



Parliament Sessions

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Why in News

The government has recently decided to **cancel the Winter session of Parliament**, citing fears over a surge in cases due to **covid-19 pandemic**.

Key Points

- **Sessions of Parliament:**

- The summoning of Parliament is specified in **Article 85 of the Constitution**.
- The power to **convene a session of Parliament** rests with the Government. The decision is taken by the **Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs** which is **formalised by the President**, in whose name MPs are summoned to meet for a session.
- India does not have a **fixed parliamentary calendar**. **By convention (i.e. not provided by the Constitution)**, Parliament meets for **three sessions** in a year.
 - The longest, Budget Session (1st session), starts towards the **end of January, and concludes by the end of April or first week of May**. The session has a **recess** so that Parliamentary Committees can discuss the **budgetary proposals**.
 - The second session is the **three-week Monsoon Session**, which usually begins in **July and finishes in August**.
 - Winter Session (3rd session), is held from **November to December**.

- **Summoning of Parliament:**

Summoning is the process of **calling all members of the Parliament** to meet. The **President** summons each House of the Parliament from time to time. The gap between two sessions of the Parliament cannot **exceed 6 months**, which means the Parliament meets at least **two times in one year**.

- **Adjournment:**

Adjournment **terminates the sitting of the House** which meets again at the time appointed for the next sitting. The postponement may be for a specified time such as hours, days or weeks. If the meeting is terminated without **any definite time/ date fixed for the next meeting**, it is called **Adjournment sine die**.

- **Prorogation:**

Prorogation is the end of a session. A prorogation puts an **end to a session**. The time between the **Prorogation and reassembly is called Recess**.

Prorogation is the end of session and **not the dissolution of the house** (in case of Lok Sabha, as Rajya Sabha does not dissolve).

- **Quorum:**

Quorum refers to the **minimum number of the members** required to be present for conducting a meeting of the house. The Constitution has fixed **one-tenth strength as quorum for both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**. Thus, to conduct a sitting of **Lok Sabha**, there should be at least **55 members present** while to conduct a sitting of **Rajya Sabha**, there should be at least **25 members present**.

Source:IE