



A UNIT OF **MADE EASY** GROUP

# Polity & Governance

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## Sessions of the Parliament

**In News-** With rising in the COVID-19 cases in Delhi, the **Winter Session will be clubbed with the Budget Session** which begins around the end of January.

### What are the Parliamentary sessions?

- A session of the Indian Parliament is the time period during which a House meets almost every day continuously to transact business.
- **Article 85-** The President can summon a session of Parliament “at such time and place as he thinks fit”.
  - Thus, a session can be called on the recommendation of the government, which decides its date and duration.
- There are **usually three sessions in a year**. They are the **Budget Session (February to May)**; the **Monsoon Session (July to September)**; and the **Winter Session (November to December)**.
- A session consists of many meetings. Each meeting has **two sittings – morning sitting from 11 am to 1 pm and post-lunch sitting from 2 pm to 6 pm**.
- **Importance of sessions-** Lawmaking and enacting Ordinances, scrutiny of the government’s functioning (Question Hours), enforcing accountability.

### Termination of sessions:

- A sitting of Parliament can be terminated by **adjournment, adjournment sine die, prorogation or dissolution**.
- The period between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called ‘**recesses**’.

### Have there been any such instances in the past?

- As per parliamentary records, there have only been three instances in the past of the winter session not being held — in 1975, 1979 and 1984.

Term	Definition
Summon	An official communication issued under the orders of the President to the Members of Parliament informing them of the place, date and time of the commencement of a new session.
Adjournment	An adjournment terminates the sitting of the House which meets again at the time appointed for the next sitting. An adjournment also signifies brief break of the sitting of the House which re-assembles at the appointed time on the same day.
Adjournment sine die	Termination of a sitting of the House without any definite date being fixed for the next sitting
Prorogation	The termination of a session of Parliament by an order made by the

# Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

**In News-** Recently, a study by LibTech India highlighted the hurdles in getting the fair wages by the most rural workers who are **dependent on the MGNREGS**.

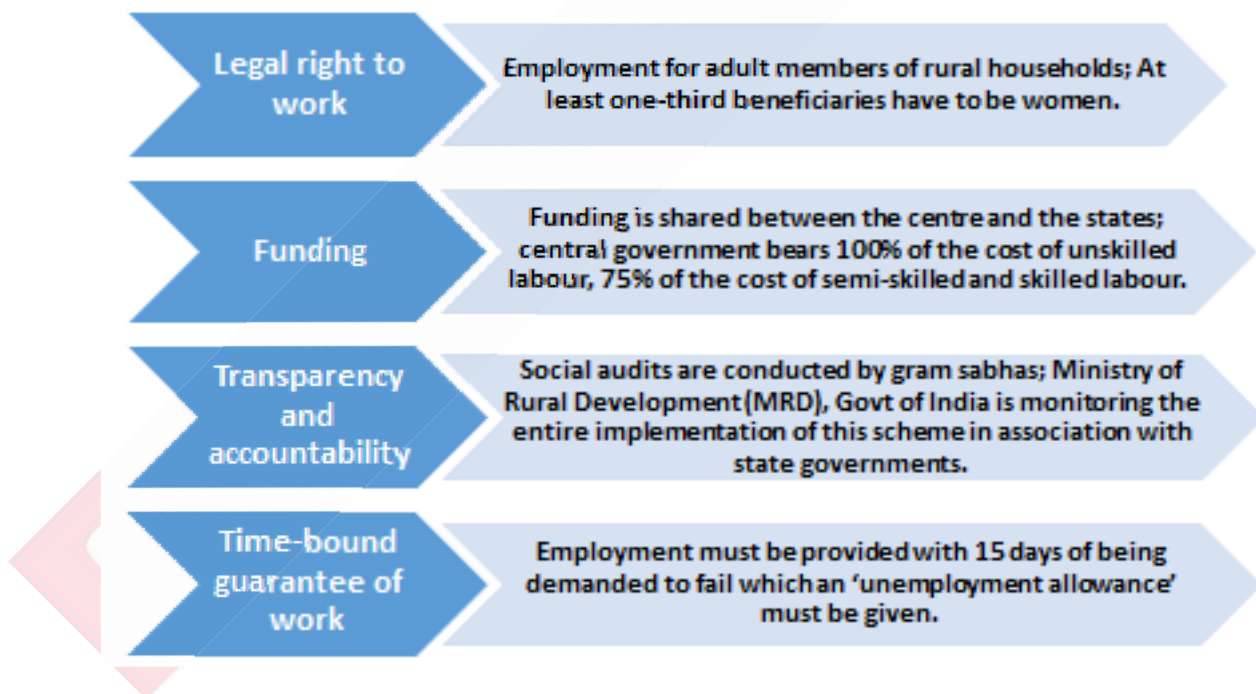
## About:

