



DATE: 14 FEBRUARY 2026

## 1 Sessions of Parliament (Source: *The Hindu*)

When the two houses of the parliament convene to conduct the business of the house, we say that MP's are attending a session of the parliament. The parliament has three sessions during each financial year: the Budget Session (Feb–May), Monsoon Session (July–Aug/Sept), and Winter Session (Nov–Dec).

### Features

- The power to convene a session of Parliament rests with the government and under Article 85 of constitution it is summoned by the President of India.
- Constitution does not prescribe fixed parliamentary sessions and the present format is based on convention.
- Article 85 calls for the house to convene at least once each year, and no more than six months intervene between the last sitting of one session and the first sitting of the next session.

### What needs to be noted ?

Over the years, there has been a decline in the sittings days of Parliament, which many say is due to improved functioning of parliamentary committees.





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## 2 Elephant Tusk (Source: *The Hindu*)

Elephant tusks are considered to be horns by many, but they are actually teeth (long incisor teeth).



### What needs to be looked for ?

- Tusks never stop growing during the elephant's life.
- Tusks are made of a material called dentin.
- Elephant tusks are versatile tools for daily survival of Elephants.
- From finding food to protecting their families, tusks are essential for their life in the wild.

### Statutory provisions for Ivory

- Wildlife protection act 1972, prohibits possession, trade, and commerce of ivory without strict government certification.
- CITES which banned the international commercial trade of African elephant ivory.

### Interesting facts

- The elephant's dominant tusk is often shorter because it gets more wear from daily use.
- An elephant's age and unique habits can be analysed using tusk morphology.

## 3 India's Puppetry Tradition (Source: *Indian Express*)

Indian puppetry is an ancient, diverse art form (dating back ~4,000 years) serving as both entertainment and storytelling, with deep roots in religious epics like the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*.

### Categories

- String puppetry, or marionette puppetry.
- Shadow puppetry.
- Indian rod puppets.
- Glove puppetry or hand puppetry.



	Puppetry Type	Example
I.	String puppetry, or marionette puppetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kundhei of Odisha</li> <li>• Kathputli of Rajasthan</li> <li>• Bommalattam of Tamil Nadu</li> <li>• Gombeyatta of Karnataka</li> </ul>
II.	Shadow puppetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Togalu Gombeyatta of Karnataka</li> <li>• Ravanachhaya of Odisha</li> <li>• Tholu Bommalatta of Andhra Pradesh</li> </ul>
III.	Indian rod puppets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yampuri of Bihar</li> <li>• Putul Nach of West Bengal</li> </ul>
IV.	Glove puppetry or hand puppetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavakoothu of Kerala</li> </ul>

## 4 Panchsheel Pact (Source: *Indian Express*)

The Panchsheel Pact, or Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, was signed between India and China in 1954, to govern bilateral relations.

### What are the five principles?

- Mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Non-aggression.
- Non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
- Equality and mutual benefit.
- Principle of peaceful coexistence.



**NOTE: Is Panchsheel still relevant in the present era? Please think about it.**

## 5 Dhrupad (Source: *The Hindu*)

Dhrupad claims the distinction of being the oldest form of Indian Classical music heard today.

- Its origins trace back to the sacred chants of the Vedic era, evolving into a classical musical form characterized by its meditative and devotional nature.



## What are its features ?

- Originally written in Sanskrit, it is presently in Brij Bhasha.
- It is accompanied by a tanpura and pakhawaj.
- There are two main components to a Dhrupad (Darbari) performance: the **alaap** and **composition**.
- The teaching of Dhrupad is very closely tied to the ancient system of **guru-shishya Parampara**.

