

Women's Reservation Bill 2023

Everything You Need To Know

Why In News

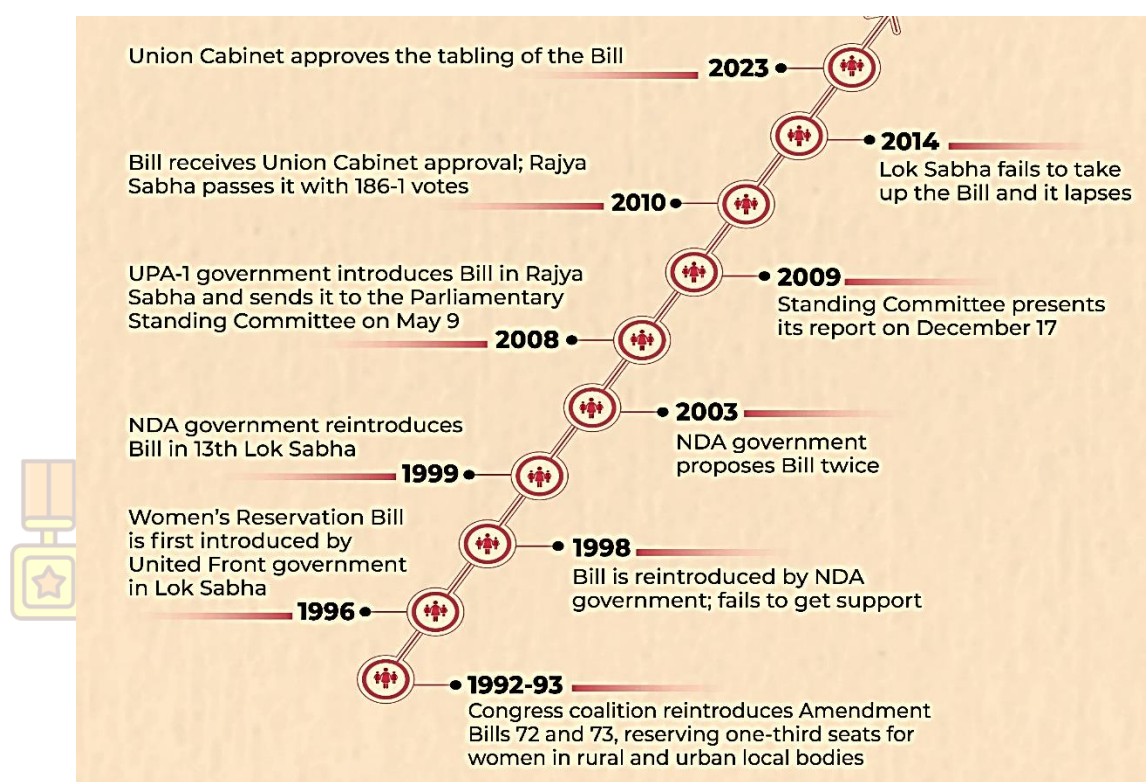
- The Union Government Introduced A Bill To Provide **One-Third Reservation To Women In The Lok Sabha And State Assemblies** As The Historic First Legislation In The New Parliament House.
- Political Empowerment Of Women Is Rightly Perceived As A Powerful And Indispensable Tool For Eliminating Gender Inequality And Discrimination.



History Of The Bill

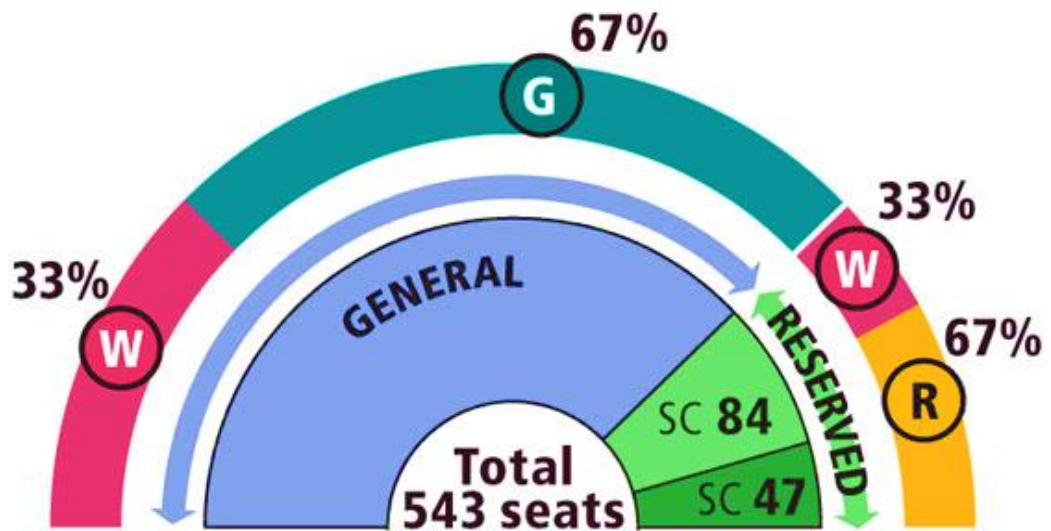
- In **1987**, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Government Constituted **A 14-Member Committee** Led By Union Minister Margaret Alva To Give Recommendations For Improving The Status Of Women.
- In **1992**, Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's Government Passed The 73rd And 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts Which Mandated **33.3 Percent Reservation For Women In Panchayati Raj Institutions**.
- The Women's Reservation Bill Was First Introduced By **HD Deve Gowda**-Led Government, As Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, 1996 In The 11th Lok Sabha **On 12 September 1996**, But The Bill Lapsed With The Dissolution Of The 11th Lok Sabha.