- Many of the labourers are forced to make multiple trips to the bank, **adding travel costs and income losses**, and **face repeated rejections of payment, biometric errors and wrong information**, just to get their hands on their wages.

## About Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

- It is **Indian labour law and social security measure** that purposes to guarantee the “**Right to Work**”.
- Objective-** Enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at **least 100 days** of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do **unskilled manual work**.
- Eligibility-** Must be Citizen of India; More than 18 years of age; volunteer for unskilled labour; must contact with Gram Sabha.

## Features:



## National Population Register

**In News-** The office of the **Registrar General of India (RGI)** has said the schedule or the questionnaire of the **National Population Register (NPR)** is being finalised.

### About National Population Register (NPR):

- The National Population Register (NPR) is a Register of usual residents of the country.
- Prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the **Citizenship Act 1955** and the **Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003**.
- The NPR was first collected in 2010 and then updated in 2015.
- Every usual resident of India must register in the NPR.
- **Objective-** To create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. The database would contain demographic as well as biometric particulars.
- The Registrar General India shall act as the “**National Registration Authority**”, **it is also the country’s Census Commissioner**.

A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.

### Relation between NRIC and NPR:

- Out of the NPR, the government proposes to create a database of “**citizens of India**”.
- Thus, the “**National Register of Indian Citizens**” (NRIC) is a **sub-set of the NPR**.

### Census and NRC:

- **The census involves a detailed questionnaire** — there were 29 items to be filled up in the 2011 census like age, sex, marital status, children, occupation, birthplace, mother tongue, religion, disability and category status but the NPR collects basic demographic data and biometric particulars.
- The census is **legally backed by the Census Act, 1948** but NPR mechanism is outlined in rules framed under the **Citizenship Act, 1955 (insertion of Section 14A)**.

## Mahajan Commission Report

**In News:** Recently, the Chief Minister of Karnataka condemned a comment by the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra about the border dispute between the two states.

### About:


- The **border dispute** between the two states is **over Belgaum or Belagavi**.
- **Belgaum** is now a **territory of Karnataka**. Earlier, it was a part of the Bombay Presidency of British India.
- Belgaum went to the state of Karnataka under the **State Reorganization Act in 1956**.

### About Mahajan Commission:

- It was formed in 1966 by the Central Government with representatives from both the states to address the boundary dispute.
- **Recommendations:-** The committee **submitted its report in 1967**.
  - It recommended **that 264 villages** shall be **transferred to Maharashtra..**
  - It also recommended that **Belgaum and 247 villages will remain with Karnataka.**
- **Both the states negated the report and refused to implement the recommendations.**

### HISTORY OF BELGAUM

Post-Independence, Belgaum district is part of the larger Bombay state with a majority of Marathi-speaking population. In 1956, the district was incorporated into the newly formed Mysore state (now Karnataka).



### What is the dispute?

Marathi-speaking population in Belgaum, Khanapur and Nipani in north Karnataka have been demanding inclusion in Maharashtra since the reorganisation of states five decades ago. About 80 per cent population in Belgaum and Khanapur talukas is Marathi-speaking.

<h4>Maharashtra's stand</h4> <p>Maharashtra has been demanding the inclusion of the disputed area since 1960 when the state was formed on linguistic basis.</p>	<h4>Karnataka's stand</h4> <p>It is opposed to reorganisation of boundary now. The state government in 2005 declared Belgaum as its second capital.</p>	<h4>The Fighters</h4> <p>Belgaum is an emotive issue for most Maharashtrians. Parties like NCP and Shiv Sena have been vocal in their support for Marathis of Belgaum.</p>
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## Office of Profit

**In News:** Recently, the **Joint Parliamentary Committee on Office of Profit** considered the issue of whether a **Parliamentarian can continue** to teach at University and if this draws the provisions of “**Office of Profit**” rules.

