

Race for Vice President: NDA Allies Eye Nomination as PM Modi Returns



The political landscape in India is abuzz with speculation regarding the selection of the next Vice President, following the unexpected resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar on July 21, 2025. The decision on the ruling National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) nominee is now largely anticipated to be finalized after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's return from his current overseas tour, with key NDA allies reportedly having a strong chance at securing the coveted position.

Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation, citing health reasons, created a rare mid-term vacancy in the constitutional office. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has already initiated preparatory activities for the Vice-Presidential election, which must be held "as soon as possible" as per constitutional provisions. The Vice President is elected by an electoral college comprising members of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Given the NDA's majority in this electoral college, their nominee is widely expected to win.

Prime Minister Modi is currently on a multi-nation tour that includes a visit to the United Kingdom and the Maldives, scheduled from July 23 to July 26, 2025. Upon his return, intensive consultations within the BJP and with its allies are expected to commence to decide on a candidate.

Sources within the NDA suggest that the ruling alliance is considering a broad pool of candidates, including sitting governors, senior leaders from the BJP's organizational structure, and even serving Union ministers. However, there is growing speculation that the BJP might opt for a nominee from one of its significant allies, such as the Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)] or the

Telugu Desam Party (TDP). This strategic move could be aimed at strengthening alliance cohesion and rewarding partners, particularly in the aftermath of the recent general elections, where the BJP secured a reduced majority and became more reliant on its allies.

Harivansh, a Janata Dal (United) Member of Parliament (MP) who currently serves as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, is among the names being discussed. His experience in presiding over the Rajya Sabha, a key function of the Vice President, and his perceived trustworthiness within the government make him a plausible contender.

The choice of the Vice Presidential candidate often involves balancing political experience, regional representation, and strategic signaling. The new Vice President will also serve as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, a role that often demands a nuanced approach to managing parliamentary proceedings, especially in a politically charged environment.

As the nation awaits the official announcement from the NDA, the coming days are expected to witness intense political maneuvering and deliberations.