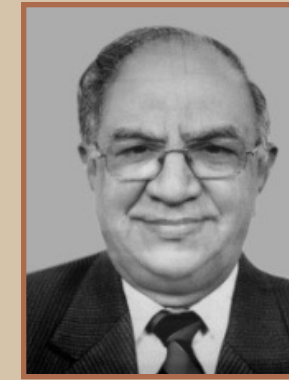
T. N. Seshan
12 Dec 1990 to 11 Dec 1996



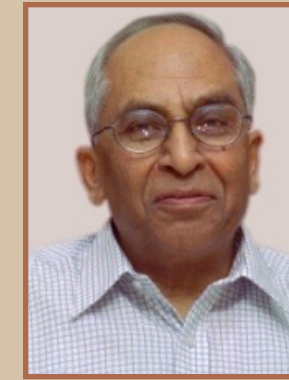
Dr. M. S. Gill
12 Dec 1996 to 13 Jun 2001



J. M. Lyngdoh
14 Jun 2001 to 7 Feb 2004



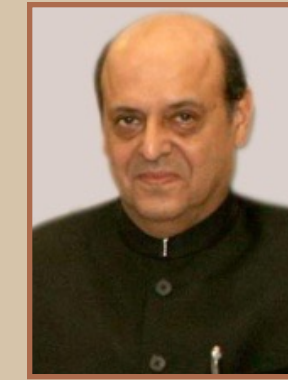
T.S. Krishna Murthy
8 Feb 2004 to 15 May 2005



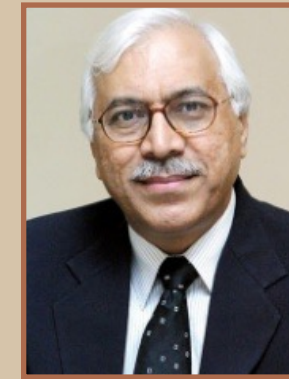
B.B. Tandon
16 May 2005 to 29 Jun 2006



N. Gopalaswami
30 Jun 2006 to 20 Apr 2009



Navin B. Chawla
21 Apr 2009 to 29 Jul 2010



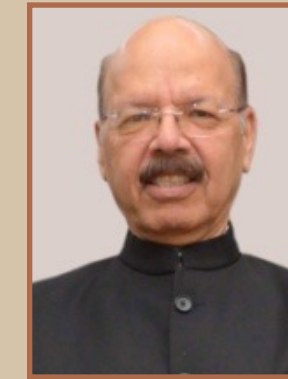
Dr. S. Y. Quraishi
30 Jul 2010 to 10 Jun 2012



V. S. Sampath
11 Jun 2012 to 15 Jan 2015



H. S. Brahma
16 Jan 2015 to 18 Apr 2015



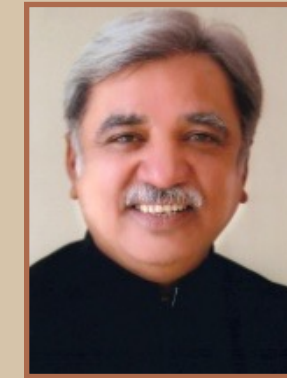
Dr. Nasim Zaidi
19 Apr 2015 to 05 Jul 2017



A. K. Joti
06 Jul 2017 to 22 Jan 2018



O. P. Rawat
23 Jan 2018 to 01 Dec 2018



Sunil Arora
02 Dec 2018 to 12 Apr 2021



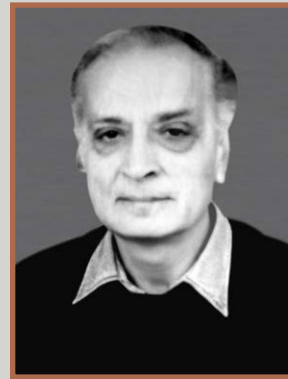
Sushil Chandra
13 Apr 2021 to 14 May 2022



