



Parliament Sessions

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Why in News

Recently, the **Monsoon session of Parliament** has begun, after the reshuffling of the **Council of ministers** and the **Cabinet committees**.

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 (Members of Parliament) 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 **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**.
 - The power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die **lies with the presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) of the House**.
- **Prorogation:**
 - Prorogation is the **end of session and not the dissolution** of the house (in case of Lok Sabha, as Rajya Sabha does not dissolve).
 - It is **done by the President of India**.
- **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**.
- **Joint Session of Parliament (Article 108):**
 - The Constitution of India provides for the joint sitting of the **Parliament's two Houses, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha**, in order to break any deadlock between the two.
 - The joint sitting is **called by the President**. Such a session is **presided over by the Speaker**, and in his/her absence, by the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
 - In the absence of both, it is presided over by the **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**.
 - If any of the above are not present, **any other member of the Parliament can preside** by consensus of both the Houses.

Source: IE