

HISTORY, PRECEDENT & CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION OF PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

History

- **United Kingdom(UK):** 16th century mark the beginning of Monarch addressing the parliament.
- **United States:** George Washington was the first President to Address the congress in 1790.
- **India:**
 - Government of India Act of 1919 provided for the President's address.
 - GOI Act, 1919, gave the Governor- General the right of addressing the legislative assembly and council of state.
 - This law didn't had provision for Joint address.
 - 1st ever address was made by Dr. Rajendra Prasad on January 31, 1950.

Constitutional Provisional

- It gave power to President of India to address either house or joint sitting of both house.
- **Article 87** of the constitution:
 - Provides for 2 special occasions on which the President addresses a joint sitting:
 1. Address the first sitting of parliament each year.
 2. To address the opening session of new legislature after a general election.
- In **original constitution**, President needed to address each session of the parliament.
- But **first amendment to the constitution, 1951** changed this provision and necessitates the President's address once a year.

President's speech:

- There is no set format. The purpose of speech is to inform parliament about the cause of summons.
- **Constitutional debate** on President's speech
 - Prof.K. T Shah: He proposed the President's address needs to be more specific as on the lines of US constitution.
- President's address is sometimes used by the government to introduce new policies & legislature.

Motion of Thanks

- A motion of thanks is passed by both the houses independently of each other on the days that follows the Presidential address.
- The address is discussed in the house and the Prime Minister of India answers the question.
- Post that, Motion of Thanks is put to vote in front of the houses.
- Rejection of the motion amounts to rejection of policies of the government, Thus it may lead to the fall of the government.

Significance:

This is the only incidence in the year in which the whole parliament come together i.e. The President, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

