State Funeral

Why in News?

The former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was recently given a state funeral and national mourning.

- **State funeral** – It is when a person of importance is laid to rest in an elaborate ceremony following laid-down rules, involving members of the public in the mourning.
- It can include a gun salute, draping of the coffin with the tricolour, and laying of wreaths by mourners.
- **Gazette notification by** – Union *Home Ministry.*
- **Relevant arrangements by** – Union *Defence Ministry.*
- **Beneficiaries** – It is accorded in the event of the death of important personnel.
    - **For example**, the president, prime minister, former president or governor, sitting cabinet ministers, governors, lieutenant governors, Lok Sabha speaker, chief justice of the Supreme Court, chief ministers and Bharat Ratna awardees.
- Centre has the authority to *extend for other dignitaries* who have made significant contributions towards the nation.
    - **For examples**, it was given to late industrialist Ratan Tata and singer Lata Mangeshkar.
- **Participants** – It has to be *attended by all the gazetted officers* of government who may be present in the station.
- Service personnel will wear dress as for state functions.
- **Status of National flag** - At a time of 'state mourning', the national flag is *flown at half-mast* at different locations.

*According to the Flag Code of India, the **national flag is flown at half-mast** throughout India in case of a sitting president, prime minister, vice-president and former president, and in Delhi in the case of the passing of the Lok Sabha speaker and the chief justice of India.*

- **Draping of national flag** – On the dignitary's body, over the coffin with the saffron towards the head of the coffin.
- It shall *not be lowered into the grave or burnt in the pyre*.
- **Public holiday** – It is restricted to the death of a sitting prime minister or president.
- However, there have been some departures from protocol.

State mourning	National mourning
Declared by the *state* governments.	Declared by the *centre or state* governments.

Observed in the event of Governor and Chief Minister.	Observed in the event of political leaders and others who have made an exceptional contribution to the country.

- No official entertainments are held during national or state mourning.

References

1. The Indian Express| State Funeral for late Manmohan Singh
2. The Print| Rules and Procedure of State Funeral

