**UPSC Mains Question
What is the significance of** **parliamentary privileges in maintaining the effectiveness of the Parliament's responsibilities? Discuss. (250 Words)**

**Relevance for UPSC**

* **GS Paper 2 -** Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, the conduct of business, powers & privileges, and issues arising out of these.

**Why the question:**

* Recently AAP MP Raghav Chadha was Friday suspended from the Rajya Sabha for “gross violation of rule and misconduct” pending a report by the Privileges Committee.

**Key Demand of the question:**

* Write about the role of parliamentary privileges in maintaining the effectiveness of the Parliament's responsibilities

**Directive word:**

* **Discuss** – The aim is to engage in conversation and exchange thoughts, ideas, opinions, or information about a particular topic, usually with the aim of exploring different perspectives and reaching a conclusion

**Introduction:**

* Start your question by defining parliamentary privileges.

**Body:**

* In the first part of your answer write about the categories of parliamentary privileges
* In the next part of your answer write about the significance of parliamentary privileges.

**Conclusion:**

* Conclude with a way forward

**Answer**

**Introduction**

* Parliamentary privileges encompass exclusive entitlements, immunities, and exceptions held by both **Houses of Parliament, committees, and members**. These privileges are essential to safeguard the autonomy and efficiency of their functions.
* **Evolution of Parliamentary Privileges**
	+ **Article 105** explicitly provides authority to parliament to enjoy Parliamentary privilege
* **Parliamentary privileges can be divided into two main groups:**
	+ Those collectively enjoyed by each House of Parliament.
	+ Those individually enjoyed by **members**.

**Significance of Parliamentary Privileges**

* **Safeguarding Autonomy:** By enjoying these privileges, the Parliament can operate without external pressures, ensuring unbiased decision-making.
* **Upholding Authority:** They empower the Houses to regulate their proceedings, protect their dignity, and command respect from both internal and external stakeholders.
* **Overcoming Obstructions:** Members can engage in their duties without hindrance, contributing to the overall efficiency of the legislative process.
* **Preserving Integrity:** This preserves the credibility of the institution and fosters public trust in its actions.
* **Publishing Authority:** The Parliament possesses the privilege to release its reports and debates, barring others from doing so. The **44th Amendment Act** restored press freedom to report true proceedings, excluding secret sessions.
* **Freedom of Speech:** They can't be legally pursued for their statements or votes in court. This immunity adheres to Constitutional provisions and parliamentary regulations.
* **Immunity from Arrest:** Members have immunity from civil arrest for 40 days pre- and post-house adjournment and during house sessions. Protection against civil arrest is granted.

**Conclusion**

* Parliamentary privileges empower the Houses of Parliament and their members to exercise their duties independently, maintain authority, and ensure unimpeded legislative proceedings