

7 June, 2024

Representation of Women in the Lok Sabha

Context: This year, India has elected 74 women to the Lok Sabha, which is four fewer than in 2019 but 52 more than in the first elections held in 1952.

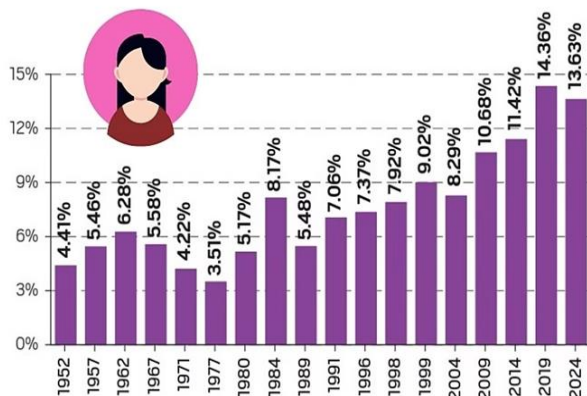
Percentage of Women MPs:

- The 74 women MPs make up 13.63% of the Lower House.
- This is significantly less than the 33% that will be reserved for women after the next delimitation exercise.

Historical Trend:

- In 1952, women constituted 4.41% of the Lok Sabha.
- This increased to over 6% in the 1962 elections but dipped below 4% in 1971.
- Since the 1970s, there has been a slow, steady rise in women's representation.
- Women's representation crossed 10% in 2009 and peaked at 14.36% in 2019.

CHANGE IN WOMEN'S STRENGTH IN LOK SABHA OVER THE YEARS



International Comparison:

- India lags behind countries like South Africa (46% women MPs), the UK (35%), and the US (29%).

Party-wise Share of Women MPs

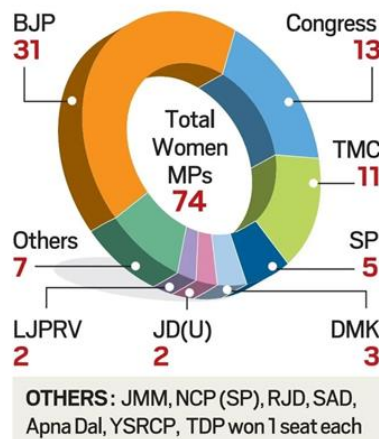
Distribution by Party:

- In 2024, women MPs come from 14 parties.
- BJP has the highest number with 31 women MPs, followed by Congress (13) and TMC (11).
- SP has 5 women MPs, DMK has 3, and LJPRV and JD(U) have 2 each.
- Seven other parties have one woman MP each.

Proportion of Women MPs:

- TMC has the highest proportion of women MPs at 37.93%, followed by Congress (13.13%) and BJP (12.92%).

PARTY WISE WOMEN LS MPs



All data courtesy PRS Legislative Research

New Faces and Younger Representatives

New MPs:

- Of the 74 women MPs, 43 are first-time MPs.
- Misa Bharti of the RJD is a first-time Lok Sabha MP.
- 59% of women MPs are newcomers compared to 52% overall.

Experience and Age:

- Women MPs have an average of 0.76 terms of experience.
- The average age of women MPs is 50 years, compared to the overall average of 56 years.
- 78% of women MPs have completed undergraduate education.

Proportion of Women Candidates:

- Out of 8,360 total candidates in the 2024 elections, around 10% were women.
- This is the first time the proportion of women candidates reached 10%.
- In 1957, only 3% of candidates were women.
- 16% of BJP's candidates and 13% of Congress candidates were women, both higher than the overall average.

SEBI's framework to shield stock prices

Context: To address the impact of market rumors on the price of a stock, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a framework based on the concept of the 'unaffected price.'

Framework Overview:

- Objective:** To address the impact of market rumors on stock prices by using the 'unaffected price' concept.

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➤ Implementation Phases:

- **Top 100 listed entities:** Effective from June 1.
- **Top 250 entities:** Effective from December 1.

➤ Mechanism of 'Unaffected Price':

- **Definition:** The price of the stock before a market rumor influenced it.
- **Trigger:** Activated if the company confirms the rumor within 24 hours of a significant price movement.
- **Function:** Acts as a shielding mechanism, promoting timeliness and transparency.

