



Winter Session 2021

For Prelims: Termination of Sitting of Parliament, Adjournment, Adjournment sine die, Prorogation and Dissolution.

For Mains: Important legislations passed in the winter session of Parliament.

Why in News

Recently, the **Winter Session of Parliament** has been **adjourned sine die** (terminating a sitting of Parliament without naming a day for reassembly). The session witnessed **passing of some of the important legislations**.

Key Points

- **Termination of Sitting of Parliament:** The sitting of the Parliament in both the Houses can be terminated only by:
 - **Adjournment,**
 - **Adjournment sine die,**
 - **Prorogation**
 - **Dissolution** (not applicable for Rajya Sabha).
- **Adjournment:** An adjournment results in the **suspension of work in a sitting** for a **specified time**, which may be hours, days or weeks.
 - In this case, the time of reassembly is specified as **an adjournment only terminates a sitting and not a session of the House.**
 - The power of adjournment lies with the **presiding officer of the House.**
- **Adjournment sine die:** Adjournment sine die means terminating a **sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period**, that is, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is **called adjournment sine die.**
 - The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.
 - However, the presiding officer of a House can **call a sitting of the House before the date or time to which it has been adjourned** or at any time after the House has been adjourned sine die.
- **Prorogation:** The term prorogation means the termination of a session of the House by an order made by the President under **Article 85(2)(a)** of the Constitution.
 - The prorogation **terminates both the sitting and session of the House** and is usually done within a few days after the House is adjourned sine die by the presiding officer.
 - The **President issues a notification** for the prorogation of the session.
 - However, the president can also prorogue the House while in session.
 - It must be noted that **all pending notices except those for introducing bills lapse.**
 - The period between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called a **recess.**
- **Dissolution:** Whenever a dissolution happens, it ends the **very life of the existing House** and a **new House is constituted after the General Elections.**
 - However, only the Lok Sabha is subject to dissolution as the **Rajya Sabha, being a**

permanent House, is not subject to dissolution.

Some of the Important Bills Passed by Houses of Parliament

- **The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021:** In view of protests by the farmers, the bill was introduced and passed to repeal the three farm laws namely:
 - Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020
 - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020
 - Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020
- **The Dam Safety Bill, 2021:** It provides for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of the specified dam for **prevention of dam failure related disasters**.
 - It also seeks to provide for institutional mechanisms to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- **The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulations) Bill, 2021:** It provides for **regulation and supervision of the assisted reproductive technology** clinics and the assisted reproductive technology banks, prevention of misuse, safe and ethical practice of assisted reproductive technology services.
 - It also envisaged establishment of the National Board, the State Boards and the National Registry.
- **The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2021:** It provides for **regulation of surrogacy services in the country**.
 - It also prohibits the potential exploitation of surrogate mothers and to protect the rights of children born through surrogacy.
- **The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021:** It provides **clarity that the institutes established as well as any other similar institute** to be established under the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act shall be institutes of national importance.
 - It also established a central body, to be called the Council to ensure coordinated development of pharmaceutical education and research and maintenance of standards, etc.
- **The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021:** It seeks to bring clarity on when Supreme Court and High Court judges are **entitled to an additional quantum of pension** or family pension on attaining a certain age.
- **The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2021:** The bill would replace an ordinance promulgated earlier this year (2021) to correct a drafting error in **section 27A of the Act**.
- **The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021:** It provides for **extension of tenure of Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation by up to one year** at a time in public interest, till the completion of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.
- **The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021:** It provides for **extension of tenure of Director of the Directorate of Enforcement by up to one year at a time** in public interest, till the completion of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.
- **The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021:** It provides **linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem** to curb the menace of multiple enrolment of the same person in different places.

Source: PIB