

Presiding Officers in Parliament & State legislatures

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Polity

Why in News?

The 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) held recently in Lucknow.

- **Lok Sabha (Lower House)**

- **Speaker** - Om Birla (BJP) since June 17, 2019.
- **Deputy Speaker** - Position exists to assume duties in the absence of the Speaker.
- **Panel of Chairpersons** - Nominated by the Speaker (up to 10 members) to preside in the absence of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker.
- **Speaker Pro Tem** - Appointed by the President to swear in new members and oversee the election of a new Speaker.

- **Rajya Sabha (Upper House)**

- **Chairman** - The Vice-President of India serves as the ex-officio Chairman.
- **Deputy Chairman** - Elected by the Rajya Sabha from among its members.
- **Panel of Vice-Chairpersons** - Nominated by the Chairman to preside in their absence.

- **Key Roles and Responsibilities (Parliament)**

- **Maintaining Order** - Ensuring decorum and preventing disorderly conduct.
- **Procedural Compliance** - Final interpreters of the Constitution and rules of procedure within their respective Houses.
- **Money Bills** - The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the final authority to decide if a bill is a Money Bill.
- **Anti-Defection Law** - Deciding on disqualification matters under the Tenth Schedule.
- **Casting Vote** - Voting only in the case of a tie.

- **Presiding Officers of State Legislatures**

- **Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha)** - Speaker and Deputy Speaker elected from among the members (Article 178).
- **Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad)** - Chairman and Deputy Chairman elected from among the members (Article 182).
- **Election Presiding Officers** - In the context of elections, a Presiding Officer is appointed by the District Election Officer for each polling station to ensure a free and fair poll.
- **Duties** - Managing the polling station, supervising Polling Officers, operating Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and maintaining the secrecy of the ballot.
- **Legal Standing** - They are bound by the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, and maintain a "Presiding Officer's Diary" to record all events.

Reference

[PIB | All India Presiding Officers' Conference](#)

