

## House Disruptions

India's parliamentary democracy, hailed globally for its vibrancy, faces a serious challenge due to repeated disruptions in legislative proceedings. Such behaviour not only wastes valuable time and resources but also undermines public trust in democratic institutions.

**Data on Parliamentary Disruptions in 2024:** (*Source: PRS Legislative Research*).

### **Winter Session Stalemate:**

Over **32% of scheduled time** was lost in disruptions over demands for discussions on controversial bills and governance issues.

### **Budget Session Deadlock:**

Lok Sabha and [Rajya Sabha](#) functioned for only **45% and 31% of their respective scheduled times**.

### **Frequent Walkouts and Protests:**

Opposition parties staged walkouts 17 times, disrupting key debates, including discussions on unemployment and inflation.

### **Decreasing Legislative Productivity:**

Productivity fell below **50% in four consecutive sessions**, the lowest in a decade.

### **Reasons Behind Repeated Disruptions:**

**Lack of Consensus:** Deep polarization between ruling and opposition parties.

**Contentious Legislation:** Absence of pre-legislative consultations leads to resistance.

**Unaddressed Opposition Demands:** Inadequate government response to issues raised by the opposition.

**Procedural Violations:** Use of unparliamentary behavior like sloganeering and rushing to the well of the house.

## **Laws Addressing House Disruptions in India**

**Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business:** Grant presiding officers' authority to maintain decorum.

**Article 105 (Privileges):** Protects MPs' freedom of speech but not unruly behaviour.

**Code of Conduct for Members:** Emphasizes ethical and disciplined behaviour.

**Rule 374(A) of Lok Sabha:** Allows for automatic suspension of members engaging in grave misconduct.

### **Consequences of Parliamentary Disruptions:**

**Loss of Public Trust:** Erodes confidence in democratic institutions and governance.

**Wastage of Resources:** Millions of rupees spent on non-productive parliamentary sessions.

**Missed Opportunities:** Delayed or incomplete legislation on pressing socio-economic challenges.

**International Reputation:** Diminishes India's image as a stable democracy.

### **Way Ahead:**

**Consensus-Building:** Promote dialogue between ruling and opposition parties to resolve disputes.

**Strict Enforcement:** Presiding officers must implement suspension rules for repeated disruptions.

**Ethical Training:** Encourage youth in politics to prioritize decorum and accountability.

**Pre-Legislative Consultations:** Address opposition concerns before introducing contentious bills.

**Public Awareness:** Foster citizen understanding of the consequences of disruptions to increase accountability.

### **Conclusion:**

To uphold India's democratic ethos, all stakeholders must work collectively to ensure that Parliament becomes a hub of constructive debate and policymaking. Building consensus and fostering respect for parliamentary rules are vital to restoring the sanctity of legislative institutions.

## Syria and Middle East Tension

The collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria after an 11-day offensive by rebel groups has triggered a geopolitical reshuffle in the Middle East.

### Middle East Tensions and Syria's Recent Fall:

#### Syria's Collapse

Assad's rule, characterized by authoritarianism, ended after sustained pressure from rebel forces led by Abu Mohammed al-Jawlani, a former al-Qaeda operative.

External supporters like Iran and Russia shifted focus elsewhere, contributing to Assad's defeat.

#### Regional Dynamics

Turkey-backed Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) emerged as a dominant force.

Questions arise about Syria's future governance and potential descent into Islamist authoritarianism.

### Factors Behind Tensions in the Middle East

**Authoritarian Regimes:** Fragile political systems often collapse under pressure from internal dissent or external interventions.

**Proxy Conflicts:** Rivalries among global powers (e.g., Russia, the U.S.) and regional players (e.g., Iran, Turkey) exacerbate instability.

**Sectarian Divides:** Sunni-Shia tensions underpin many conflicts, fueling violence and regional rivalries.

**Geopolitical Ambitions:** Nations like Turkey, Iran, and Saudi Arabia aim to expand their influence, often at the expense of regional stability.