### What is the Office of Profit?

- **An office of profit** has been interpreted to be a **position** that brings to the office-holder **some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit** and the amount of such profit is immaterial.
- The Constitution does not define the term “**office of profit**” but the **definition has evolved** over the years **with interpretations** made in various court judgments.
- Several factors are considered in this determination of Office of Profit. They are:
  - whether the government is the appointing authority
  - whether the government has the power to terminate the appointment
  - whether the government determines the remuneration
  - what is the source of remuneration
  - the power that comes with the position.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - Under the provisions of **Article 102 (1) and Article 191 (1)** of the Constitution, **an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is barred from holding any office of profit under the Central or State government.**
  - The articles clarify that “a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit under the government of India or the government of any state by reason only that he is a minister”.
  - The **Provisions** of both articles also **protect a legislator occupying a government position** if the office in question has been made immune to disqualification by law.

## Statue of Peace

**In News-** Recently, the PM virtually unveiled the **Statue of Peace** in Rajasthan on the 151st birth anniversary occasion of Jain monk **Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj**.

- The 151 in tall statue has been made **using ashtadhatu**, which comprises, majorly, of copper and a combination of eight metals.

### About Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj:

- He is a saint, who lived during **1870-1954**, **led an austere life**, working selflessly and dedicatedly to spread the message of Lord Mahavira.
- He also worked relentlessly for the welfare of the masses, spread of education and eradication of social evils, wrote inspiring literature (poetry, essays, devotional hymns and stavans) and gave active support to the freedom movement and the cause of the swadeshi.



## Inner Line Permit (ILP)

**In News-** Several organisations of Meghalaya demonstrated across the state demanding that **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** be implemented in the state to **protect the identity and rights of its indigenous people**.

### What is an ILP?

- An **Inner Line Permit** is a travel document that is required by non-natives to visit four Northeastern states, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland.
- Both the **duration of stay and the areas** allowed to be accessed for any non-native are determined by the ILP.
- The ILP is **issued by the concerned state government** and can be availed both by applying online or in person.

### History:

- The **Inner Line Permit** is an extension of the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act 1873**.
- The Britishers framed regulations **restricting entry in certain designated areas**.
- This was done to protect the Crown's interest in certain states by preventing "British subjects" (Indians) from trading within these regions. In 1950, the term '**British subjects**' was replaced with '**Citizens of India**'.
- Today, all non-natives require the permit. This was done to protect the indigenous tribal communities of these states from exploitation.

### Rules for foreigners:

- An ILP is **only valid for domestic tourists**. For foreign tourists in:
  - **Manipur**- No permit is required but they need registration
  - **Mizoram**- No permit is required but they need registration
  - **Nagaland**-No permit is required but they need registration
  - **Arunachal Pradesh**- Tourists need a Protected Area Permit (PAP) or Restricted Area Permit (RAP) from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

## Recusal of Judges

**In News:** Recently, a **Judge** of the **Supreme Court** recused himself from hearing separate writ petitions that sought action against the Andhra Pradesh government and the Chief Minister.

### What does Recusal mean?

- It is the **removal of a judge by him/herself in a particular matter**, especially because of a conflict of interest.
- There are **no written rules or specific legislation on the recusal of judges** from hearing cases listed before them in constitutional courts and it is left to the discretion of a judge



- The reasons for recusal are **not disclosed in an order of the court.**
- A Judge may **verbally convey the decision to the lawyers.** Also, some judges explain the reasons in the order.
- In cases where the concern of the judge is something other than pecuniary, the recusal would not be mandatory and there should be an enquiry for analysing the extent of such an interest. Then a judge can be disqualified after being subjected to either the principle of **"real danger" or "reasonable apprehension".**

## Article 363-A

**In News-** Recently, the grandson of the last Nizam of the erstwhile princely state of Hyderabad has filed a complaint with the police against his relatives for fabricating documents to claim 35 million pounds belonging to the former ruler lying in a bank in Britain.

