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

