

EC Sets Vice-Presidential Election for September 9 Following Dhankhar's Resignation



The Election Commission of India (EC) has announced that the election to select the nation's next Vice-President will be held on September 9, with the vote count scheduled for the same day. The election became necessary after former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned from his post on July 21, creating a rare mid-term vacancy. This timeline, released by the EC, details the process, including the August 21 deadline for filing nominations, with the final result to be declared on the day of polling.

The election process for the Vice-President involves an Electoral College, a body of electors comprising all members of both the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States), including both elected and nominated members. This system of proportional representation, using a single transferable vote, is designed to ensure a broad base of support for the winning candidate. According to the EC, the current Electoral College has an effective strength of 782 members.

With the ruling party holding a comfortable majority in both houses of Parliament, the outcome of the election is largely anticipated. A candidate requires at least 394 votes to secure victory, assuming a full turnout. The official schedule outlines several key dates: the election notification will be issued on August 7, the last date for filing nominations is August 21, and the scrutiny of nominations will occur on August 22. Candidates have until August 25 to withdraw their candidacies.

The swift scheduling of this election adheres to constitutional provisions which mandate that a vacancy in the Vice-President's office must be filled "as soon as possible." The person elected will serve a full five-year term, underscoring the importance of this upcoming vote. As the political process begins, speculation is building around who the ruling party and the opposition might put forward as their candidates, setting the stage for the next major political event in the capital.