- It amounted to a **violation of Article 363-A** of the Constitution of India.

### About Article 363-A:

- Article 363-A was inserted in the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Act, 1971. This amendment is best known for the **abolition of Privy Purse.**
- The concept of the privy purse was defined under Articles 291 and 362 of the Constitution.
  - It guaranteed a fixed tax-free sum to the former princely rulers and their successors, and this was to be charged on the **Consolidated Fund of India.**

## Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana

**In News-** The 'Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana' has been announced in Rajasthan in order to provide monetary benefits to mothers for the second child.

### About:

- This will supplement the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under which mothers get ₹5,000 for their first child.
- The scheme will compensate mothers for the loss of wages during pregnancy and after childbirth and to curb wasting and stunting among children as well as anaemia among mothers.

### Key Points of the scheme:

- Beneficiaries will receive **cash in five instalments** upon meeting certain conditions. However, **unlike the Central scheme, they will not have to submit an Aadhaar card** for the State scheme and the money will be transferred directly to their bank accounts.

#### **About Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):**

- It is a maternity benefit rechristened from erstwhile Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY); is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women.
- It provides partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices.

## **PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PM-FME) scheme**

**In News:** Recently, the Minister of Food Processing launched the **Capacity building Component** of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme.

#### **About:**

- Under the **new component**, the **trainers will be delivered with classroom lecture and demonstration** through **online mode**.
- The trainers further will train the district level trainers who will train the intended beneficiaries.

#### **About the Scheme:**

- It was **launched** under the **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** and is being implemented under the ambit of the **Ministry of Food Processing**.
- It **aims** to assist **two lakh micro food processing** units by **providing technical, financial and business support to micro food processing industries**.
- It will be **implemented** over a period of **five years** between **2020-21 and 2024-25**.

## **Article 32 and the Supreme Court**

**In News:** Recently, a **Supreme Court bench** headed by Chief Justice of India observed that it is **“trying to discourage”** individuals from **filing petitions under Article 32** of the Constitution.

- The observation was made during the hearing of a petition seeking the release of an arrested journalist.

#### **Article 32 of the Constitution:**

- It is **one of the fundamental rights** and **deals with** the **‘Right to Constitutional Remedies**.
- It **provides the right to move the Supreme Court** by appropriate proceedings for the **enforcement of the rights conferred in Part III of the Constitution**.

- It states that the **Supreme Court** “shall **have power to issue directions or orders or writs**, whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by Part III of the Constitution.
- The five writs are:
  - **Mandamus**- A judicial writ issued as a command to an inferior court or ordering a person to perform a public or statutory duty.
  - **Prohibition**- A writ of prohibition is a writ directing a subordinate to stop doing something the law prohibits. This writ is often issued by a superior court to the lower court directing it not to proceed with a case which does not fall under its jurisdiction.
  - **Certiorari**- In law, certiorari is a court process to seek judicial review of a decision of a lower court or government agency.
  - **Quo warrant**- Quo warrant is a prerogative writ requiring the person to whom it is directed to show what authority they have for exercising some right, power, or franchise they claim to hold.

#### Writs and High Court:

- **Article 226** of the Constitution provides a **High Court** to issue writs including habeas corpus, mandamus, certiorari, prohibition and quo warrant for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of the citizens and for any other purpose.
- **The High Court** can issue writs to any person, authority and government not only within its territorial jurisdiction but also outside its territorial jurisdiction if the cause of action arises within its territorial jurisdiction.

## Assam - Mizoram Border issue

**In News:** Recently there have been clashes between the residents of Assam and Mizoram over a boundary dispute.

#### About the Boundary dispute:



- The **boundary dispute** between the **two states** started when the state of Mizoram was carved out as a **separate state** in the **1980s**.
- The boundary between present-day Assam and Mizoram, 165 km long today, dates back to the colonial era when Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam.
- The dispute stems from **a notification of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar**, and another of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.
- Mizoram believes that the boundary should be demarcated on the basis of the 1875 notification, which is derived from the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act, 1873**.
- The **Mizo leaders** have argued in the past against the **demarcation notified in 1933** because Mizo society was not consulted and they believe that the Assam government follows the **1933 demarcation** which is the **point of conflict**.

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