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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(03 September 2023)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- **SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT**
- **NAMAMI GANGE/NATIONAL MISSION ON CLEAN GANGA**
- **ONE NATION ONE ELECTION (FOLLOW UP)**



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SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT

The Govt. has called for a special session of the Parliament from **September 18-22**.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs quoted '**Important Items**' were on the Agenda.

WHEN DOES THE PARLIAMENT MEET?

India's Parliament does not have a fixed calendar. However, there have been suggestion by a Parliamentary committee in 1955 to have a fixed calendar.

HOW MANY PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS IN A YEAR?

3. (Not mandated by the constitution). The constitution simply mentions that Parliament should meet for sessions **at least twice in a year**. (A colonial legacy)

WHO DECIDES WHEN PARLIAMENT MEETS?

The Government decides the date, duration of parliamentary sessions. (Cabinet committee on parliamentary affairs takes this decision)

HOW OFTEN DOES THE PARLIAMENT MEET?

Before independence, the central assembly met for **60 days in a year**.

Post Independence, for the **first 20 years**, the no. went up to **120 days in a year**. But they have declined since then.

Between **2002-2021**, Lok Sabha met for **67 days/year (Average)**.

This year, parliament has met for **42 days**.

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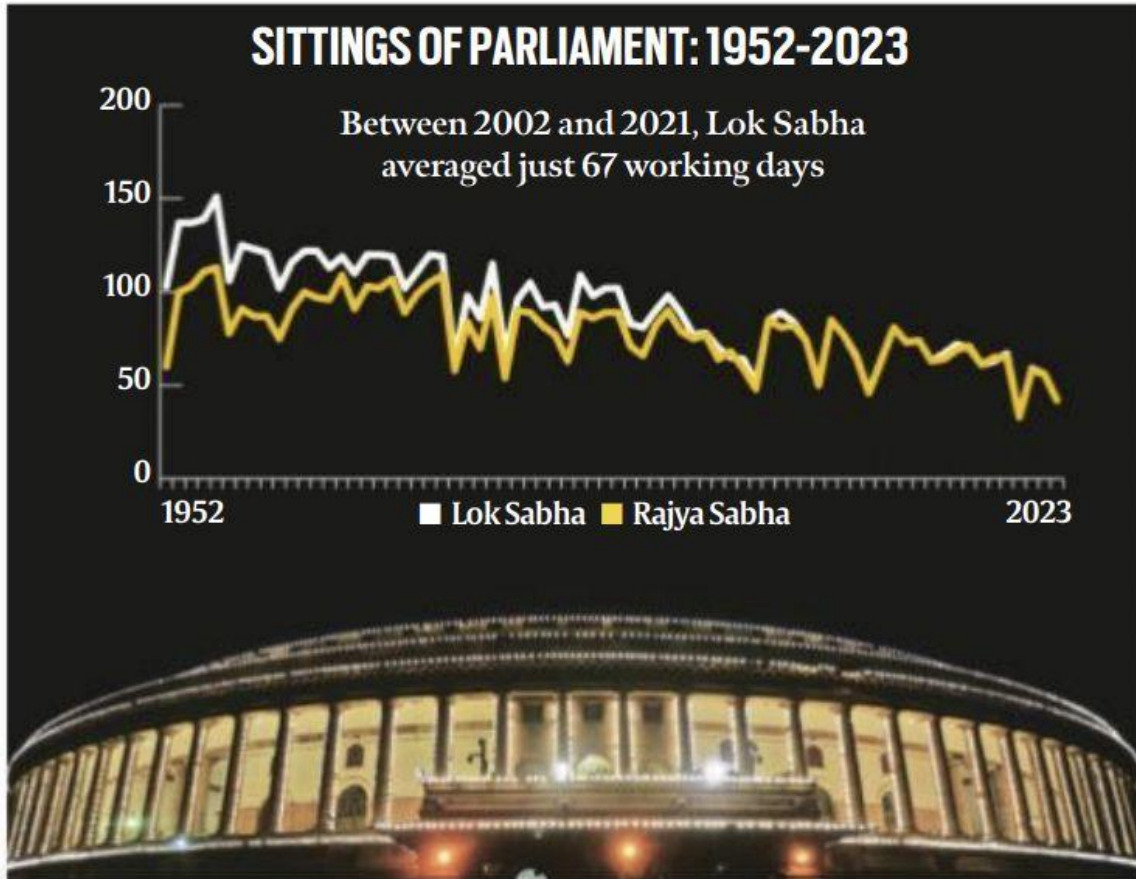


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RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REGARD

- The conference of presiding officers has recommended Parliament to meet for more than 100 days.
- The National Commission to review the working of the constitution set up in 2000 made a similar view.
- MPs (MP Naresh Goyal in 2017) have introduced private members bill stating that parliament should meet for four sessions in a year. (Including a special session of 15 days for debating on matters of urgent public importance.)