➤ Impacts of Market Rumors:

- **Types of Rumors:** Acquisition, merger, demerger, sale of underperforming assets, buybacks, joint ventures, management changes.
- **Price Influence:** Rumors can cause inflated prices due to informational asymmetry, disrupting rational price discovery.

➤ Unaffected Price Mechanism:

- **Fair Price Discovery:** Protects market participants by ensuring a level playing field for buybacks, mergers, acquisitions, and other transactions.
- **Market Integrity:** Enhances investor confidence and improves information distribution by promoting faster and more transparent company responses.

➤ Technical Details:

- **Volume Weighted Average Price (VWAP):** Average price at which the stock traded during the day, factoring in trade volume.
- **Impact of Rumors on VWAP:** Incorrect pricing affects business transactions like mergers and acquisitions.

➤ Calculation Example:

- **Monday (pre-rumor):** Stock closes at Rs 200.
- **Tuesday (rumor day):** Stock closes with WAP of Rs 230.
- **Wednesday (post-rumor confirmation):** WAP at Rs 245.
- **Thursday (next trading day):** WAP at Rs 260.
- **Adjusted WAP Calculation:** Difference between Rs 200 (pre-rumor) and Rs 260 (post-confirmation) = Rs 60.
- The daily WAP from Tuesday to Thursday is adjusted to Rs 200, cushioning the immediate impact.

➤ Applicability:

- **Duration:** Applicable for 60 or 180 days based on transaction stage.
- **60-Day Period:** For regular business transactions, providing time for necessary board approvals.
- **180-Day Period:** Useful for acquisitions, allowing time for negotiation and finalization of terms.

India attends IPEF Ministerial meeting

Context: On June 6, 2024, an Indian delegation led by Commerce Secretary Shri Sunil Barthwal attended the IPEF Ministerial meeting in Singapore.

➤ IPEF Ministerial Statement and Agreement Signing

- On November 14, 2023, the IPEF Ministerial Statement announced the conclusion of negotiations for the Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement.
- **Legal Review:** IPEF partners completed legal reviews and domestic approval processes.
- **Agreement Signing:** On June 6, 2024, IPEF members signed these agreements, with India participating but not signing as its approval processes are still underway.
- **Enforcement:** The agreements will enter into force once five IPEF partners complete their internal legal procedures.

➤ IPEF Clean Economy Agreement

- **Objectives:** Enhance energy security, climate resilience, and reduce fossil fuel dependence.
- **Collaborations:** Facilitates investments, concessional financing, joint projects, and technical assistance for industries, especially MSMEs.
- **CWPs:** Announced new Cooperative Work Programmes, including India-led "e-wasturban mining".

➤ IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund

- **Launch:** Supports clean economy infrastructure projects in IPEF economies.
- **Funding:** Australia, Japan, Korea, and the USA committed \$33 million to catalyze \$3.3 billion in private investment.

➤ Investor Forum

- **Participation:** Business delegation led by Invest India, with over 30 Indian companies presenting investment opportunities.
- **Presentations:** Indian projects and startups pitched concepts to global investors.

➤ IPEF Fair Economy Agreement

- **Objectives:** Promote transparency, a level playing field, anti-corruption efforts, and tax transparency.
- **India's Role:** Highlighted India's training program in Digital Forensics & System-Driven Risk Analysis for IPEF partners.

➤ IPEF Upskilling Initiative

- **Progress:** Launched in September 2022, providing digital skills training primarily to women and girls in IPEF partner countries.
- **Opportunities:** India received 4 million of the 10.9 million upskilling opportunities.

➤ About IPEF

- **Launch:** Initiated on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan.
- **Members:** 14 countries – Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the USA.
- **Structure:** Four pillars – Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Pillar IV). India participates in Pillars II to IV and maintains observer status in Pillar I.

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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Nata Pratha



Recently, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notices to the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat regarding the practice of Nata Pratha, where girls are sold, often by their own families, under the guise of illegal or child marriages.

About Nata Pratha:

- Nata Pratha (Relationship) is a **cultural practice** prevalent among tribal communities in states like **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat**.
- It involves the **selling of girls**, usually by their families, under the pretext of illegal or child marriages.
- This custom **allows men and women to live together** without marriage as many times as they want.
- Nata Pratha **violates the fundamental rights of girls**, including the **right to dignity, education** and protection from child marriage and trafficking.

