



### *The importance of the Deputy Speaker*

**Why in news:** The Deputy Speaker's post has remained vacant since 2019, raising serious concerns on constitutional compliance and democratic balance. The post is not ceremonial; it ensures legislative continuity, neutral arbitration, and effective functioning of Parliament.

#### **Constitutional Mandate and Conventions**

- **Article 93** mandates election of the Deputy Speaker "as soon as may be," implying urgency, not discretion.
- **Article 94** ensures continuity of the Deputy Speaker's office until resignation, removal, or disqualification.
- **Article 180** empowers the Deputy Speaker to act as Speaker in their absence, ensuring uninterrupted parliamentary proceedings.
- **Rule 8 of Lok Sabha Rules (1952)** requires the Speaker to fix a date for election to the post, reinforcing the procedural urgency.

#### **Democratic Norms and Informal Practices**

- Conventionally, the Deputy Speaker's post is offered to the Opposition, fostering checks and balances and collaborative governance. The present government's unwillingness to appoint an Opposition member undermines this tradition and centralises authority in the ruling party.

#### **Governance and Functional Concerns**

- The Deputy Speaker presides over important committees like Private Members' Bills and the Budget Committee. Their absence affects neutral handling of sensitive debates and smooth legislative operation.
- Lack of a Deputy Speaker during a Speaker's resignation or incapacitation could cause a constitutional crisis.

#### **Constitutional and Democratic Impact**

- Delay in appointment misinterprets Article 93, distorting its intent and potentially leading to a constitutional vacuum.
- Vacancy centralises power in the Speaker (typically from the ruling party), contradicting the Westminster model of balanced representation.
- The absence of consensus politics erodes the spirit of parliamentary democracy, reducing space for deliberation and dissent.

#### **Do you know?**

- The Constitution does not specify a time frame, allowing delays in appointing a Deputy Speaker.
- **Article 95(1)** states that the Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker if the post is vacant.
- All powers of the Speaker apply to the Deputy Speaker when presiding over the House.
- The office of Deputy Speaker dates back to the Government of India Act, 1919, where he was known as Deputy President.
- Deputy Speaker is elected by simple majority of members present and voting in Lok Sabha.
- While usually elected in the second session, there is no bar on electing in the first session.
- Deputy Speaker M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar filled in after Speaker G V Mavalankar's death in 1956, and P M Sayeed did the same in 2002 after Speaker G M C Balayogi's death.
- Under Rule 9, the Speaker nominates a Panel of up to ten Chairpersons to preside in the absence of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- The first four Deputy Speakers (1952–1969) were from the ruling Congress.
- **Article 178** mirrors Article 93 for state Assemblies, mandating election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- **Article 179** governs vacation, resignation, and removal of Speaker and Deputy Speaker in state Assemblies.
- **Article 89** establishes the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, elected only by Rajya Sabha members.
- The Deputy Chairman plays a vital role in managing House proceedings and steps in for the Chairperson/Vice President when needed.



#### Way Forward

- Immediate appointment of a **Deputy Speaker, preferably from the Opposition**, is essential to **restore constitutional integrity**. Parliament must uphold both **letter and spirit** of the Constitution by **reviving democratic conventions** and ensuring **functional balance**.

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[Current Affairs Course is now Live](#). Course will start in October 2025 1st week.

Modules will include class notes, monthly compilation, quarter compilation and annual compilation. This will help in regular revision r/t in the fag-end of preparation.

I will provide my annual compilation, like last year, on Telegram in May 1st week.

[Last year I had promised 20 questions in Prelims from my notes & 28+ Questions could be answered from the same.](#)

30 questions is my aim for 2026 prelims. To meet that, I have analyzed why I missed 5-6 C.A. questions in 2025 and I have increased my coverage accordingly.