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GLOBAL PRACTICES:

The **US Congress & Parliaments of Canada, Germany & UK** are in session throughout the year. Their calendar is set at the beginning of the year.

WHAT IS A SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT?

A special session of the parliament one which can be summoned in addition to the existing sessions. (Budget, Monsoon & Winter). Purpose can be discussions & deliberations on matters of urgent public importance.

Is it mentioned in the constitution?

No. The constitution does not mention the term Special Session. However, the **44th Amendment Act, 1976** inserted the term **“Special Sitting”** of the house in Article 352 (To revoke national emergency.).

Who decides & summons about the Special Session?

The government, through the **Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs**, decides when Parliament meets, including session dates and durations. **The President is informed of the Committee’s decisions**, and MPs are summoned for the session.

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NAMAMI GANGE

Seven years on, mission to clean the Ganga remains a work in progress

Treatment plants capable of treating just 20% of sewage spewing into the river set up so far; NMCG hopes to increase this to 33% by 2024 and 60% by 2026; Centre says it will only build capacity for 7,000 MLD, States must set up the rest

Namami Gange or National mission for clean Ganga was envisaged in 2014 & under implementation since 2016 with a budgetary outlay of **Rs. 20,000 crore**.

THE STATISTICS





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MAIN PILLARS

*Source: nmcg.nic.in

Main pillars of the Namami Gange Programme

- Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure
- River-Surface Cleaning
- Afforestation
- Industrial Effluent Monitoring
- River-Front Development
- Bio-Diversity
- Public Awareness
- Ganga Gram



ABOUT NAMAMI GANGE

- It is an **integrated conservation mission**, approved as '**Flagship Programme**' by the Union Government in 2014 with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crores.
- It is administered by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti's** Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, to accomplish the twin objectives of –
 - Effective abatement of pollution,
 - Conservation and Rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

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INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

- The program would be implemented by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, and its state counterpart organisations i.e., **State Program Management Groups (SPMGs)**.
 - **NMCG** is the **implementation wing** of **National Ganga Council (NGC)**, which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority).
 - NGC was created in 2016 under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, and is headed by the **PM**.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- In order to implement the programme, a **three-tier mechanism** has been proposed for project monitoring comprising of:
 - A high-level task force chaired by **Cabinet Secretary** assisted by **NMCG** at the national level,
 - State level committee chaired by **Cabinet Secretary** assisted by **SPMG** at the state level and
 - District level committee chaired by the **District Magistrate**.
- Its implementation has been divided into –
 - Entry-Level Activities (for immediate visible impact),
 - Medium-Term Activities (to be implemented within 5 years of time frame)
 - Long-Term Activities (to be implemented within 10 years).

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ONE NATION ONE ELECTION [FOLLOW UP]

Govt. forms a panel to review **One Nation One Election**.

Issues to be discussed:

- Constitution Amendment.
- Examining Logistical issues such as:
 - Manpower requirement.
 - EVM & VVPAT Availability.
- Modalities regarding single electoral roll & Voter id

 <p>RAM NATH KOVIND Former President</p>	 <p>AMIT SHAH Union Home Minister</p>	 <p>GHULAM NABI AZAD Former Leader of Opp, RS</p>	 <p>N K SINGH Ex-Chairman, 15th Finance Commission</p>
 <p>SUBHASH C KASHYAP Ex-Secy Gen, Lok Sabha</p>	 <p>HARISH SALVE Senior Advocate</p>	 <p>SANJAY KOTHARI Former CVC</p>	 <p>ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY Cong leader, LS</p>
KEY TASKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Propose amendments to Constitution and examine if these would need ratification by states		<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Examine modalities of using single electoral roll and voter ID■ Examine logistics and manpower required, including EVMs, VVPATs	

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