

Sansad TV Perspective: Uproar in Parliament

In the series Sansad TV Perspective, we bring you an analysis of the discussion featured on the insightful programme 'Perspective' on Sansad TV, on various important topics affecting India and also the world. This analysis will help you immensely for the [IAS exam](#), especially the mains exam, where a well-rounded understanding of topics is a prerequisite for writing answers that fetch good marks.

In this article, we feature the discussion on the topic: Uproar in Parliament

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Guests:

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Context: Two weeks of the [Monsoon session of Parliament](#) washed out due to repeated disruptions forcing adjournments.

Highlights of the Discussion:

- Utmost priority to the elections of the President of India and the Vice President of India given by the government over other usual businesses.
- Opposition parties are losing the opportunity to get clarity and accountability from the government over various issues such as GST and [inflation](#) among others.
- Reasons for increasing lack of cooperation and coordination among various parties in both houses.
- How concerning these are disruptions and are a waste of money and time.
- Concerns on the quality of Bills passed without adequate discussion in parliament.

Reasons behind Disruptions?

- Opposition parties' request for a debate on the price rise and the new GST rates on the packaged food items since the day session started have not been allowed by the Speaker of the [Lok Sabha](#).
- It is also seeking withdrawal of the suspension of nearly two dozen MPs before going ahead with the business.
- An unresponsive attitude of the government and the retaliatory posture of the treasury benches.
- Opposition parties not adhering to parliamentary norms and disciplining their members.

Larger Implications of Unproductive Sessions:

- Due to repeated disruptions forcing adjournments, there has been very little business till date during the session.

- In 2012, Rs 2.5 lakh was spent every minute for running Parliament during sessions. This number will be much higher now. Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha run for an average of 80 days throughout the year, and each day consists of nearly six hours of business.
- The curtailment of question hour and [zero hour](#) undermines the principle of parliamentary oversight over the executive.
- These disruptions result in the passage of bills without qualitative debates and deliberations.
- If these disruptions continue, it might result in the intervention of the judiciary which goes against the doctrine of [separation of powers](#).

Way Forward:

- Article 105 deals with the powers, privileges, etc, of Parliament, its members, and committees while Article 194 protects the privileges and powers of the houses of the legislature, their members, and committees in the states.
 - Parliament has the privilege to initiate contempt procedures against disrupting members.
- Solutions have to emerge from within the system - Parliament forms its own rules and regulations, it is up to the members to observe those rules and regulations for the effective functioning of the legislative bodies.
 - Parliament has to come up with internal checks and balances at both the individual level and the party level.
- Proportional penalties can be imposed on repeated disruptors.
- A Parliament disruption index can be formulated on which automatic suspension of disruptors can be enforced.
- There should be an increase in the working days of Parliament.

Conclusion:

Constant disruption is becoming a new norm in parliamentary proceedings which widens the trust deficit between the parties. This trend is bad for a healthy democracy and a dent in the fairness of the Parliamentary system.