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PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS IN INDIA

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Parliamentary Sessions in India". This topic has relevance in the Polity and Governance section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 2: Polity and Governance

Why in the news?

The Parliament's Winter session is scheduled to start on December 4th and extend till December 22nd.

About:

Parliamentary sessions in India, as delineated in Part-V (Article 79 - 122) of the Constitution, are pivotal periods for legislative activities. A nuanced grasp of the organization, composition, duration, officers, procedures, privileges, and powers of the Parliament is essential for a comprehensive understanding of its functioning.

Sessions:

- **Budget Session (February to May):** Primarily centered on budgetary deliberations.
- **Monsoon Session (July to September):** Addresses a diverse range of legislative issues.
- **Winter Session (November to December):** Focuses on specific agenda items.

Session Structure:

- **Meetings and Sittings:** A session consists of multiple meetings, each featuring two sittings - one in the morning (11 am to 1 pm) and another post-lunch (2 pm to 6 pm).

Summoning:

- Summoning involves calling all members of Parliament to convene.
- It is the responsibility of the Indian President to summon each House of Parliament periodically.
- Parliament is required to meet at least twice a year, with a maximum gap between two sessions not exceeding six months.

Adjournment:

- Adjournment temporarily halts the proceedings during a sitting for a specified period, which can range from hours to days or weeks.
- An adjournment concludes a sitting but does not end a session of the House.
- The authority to adjourn lies with the presiding officer of the House.

Adjournment Sine Die:

- Adjournment sine die signifies concluding a parliamentary sitting indefinitely without specifying a date for reconvening.
- When the House is adjourned without setting a day for reassembly, it is termed adjournment sine die.
- The power to adjourn sine die rests with the presiding officer of the House.

Prorogation:

- Prorogation refers to ending a session of the House through a presidential order under Article 85(2) (a) of the Constitution.
- Prorogation terminates both the sitting and session of the House.
- Typically, shortly after the presiding officer adjourns the House sine die, the President issues a notification for proroguing the session. However, the President can also prorogue the House while in session.

Dissolution:

- Dissolution marks the conclusion of the existing House's tenure, leading to the formation of a new House after general elections.
- The Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution; only the Lok Sabha can be dissolved.
- The dissolution of the Lok Sabha can occur in two ways: automatic dissolution or by the President's order.

Source:

Winter Session of Parliament to commence from December 4 – The Economic Times (indiatimes.com)

Q.1 With reference to summoning of Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. It is the responsibility of the Presiding officer of the house to summon each House of Parliament periodically.
2. Parliament is required to meet at least twice a year, with a maximum gap between two sessions not exceeding six months.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: B

Q.2 Regarding adjournment and adjournment sine die, Consider the following statements:

1. An adjournment concludes a sitting but does not end a session of the House.
2. When the House is adjourned without setting a day for reassembly, it is termed adjournment sine die.
3. The power to adjourn sine die rests with the President.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER: B

Q.3 Discuss the significance and functions of parliamentary sessions in a democratic system. Elaborate on how the structure of parliamentary sessions contributes to effective governance, legislative processes, and the representation of citizens' interests.

Gaurav