

**31– 01 – 2022**

**News:** Punjab poll: Channi to contest from two seats

- Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi will contest from two constituencies in the Assembly poll, recently said.
- As per Section 33 (7) of the Representation of People Act, 1951, **a person cannot contest from more than two constituencies for a Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha election.** (this particular section was asked in 2021 UPSC Prelims also)

## **Chief Minister**

### **Appointment**

- **Article 164** of the Constitution envisages that the **Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor.**
- A leader of the party that has got the majority share of votes in the assembly elections is appointed as the Chief Minister of the state.
- The Governor is the nominal executive authority, but real executive authority rests with the Chief Minister.
- However, the discretionary powers enjoyed by the governor reduce to some extent the power, authority, influence, prestige and role of the Chief Minister in the state administration.

- A person who is not a member of the state legislature can be appointed as Chief Minister for six months, within which time, he should be elected to the state legislature, failing which he ceases to be the Chief Minister.

### **Term of the CM**

- The term of the Chief Minister is not fixed and he holds office during the pleasure of the governor.
- He cannot be dismissed by the governor as long as he enjoys the majority support in the legislative assembly.
- The State Legislative Assembly can also remove him by passing a vote of no-confidence against him.

### **Powers and Functions**

- The governor appoints only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Chief Minister.
- He allocates and reshuffles the portfolios among ministers.
- He can bring about the collapse of the council of ministers by resigning from office, since the Chief Minister is the head of the council of ministers.
- Under Article 167 of the Constitution, the Chief Minister acts as a link between the Governor and state council of ministers.

- CM **advises the Governor regarding the appointment of important officials** like advocate general, chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission, State Election Commission, etc.
- All the policies are announced by him on the floor of the house.
- He **recommends dissolution of legislative assembly** to the Governor.
- He is the **chairman of the State Planning Board**.
- He acts as a **vice-chairman of the concerned zonal council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year** at a time.
- He is a **member of the Inter-State Council and the Governing Council of NITI Aayog**, both headed by the prime minister.
- He is the chief spokesman of the state government.
- He is the crisis manager-in-chief at the political level during emergencies.
- As a leader of the state, he meets various sections of the people and receives memoranda from them regarding their problems, and so on.
- He is the political head of the services.

## **News:** TRS to boycott President's address to Parliament

- The TRS has decided to boycott President Ramnath Kovind's address to the joint session of Parliament at the commencement of its Budget session on Monday in protest against the indifference of the Centre to fulfill its promises to the State in bifurcation law.

## **President address to the Parliament**

- **Article 87(1)** of Indian Constitution says: "At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons."
- The same address is also given by the governor of the state.
- The **President's speech essentially highlights the government's policy priorities and plans for the upcoming year.** It is **drafted by the Cabinet**, and provides a broad framework of the government's agenda and direction.
- After the **President or Governor delivers the address**, a debate takes place not only on the contents of the address but also the broad issues of governance in **the country**. This then paves the way for discussion on the Budget.

- The President or a Governor cannot refuse to perform the constitutional duty of delivering an address to the legislature. But there can be situations when they deviate from the text of the speech prepared by the government.
- So far, there have been no instances of President doing so. But there has been an occasion when a Governor skipped a portion of the address to the Assembly.
- After the president address, a vote of thanks is put to vote on the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha separately. If the Lok Sabha fails to pass the motion, this marks the failure of government and leads to the resignation of council of ministers.