



### ***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.

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