

## Report on Performances of State Assemblies

*Prelims: Indian Polity and Governance*

### Why in News?

According to a new report by PRS, a non-profit organisation, Indian state legislative assemblies continue to meet for less than 30 days on average.

- **Lesser assembly meetings** - Aftermath of 2020 pandemic, the number of meetings has remained close to 20 days a year including the year 2024.
  - Odisha met for the highest number of days (42), followed by Kerala (38).
- While, some states have set a target for the minimum number of annual sitting days either through legislation or through Rules of Procedure, none of them have met these targets in any year.
- **Duration of sitting** - The average duration of each sitting was 5 hours.
- **Timing for budget discussion** - In 2024, states discussed budgets for 7 days on average.
- **Vacancy in office of Deputy Speaker** - It is vacant in 8 state Assemblies.
  - Jharkhand has not elected one for over 20 years.
  - Incidentally, the Lok Sabha too has not had a Deputy Speaker since June 2019.

*Article 178 of the Indian Constitution requires Assemblies to choose two members as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker as soon as possible.*

- **Bill passage** - In 2024, states on average passed 17 of them.
  - Of the over 500 bills passed, Karnataka passed the highest (49), followed by Tamil Nadu (45). Delhi passed just 1 bill, followed by Rajasthan with 2.
- About half of the bills passed relate to education, finance, and local governance.

### Interesting Laws Enacted During 2024

- Uniform Civil Code by Uttarakhand.
- West Bengal Aparajita Act for stricter penalty for rape.
- Haryana's law to regulate private coaching institutes.
- Madhya Pradesh's laws to regulate private school fees.
- Tamil Nadu earmarked welfare spending for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in proportion to population.
- Maharashtra provided 10% reservation for Marathas for education and government jobs.
- Gujarat passed laws banning black magic.
- Assam banned magical healing practices to treat diseases.
- Maharashtra increased the penalty for felling a tree without permission.

- **Lesser discussion of bills** - 51 % or over 250 of all bills passed, were passed within a

day of introduction.

- 8 states passed all bills within a day of introduction.
  - Jharkhand, Mizoram, Puducherry and Punjab had also passed all bills within a day in 2023 and 2022.

## Reference

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