

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### Political Science & International Relations

#### Topic: Difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha – Indian Polity Notes

#### What is the main difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?

The major differences between both the houses of the Parliaments are given in brief in the table below:

Comparison between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha		
Difference	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
What it is called?	House of People	Council of states
What is the meaning of the name?	House of People, where people who are qualified to vote can elect their representative by way of direct elections	Council of States, where the representatives are indirectly elected by the elected representative of the Assemblies of States and Union Territories
What is the tenure of the house?	It continues for 5 years, except dissolved earlier	Permanent body
Who heads the house?	Speaker	Vice President of India as the Chairman of the house
What is the minimum age to become a member?	25 years	30 years

<b>What is the strength of the house?</b>	552 members	250 members
<b>What are the functions of the house?</b>	Money Bills can only be presented in the Lok Sabha. And it grants the money for functioning the administration of the country	Rajya Sabha has special powers to announce that it is required and expedient in the national interest that Parliament may make laws with respect to a matter in the State List or to create by law one or more all-India services common to the Union and the States

## Questions related to the differences between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for UPSC

When an aspirant reads about the Indian Parliament for the first time, he/she may get a little confused between the two houses given their composition, tenure and, functions. In this section, we will answer all those questions related to the differences between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha reading which aspirants will get clarity conceptually for UPSC 2020 examination.

The set of questions are given below:

### Who is more powerful between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha along with President together make up the Parliament. Both the houses have been conferred with powers. However, there is a slight difference between the powers of both. Lok Sabha is more powerful than Rajya Sabha on specific matters which are given below:

- Lok Sabha can express a lack of confidence in the government by following ways which Rajya Sabha cannot:
  - By not passing a motion of thanks on the President's inaugural address
  - By rejecting a money bill
  - By passing a censure motion or an adjournment motion
  - By defeating the government on a vital issue
  - By passing a cut motion
  - **Note:** Rajya Sabha, however, can criticize the acts and policies of the government.
- Money Bill under Article 110 can only be introduced in Lok Sabha. (Aspirants can read more about Money Bill in the linked article.)
- Financial Bill under Article 110 (1) can also be introduced only in the Lok Sabha
  - **Note:** The powers with the passage of the bill, however, are same
- Speaker of Lok Sabha decides which bill is Money Bill and the same power is not given to the chairman of Rajya Sabha
- In case of a joint sitting of both houses, Lok Sabha with greater number always wins
- With respect to the union budget, Rajya Sabha can only discuss the budget and cannot vote on the demands for grants

## How many members are there in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

The composition of both the houses is given below:

Composition of Lok Sabha		Composition of Rajya Sabha	
Maximum Strength - 552	530 represent the States	Maximum Strength - 250	<b>238 elected indirectly</b> and are representatives of States and Union Territories
	20 are the representatives of Union Territories		<b>12 are nominated by President</b>
	<b>2 are nominated by the President from Anglo-Indian Community</b>	Current strength - 245	228 represent States
Current Strength - 545	530 represent States		4 represent Union Territories
	13 represent Union Territories		12 are nominated by President
	2 are nominated from the President from Anglo-Indian Community		-

## How are members elected in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?

The principle of election for both the houses is different. There are three kinds of representation in both the houses:

- Representation of States
- Representation of Union Territories
- Nominated Members

Difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha w.r.t Representation of States	
Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members are directly elected by the people from the territorial constituencies in the states</li> <li>• Election Principle used - <b>Universal Adult Franchise</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members are elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies</li> <li>• Election Principle used - <b>Proportional Representation</b> by means of <b>Single Transferable Vote</b></li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility to Vote : Any Indian Citizen of/above 18 years of age</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 years by the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allotment of Seats - On the basis of population</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Number of representatives varies from state to state</p>
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### Difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha w.r.t Representation of Union Territories

Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parliament is empowered to choose the members from the UTs in any manner as it desires</li> <li>Election Principle used - <b>Direct Election</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> <b>Union Territories (Direct Election to the House of the People) Act, 1965</b>, has been enacted by which the members of Lok Sabha from the union territories are chosen by direct election.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members are indirectly elected by members of an electoral college specially constituted for the purpose</li> <li>Election Principle used - <b>Proportional Representation</b> by means of <b>Single Transferable Vote</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Out of seven UTs, only Delhi and Puducherry have representation in Rajya Sabha</p>

### Difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha w.r.t Representation Nominated Members

Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
<p>President nominates 2 members from Anglo-Indian Community if they are not adequately represented</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The provision to nominate Anglo-Indians was extended till 2020 by 95th Amendment Act, 2009</p>	<p>President nominates 12 members from people who special knowledge and practical experience in :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art</li> <li>Literature</li> <li>Science</li> <li>Social Service</li> </ul>