- The **Manmohan Singh-Led UPA Government** Introduced The Women's Reservation Bill In The Rajya Sabha In 2008, Which It Passed In 2010. However, The Bill Never Reached The Lok Sabha For Consideration.
- **On 19 September 2023, Narendra Modi** Government Introduced The Bill As 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023 During Parliament Special Session In Lok Sabha In New Parliament Building.



Features Of Bill

- The Constitution (108 Amendment) Bill, 2008 Seeks To Reserve **One-Third Of All Seats For Women** In The Lok Sabha And The State Legislative Assemblies.
- **One Third Of The Total Number Of Seats Reserved For Scheduled Caste And Scheduled Tribe** Shall Be Reserved For Women Of Those Groups In The Lok Sabha And The Legislative Assemblies.



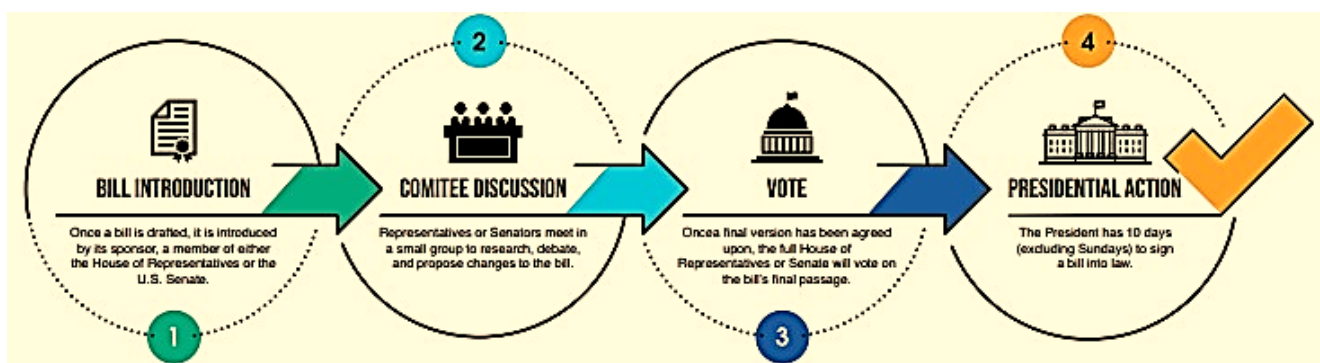
- Reserved Seats May Be **Allotted By Rotation** To Different Constituencies In The State Or Union Territory.
- The Women's Quota Can Only Be Implemented **After The First Delimitation** Or Redrawing Of Constituencies After The Bill Becomes Law, Which Is Likely To Happen In 2027.



Majority Needed

- The Constitution Amendment Bills Have To Be **Passed In Each House Of Parliament** By A Majority Of The Total Membership Of That House And By A Majority Of Not Less Than Two-Thirds Of The Members Of The House "Present And Voting".

- Considering Majority Of Political Parties Are Supporting The Bill, There Should Not Be Any Problem In Getting The Bill Passed. It Is The Same With All The States And UT Of Delhi.



Present Scenario

- The Present Lok Sabha Has **78 Female Members** & In Rajya Sabha There Are **24 Female Members**, So Total Are 102.
- In A Response To A Parliamentary Question Late Last Year, The Government Had Said That The Average Number Of Women Mlas In Assemblies Across The Nation Accounts For **Only 8 Per Cent**.
- Now, Both The Lok Sabha And States/Uts Assemblies Will See Rise In Female Members, But The Rise Will Be More Dramatic In States/UT's.

