

Concerns with SC judgements on Master of Roster

What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- In recent times, the master of roster controversy has emerged in the Supreme Court.

\n

- This issue is focussed on Chief Justice of India's absolute power on the judicial administration.

\n

\n\n

What are the significance of master of roster?

\n\n

\n

- **Master of Roster is a judge appointed by the SC to list out the allocation of cases to different judges, for preventing two different benches from hearing the same kind of case.**

\n

- **The Roster will allow for effective case management, by allocating similar cases to judges with more experience.**

\n

- **Last year, the SC through few judgements, formalised the "convention" that the CJI is *Sui generis* (unique) and hence the master of roster.**

\n

\n\n

What events led to the judgements regarding issue of roster?

\n\n

\n

- Earlier in 2017, four senior most judges of the SC had blamed the present CJI for selectively allotting cases to preferred benches.

\n

- In response to that, the CJI published a new subject wise roster for allocation of cases.

- \n
- This allocation, did little to pacify the judges as the CJI allocated most important public litigations matters to himself.
- \n
- Following this, a verdict responded to the criticism by declaring that the CJI is only a first among the equals as a judge.
- \n
- But the bench also agreed that no one, even the fellow judges of SC can question the powers of CJI as the court's top administrator.
- \n
- Final judgement confirmed that the CJI's dominance over the roster was necessary to protect the SC from anarchy.
- \n

\n\n

What are the concerns of the SC judgements?

\n\n

- \n
- There is a deterioration in the unwritten and righteous custom that the law of the land is supreme.
- \n
- Concentration of immense powers on a single person is harmful for the nation and is also against the principles of democracy.
- \n
- The issues triggering these judgements are also concerning as the cases were relating to allegations of a conspiracy to bribe SC judges.
- \n
- Previous norms of pronouncing sensitive judgements by consulting with collegium also will get affected as the CJI will solely decide on cases as well as judgements.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n\n

\n



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering