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The Monsoon Session of Parliament: History and Rules

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The Monsoon Session of Parliament: History and Rules

Parliament does not meet whenever it likes. It meets in three blocks each year. The middle block, in July and August, is the Monsoon Session.

1 Why Three Sessions a Year

How often does Parliament meet?

By long habit, Parliament sits three times a year. The **Budget Session** comes first, from about February to May. The **Monsoon Session** follows in July and August. The **Winter Session** closes the year in November and December.

The Budget Session is split in two. A recess in the middle lets committees study the budget demands.

Does the Constitution name these sessions?

No. It does not name them. It does not even fix their number. The pattern is a **convention** that has held since Independence.

The Monsoon Session comes right after the budget is passed. That makes it the first long chance to take up general Bills. Members also raise public issues in Question Hour and Zero Hour.

> **Quick check 1.** Parliament meets in exactly three sessions each year because the Constitution says so. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: legislative.gov.in; pib.gov.in

2 What Article 85 Says

What is the only real rule?

Article 85(1) says the President shall summon each House from time to time. The President picks the time and place. But there is one limit.

Six months shall not intervene between the last sitting of one session and the first sitting of the next. So Parliament must meet at least **twice a year**.

What else does Article 85 allow?

Article 85(2) gives the President two more powers. The President may **prorogue** the Houses or either House. The President may also **dissolve** the House of the People, which is the Lok Sabha.

Article 87 adds a duty. The President addresses both Houses together at the first session after each general election. The President does so again at the first session of each year, and tells Parliament why it was summoned.

Article 85 does not mention the Cabinet. In practice the President acts on ministerial advice, as **Article 74** requires.

> **Quick check 2.** Article 85 says six months must not pass between the last sitting of one session and the first sitting of the next. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: legislative.gov.in

3 Summon, Sine Die, Prorogue, Dissolve

Why do these four words confuse students?

They sound alike but do different jobs. Here they are in order.

- **Summon:** the President calls a House to meet. A session begins.
- **Adjourn sine die:** the presiding officer ends a sitting with no date to meet again. The session is not yet closed.
- **Prorogue:** the President formally ends the session.
- **Dissolve:** the Lok Sabha itself ends. This can only happen to the Lok Sabha.

What happens to pending Bills?

Under **Article 107(3)**, a Bill pending in Parliament does not lapse because the House is prorogued. A Bill pending in the Lok Sabha does lapse when that House is dissolved.

The Rajya Sabha is never dissolved. **Article 83(1)** says the Council of States is not subject to dissolution.

Why are sine die and prorogation separate?

They belong to different hands. The presiding officer manages the House floor and calls time on a sitting. The President, on the government's advice, closes the session. So days or weeks can pass between the two steps.

> **Quick check 3.** A sine die adjournment means the Lok Sabha has been dissolved. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: legislative.gov.in

4 Laws Passed in Monsoon Sessions

What was the 2016 GST law?

The **Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill** was introduced in the Lok Sabha on **19 December 2014**. The Lok Sabha passed it on **6 May 2015**. A Select Committee reported on **22 July 2015**.

The Rajya Sabha passed it with amendments on **3 August 2016**. The Lok Sabha accepted them on **8 August 2016**.

The States then ratified it, it became the **101st Amendment Act, 2016**. It created the **GST Council**, which includes the Union Finance Minister and the State Finance Ministers.

What were the 2020 farm laws?

Three farm laws passed in **September 2020**.

- They set up a framework for contract farming.
- They allowed trade of farm produce outside the markets notified under State APMC laws.
- They limited control on the supply of foods such as cereals, pulses and onions to extraordinary times, like war or famine.

The Supreme Court stayed the laws in **January 2021**.

How did they end?

The **Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021** was introduced and passed in both Houses on **29 November 2021**. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha both passed it on the same day. A law passed in one session can be undone in a later one.

> **Quick check 4.** Both Houses passed the Farm Laws Repeal Bill on 29 November 2021. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: prsindia.org; pib.gov.in

Sources: pib.gov.in; prsindia.org

5 The 2026 Monsoon Session

When did it run?

It began on Monday, **20 July 2026**. It was adjourned sine die on Thursday, **13 August 2026**. There were **19 sittings** over **25 days**. It was the 8th Session of the 18th Lok Sabha and the 271st Session of the Rajya Sabha.

What did it pass?

- **Introduced:** 11 Bills in the Lok Sabha and 2 in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Passed: 12 Bills** by each House, and 12 by both Houses.
- **Ordinances replaced:** the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026 and the Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.
- **Sent to a Joint Committee:** the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026.

How did Kerala become Keralam?

Article 3 lets Parliament alter the name of any State. A simple law does this. It is not a constitutional amendment under Article 368.

The proviso adds a step. The President must refer the Bill to the State Legislature. The **Kerala Assembly** passed a resolution on **24 June 2024**. The **Cabinet** approved the change on **24 February 2026**. Parliament then passed the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill**.

What other Bills mattered?

- The **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill** brings Vande Mataram under Section 3 of the 1971 Act.
- The **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026** sets two-month investigations and three-month trials.
- It also creates Special Task Forces and allows an appeal to a High Court Division Bench.
- The **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026** tightens late registration.
- After one year, an Executive Magistrate must approve it. After two years, a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class must approve it.

Which money and economy Bills passed?

- The **Appropriation Bill** for Excess Grants 2022-23 passed the Lok Sabha on **4 August 2026**. The Rajya Sabha returned it on **6 August 2026**.
- The **MSME Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026** provides a national digital platform for free and voluntary MSME registration.
- The **Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026** widens "bankers' books" to cover digital, virtual and cloud-based records.
- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** amends the 1957 Act.

- The **Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026** aims at uniform rules for Tribunal members.

Why do ordinances matter here?

An ordinance is a stop-gap law the President makes while Parliament is not sitting. Under **Article 123**, it ceases to operate six weeks after Parliament reassembles, unless Parliament acts first. So a Bill is needed.

In 2026, two Bills did this job. One replaced the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026. The other replaced the Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.

Which Bill went to a Joint Committee?

The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** was not passed. It was referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses for examination and report.

How busy was the House?

Productivity was low. It was about **19%** in the Lok Sabha and about **39%** in the Rajya Sabha.

Committee work went on all the same. On **11 August 2026**, the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture presented its **392nd Report**. It urged an All India Passenger Permit and a National Bus Terminals Authority.

> **Quick check 5.** Renaming Kerala as Keralam in 2026 needed a constitutional amendment. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: legislative.gov.in; pib.gov.in

Sources: pib.gov.in

6 Exam Recall

What should you remember?

- **Sessions:** Budget, Monsoon, Winter. A convention only.
- **Rule:** Article 85, no gap of **six months**.
- **Sine die:** a pause with no date. **Prorogation** ends the session.
- **Dissolution:** only the Lok Sabha.
- **GST:** 122nd Bill, **101st Amendment Act, 2016**.
- **Farm laws:** passed 2020, repealed **29 November 2021**, passed by both Houses that day.
- **2026: 20 July to 13 August**, 19 sittings.

Which traps come up?

Do not say the Constitution fixes three sessions. It fixes only the six-month gap. Do not mix sine die with dissolution. Do not say renaming a State needs an amendment.

> **Quick check 6.** The Rajya Sabha can be dissolved by the President under Article 85(2). *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Practice MCQs

1. How long did the Monsoon Session 2026 of Parliament run, and how many sittings did it hold?

A. 20 July to 13 August 2026, across 19 sittings

B. 1 July to 31 July 2026, across 10 sittings

C. 20 July to 13 August 2026, across 25 sittings

D. 1 June to 30 June 2026, across 15 sittings

See answer ↓

2. Under Article 85(1) of the Constitution, what is the longest gap allowed between the last sitting of one session of Parliament and the first sitting of the next?

A. One year

B. Three months

C. Nine months

D. Six months

See answer ↓

3. Which Article of the Constitution lets Parliament alter the name of a State by an ordinary law?

A. Article 2

B. Article 3

C. Article 368

D. Article 85

See answer ↓

4. Through which Constitution Amendment Act was the Goods and Services Tax introduced in 2016?

A. 122nd Amendment Act

B. 100th Amendment Act

C. 103rd Amendment Act

D. 101st Amendment Act

See answer ↓

5. On which date did both Houses of Parliament pass the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021?

A. 26 January 2021

B. 13 August 2026

C. 20 September 2020

D. 29 November 2021

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.** The Monsoon Session 2026 ran from 20 July to 13 August 2026, holding 19 sittings across 25 days. ↑ Q1
2. **D.** The correct answer is **Six months**. Article 85(1) says six months shall not intervene between the two. So Parliament must meet at least twice a year. The three-session pattern is only a convention. Memory hook: six months, twice a year. ↑ Q2
3. **B.** The correct answer is **Article 3**. It lets Parliament alter the name of any State. The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill used it in 2026. It needs no amendment under Article 368. Memory hook: Article 3 changes names and borders. ↑ Q3
4. **D.** The correct answer is the **101st Amendment Act, 2016**. The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 became that Act after the States ratified it. The 122nd is the Bill number, not the Act number. Memory hook: Bill 122, Act 101. ↑ Q4
5. **D.** The correct answer is **29 November 2021**. The Bill was introduced and passed in both Houses that day. It repealed the three farm laws passed in September 2020. Memory hook: introduced and passed on one day. ↑ Q5

Quick-check answers

1. **False.** The Constitution does not name or fix three sessions. It only bars a gap of six months. ↑ 1
2. **True.** That is why Parliament must meet at least twice a year. ↑ 2
3. **False.** Sine die only ends a sitting. The session closes later by prorogation. ↑ 3
4. **True.** PRS records the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha passing it on that date. ↑ 4
5. **False.** Article 3 lets Parliament alter a State's name by an ordinary law. ↑ 5
6. **False.** Article 85(2) lets the President dissolve only the House of the People. ↑ 6

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