#### Impacts:

##### In the Region:

**Power Vacuum:** The absence of Assad may lead to infighting among rebel factions.

**Instability:** Potential rise of extremist groups threatens regional peace.

**Economic Fallout:** Ongoing conflicts disrupt trade and economic recovery.

**Refugee Crisis:** Renewed displacement of civilians exacerbates humanitarian challenges.

##### On India:

**Energy Security:** Instability in the Middle East could impact oil imports.

**Diaspora Risks:** Threats to Indian workers in Gulf nations.

**Geopolitical Balancing:** Navigating relations with regional powers like Iran and Saudi Arabia.

**Strategic Interests:** Maintaining influence in a volatile region.

##### Globally:

**Rise of Extremism:** Threat of radical Islamist movements spreading beyond the region.

**Geopolitical Rivalries:** Renewed tensions among global powers like the U.S., Russia, and China.

**Economic Impact:** Oil market volatility affects global economies.

**Humanitarian Concerns:** Escalating crises demand international intervention.

##### Way Ahead

**Inclusive Governance:** Rebel factions must build a pluralistic framework respecting minority rights.

**International Cooperation:** Global powers should mediate to ensure stability and prevent extremism.

**Regional Stability:** Nations like Turkey and Saudi Arabia must prioritize peace over influence.

**Humanitarian Aid:** Focus on addressing displacement, hunger, and healthcare crises in affected areas.

##### Conclusion:

The fall of Assad signals a transformative phase in the Middle East, fraught with uncertainty and opportunity. Stability in Syria and the broader region hinges on inclusive governance, regional cooperation, and international mediation.

## **UN Report on Land Degradation**

The United Nations (UN) released its report, **The Global Threat of Drying Lands**, during COP16 in Riyadh, emphasizing the growing threat of [aridity](#) to global agricultural systems.

### **Key Highlights of the UN Report:**

#### **Extent of Aridity**

Affects **40% of Earth's arable lands** (5.7 million sq km) and an additional **7%** when soil erosion is considered.

**77.6% of Earth's land** became permanently drier between 1961-2020.

#### **Impact of Climate Change**

Global arid areas may expand by **3.9% by 2040**, resulting in significant crop losses:

**20 million tonnes of maize**

**19 million tonnes of rice**

**8 million tonnes of soybeans**

**21 million tonnes of wheat**

#### **Regional Impacts**

**Sub-Saharan Africa:** Up to **22% of crop production** may be lost by mid-century.

**Kenya:** Maize production could decline by **50% by 2050**.

**South Asia and North Africa:** Significant declines in rainfed agriculture expected.

## Rajagopalachari

On Shri C. Rajagopalachari's birth anniversary, PM Modi honored his multifaceted contributions to governance, literature, and social empowerment.

### About C. Rajagopalachari:

**Born:** December 10, 1878, in Thorapalli, Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu, India).

**Family:** Belonged to a Tamil-speaking Iyengar Brahmin family; father was a lawyer.

### Contribution to the Freedom Movement:

**Indian National Congress (INC):** Served as a legal advisor and General Secretary.

**Non-Cooperation Movement:** Promoted boycotts of British goods and institutions.

**Civil Disobedience Movement:** Led Salt Satyagraha in Madras Presidency.

**Rajaji Formula (1944):** Proposed a framework to resolve conflicts between INC and the Muslim League on partition.

**Diplomatic Efforts:** Represented Indian National Congress (INC) in Round Table Conferences and advocated peaceful negotiations for independence.

### Post-Independence Contributions:

**Governor-General of India (1948–1950):** Last Governor-General; oversaw the transition to the Republic of India.

**Chief Minister of Madras State (1952–1954):** Introduced reforms in education, agriculture, and rural development.

**Founder of Swatantra Party (1959):** Advocated free-market principles and economic liberalization.

### Literary Works:

#### Translations:

*Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* (English).

Tamil translation of *Ramayana* (*Chakravarthi Thirumagan*), which won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1958.

**Hinduism: Doctrine and Way of Life:** Explored Hindu scriptures and philosophy.

**Autobiography:** *Rajaji: A Life*.

### Awards and Recognitions:

**Bharat Ratna (1954):** For contributions to politics, literature, and public service.

**Ramon Magsaysay Award (1958):** For leadership during his tenure as Madras Chief Minister.

**Sahitya Akademi Fellowship:** Honored for contributions to literature.

**Ramanujan Award (1962):** For translating *Thirukkural* into English.

**Death:** December 25, 1972, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, at age 94.

## **Dulcibella camanchaca**

The Atacama Trench, among the deepest oceanic regions, reveals unique biodiversity with the discovery of *Dulcibella camanchaca*, a new predatory amphipod.

### **About Dulcibella camanchaca:**

#### **Found In:**

Atacama Trench, South Pacific Ocean, at a depth of 7,902 meters.

#### **Features:**

Equipped with raptorial appendages for capturing prey.

Active predator feeding on smaller amphipods in a food-limited habitat.

#### **Significance:**

First large, active predatory amphipod discovered in the [Atacama Trench](#).

Represents a new genus, showcasing the trench's status as an endemic biodiversity hotspot.

Highlights the importance of deep-ocean exploration for uncovering unique species and understanding extreme marine ecosystems.