National Human Rights Commission:

- The National Human Rights Commission is a **statutory body**.
- It was established on **October 12, 1993**, in accordance with the **Paris Principles**.
- It is responsible for reviewing and addressing human rights **violations** and making recommendations for their protection and promotion.
- It is mandated to protect human rights as "**rights related to life, liberty and dignity** of an individual guaranteed by the **constitution and courts** of our country".
- It is a multi-member body including a **chairman, four members** and **four ex-officio members**.
- The **chairman and members serve for a five-year** term or until they reach the **age of 70**, whichever comes first.

Nagi & Nakti Bird Sanctuaries



Recently, Nagi & Nakti Bird Sanctuaries have been recognized as wetlands under the Ramsar Convention.

About the Nagi & Nakti Bird Sanctuaries:

- The Nagi-Nakti Bird Sanctuaries, also **known as the Nagi Dam Bird Sanctuary** and so close to each other, are **located in the Jamui district of Bihar**.
- These are the **human-made wetlands** and vital **habitat for migrating birds** during the **winter**, from **October to April**.
- The migratory birds turn up during the winters from places like **Eurasia, Central Asia, the Arctic Circle, Russia and Northern China**.
- Some of the most common resident birds include the **Indian peafowl, common kingfisher and Indian grey hornbill**.
- In **1984**, the sanctuary was recognized locally as a **bird sanctuary** and in **2004**, **BirdLife International** designated it as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA).
- As per the **Asiatic Waterbird Census (AWC) 2023**, Nakti Bird Sanctuary recorded the **highest number of birds**, with a count of 7,844, **followed by Nagi Bird Sanctuary**, which reported 6,938 birds.
- Bihar also hosts other bird sanctuaries including **Gautam Buddha in Gaya, Kavar Jheel in Begusarai and Kusheshwar Asthan in Darbhanga**.
- Plans for additional wetlands in Bihar to gain Ramsar designation include **Kusheshwar Asthan in Darbhanga, Tal Baraila in Vaishali and Gogabeel in Katihar**.
- Ramsar Convention is an international convention to conserve wetlands and was signed in **1971** in the **Iranian city of Ramsar**.

ABHA



Recently, the National Health Authority has achieved a significant milestone with the generation of over three crore tokens for Out-Patient Department (OPD) registrations through the ABHA-based Scan and Share service.

About ABHA:

- The Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) is a **14-digit unique number** that links a person's health records.
- The ABHA-based Scan and Share service was launched under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** in **October 2022**.
- It's a key component of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), a digital initiative led by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

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	- The main goal of ABHA is to create a unique health ID for individuals, enabling the digital linking of all their health records. - It can also be linked to various healthcare benefits, including public health insurance schemes. For example, it can help maintain a child's medical history from birth, and it can help people avoid long lines at healthcare facilities. - The National Health Authority (NHA) is the nodal agency responsible for implementing ABHA. Uttar Pradesh has generated the maximum tokens of around 93 lakh tokens, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir.
Place in News Seychelles	Recently, <i>Seychelles</i> has been invited along with other six countries (<i>Mauritius, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal</i>) leaders to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi this weekend. Seychelles (Capital: Victoria) - Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands nation in the Indian Ocean northeast of Madagascar and about 1,600 km east of Kenya. - It's located at the eastern edge of the Somali Sea. Boundaries: Seychelles shares maritime borders with island nations like Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius. Geographical features: - The highest point in Seychelles is Morne Seychellois. Aldabra holds immense ecological importance, hosting a diverse range of flora and fauna, notably housing rare species such as giant tortoises. - It encompasses both coral islands and rocky landmasses, featuring narrow coastlines along its diverse archipelago. - It experiences a wet tropical climate characterized by consistent humidity, high temperatures and abundant rainfall throughout the year. 

POINTS TO PONDER

- The 6th edition of staff talks between which two naval forces was recently conducted in New Delhi?
– **Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Oman**
- Where did India recently participate in the inaugural Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum? – **Singapore**
- According to a recent parliamentary committee report in Canada, which country has been described as the second-biggest foreign threat to Canada's democracy? – **India**
- Which hydroelectric project in Nepal recently saw the completion of the last blast of its Head Race Tunnel by the Prime Minister of Nepal? – **Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project**
- SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) recently imposed fines on certain individuals for allegedly operating which scheme aimed at manipulating stock prices for personal gain? – **Pump and Dump Scheme**

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