Rajiv Kumar
2022 –



ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF INDIA



V. S. Seigell
16 Oct 1989 to 02 Jan 1990



S. S. Dhanoa
16 Oct 1989 to 02 Jan 1990



**Dr. G. V. G.
Krishnamurthy**
01 Oct 1993 to 30 Sep 1999



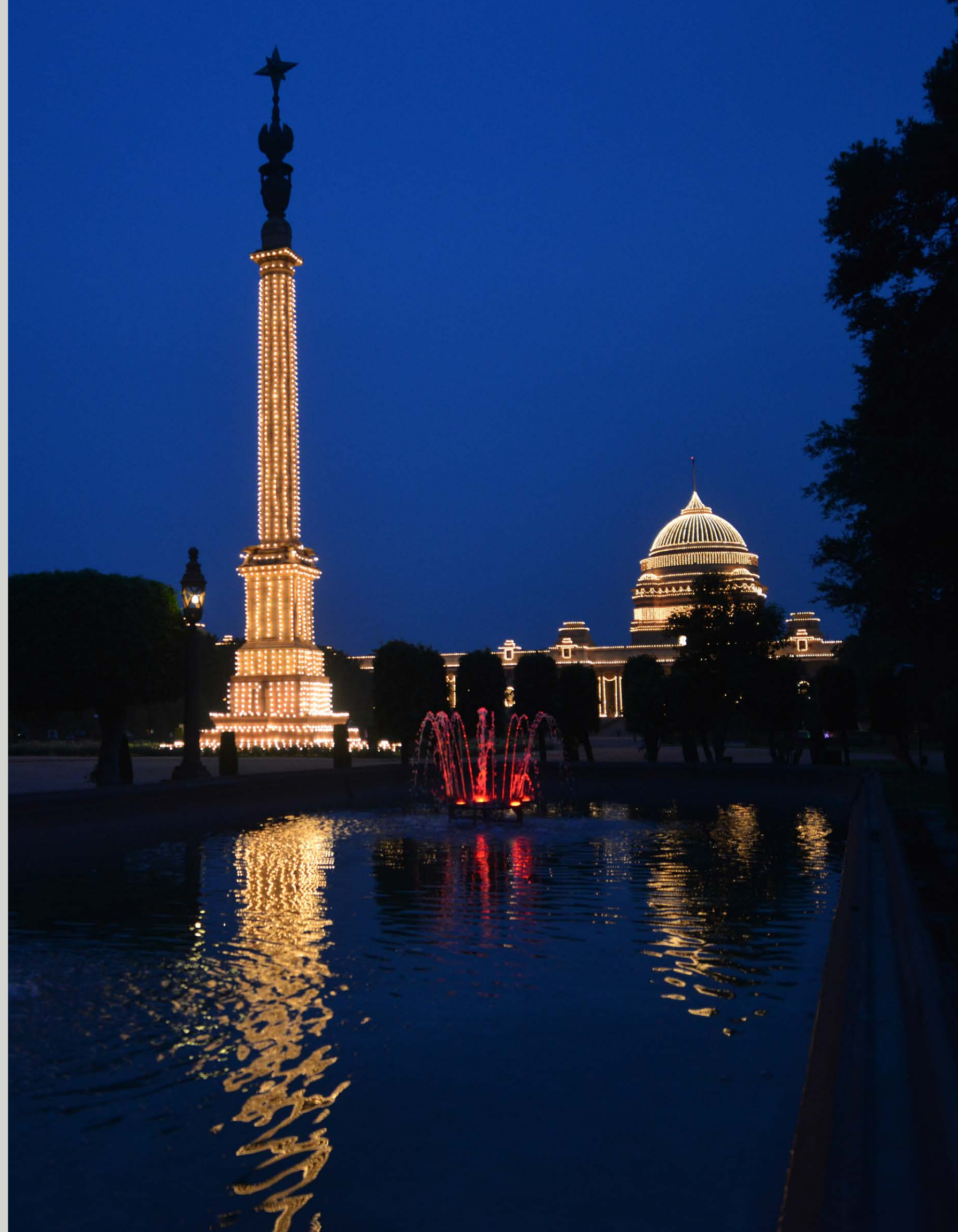
Ashok Lavasa
23 Oct 2018 to 31 Aug 2020

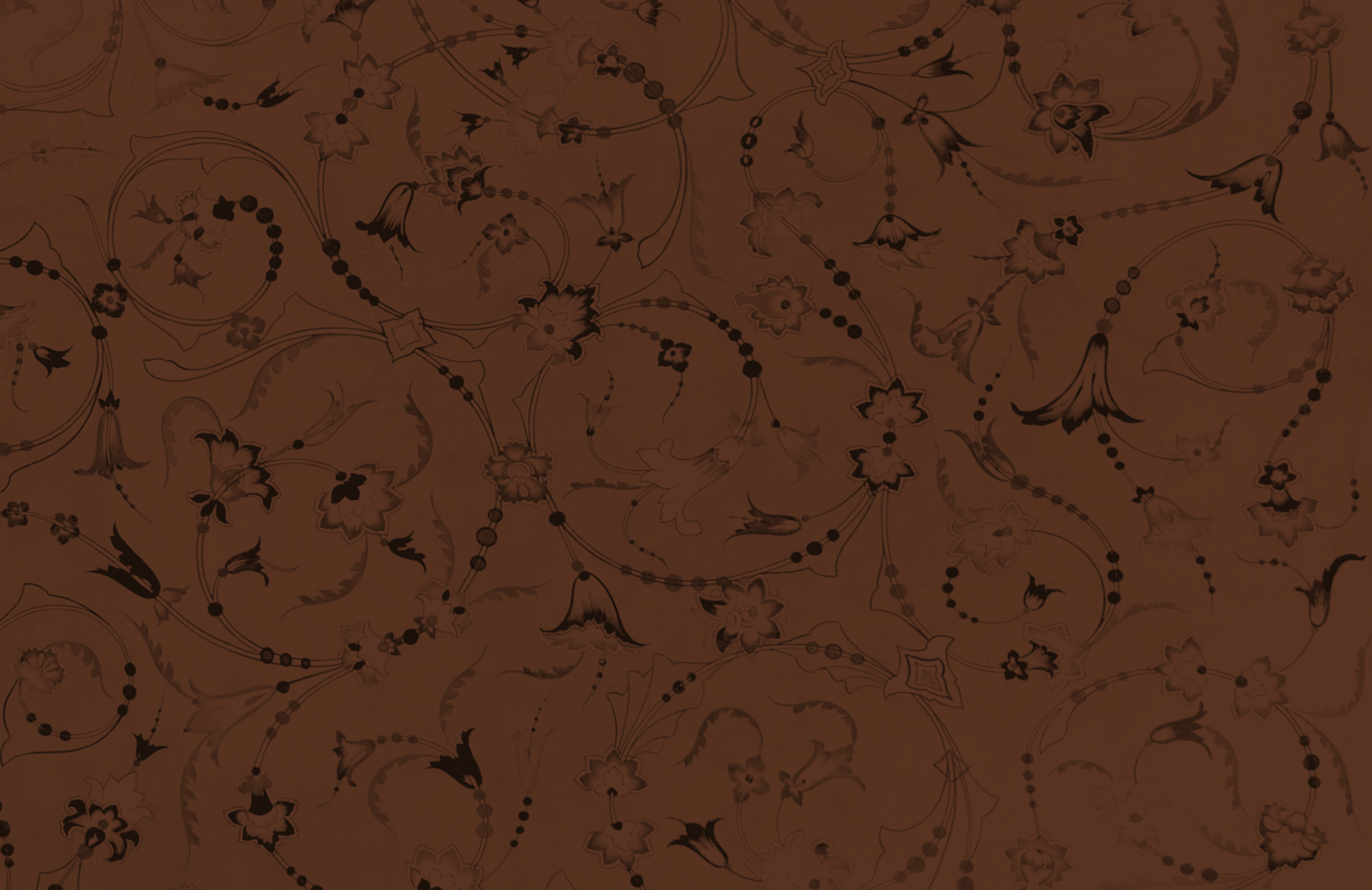


**Anup Chandra
Pandey**
09 Jun 2021 –



Arun Goel
21 Nov 2022 –







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