

Women's Reservation Bill Gets Parliament Seal Quota Can Come Into Force Only By 2029

Why In News

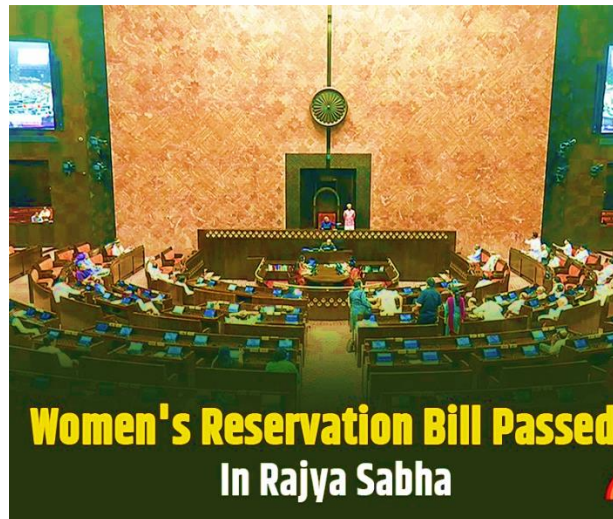
- History Was Scripted Thursday Night When The Constitution (**One Hundred And Twenty-Eighth Amendment**) Bill, 2023, Seeking To Reserve **33% Of Seats** In Lok Sabha And State Assemblies For Women, Was Passed Unanimously By Rajya Sabha, A Day After It Sailed Through Lok Sabha.
- After Years And Years **27 Years To Be Precise** Of Waiting And Debating, Parliament Did It. On Thursday, The Rajya Sabha Voted Unanimously In Favour Of The Historic Women's Reservation Bill, Clearing The Legislation To Now Turn Into A Law.



Support From Both Houses

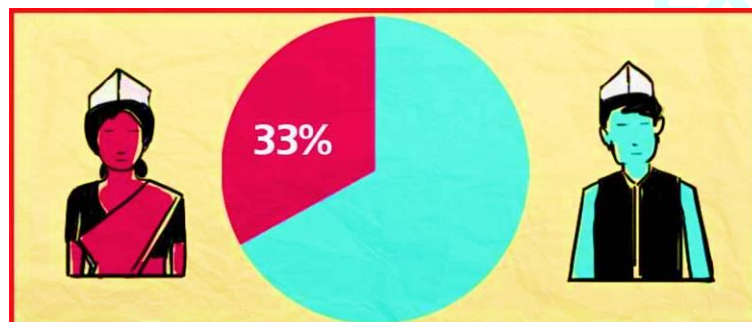
- The Upper House Of Parliament Approved Of The '**Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**' – That Reserves One-Third Of Seats In The Lok Sabha And State Assemblies For Women – With All 214 Members Voting In Its Favour, Unlike The Lok Sabha Where Two Of The 456 Mps Present In The House Had Voted Against It.

- All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MPs Asaduddin Owaisi and Imtiaz Jaleel opposed the Bill.



Features Of Bill

- **Reserve 33% Of Seats For Women** - Provide One-Third Reservation Of Seats In The Lok Sabha And Legislative Assemblies To Women For **15 Years**.
- **Reservation for SC and ST women** - Bill Mandates A Quota For Women From Scheduled Castes And Scheduled Tribes.



- **Enactment** - There's A Provision In The Bill That States Its Enactment Depends Upon A New Census And Delimitation Exercise.



Criticism

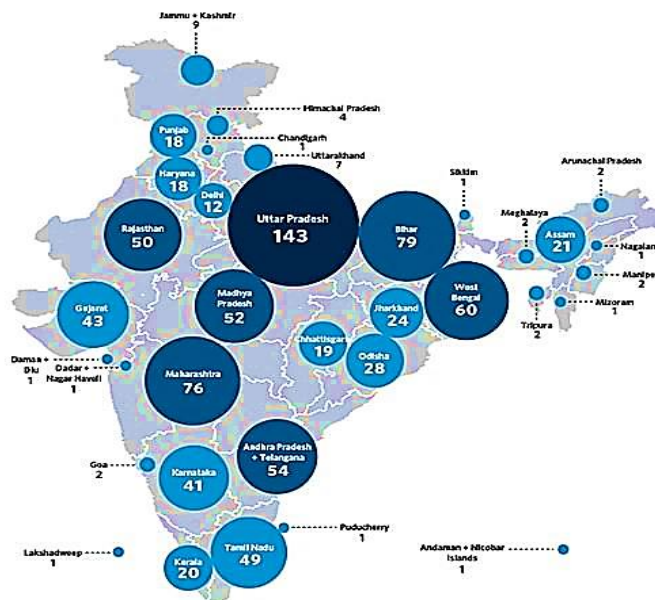
- There Is **No Mention Of Reservation Of Women** From OBC's.
- Women Reservation Bill, 2023, Cannot Be Immediately Implemented Because The Indian Government Needs To Bring Into Consideration A **Fresh Census And Delimitation Exercise**.
- The Bill States That Reserved Seats Shall Be Allotted By Rotation After Every Delimitation Exercise.

Delimitation Issue

- **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act**, Brought During The Emergency, Had Frozen The Date Until 2000.
- In 2002, Delimitation Was Delayed For Another 25 Years, With The **84th Amendment** Under The Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Led BJP Government.
- As **Per Article 82**, Seats Have To Be Readjusted After Each Census Not Just In Lok Sabha But Within States Too.



EXPANDING THE LOK SABHA USING 2026 POPULATION PROJECTIONS



Rotation Issue

- The Bill States That Reserved Seats Shall Be Allotted By Rotation After Every Delimitation Exercise. This Implies Rotation Approximately Every **10 Years** As After 2026 Delimitation Is Mandated To Take Place After Every Census.

- Rotation Of Reserved Seats May Reduce The Incentive For MP's To Work For Their Constituencies As They Could Be Ineligible To Seek Re-Election From That Constituency.

DELIMITATION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Conclusion

- As Per The Statement Of Object And Reasons Of The Bill, **The Role Of Women**, Who Constitute Half The Country's Population, Is Extremely Important In Realisation Of The Goal Of Becoming Vikasit Bharat By 2047."
- The Bill Says That Despite A Number Of Steps To Bring **Nari Shakti To The Forefront**, True Empowerment Of Women Will Require Greater Participation Of Women In The Decision Making Process As They Bring Different Perspectives And Enrich The Quality Of Legislative Debates And Decision-Making.

