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

Down To Earth| Report on Performance of State Assemblies

