

CURRENT AFFAIRS

7th Sep. 2022

SUPREME COURT (SC) SEEKS CENTRE'S RESPONSE ON PLEA TO INTRODUCE 33% WOMEN RESERVATION IN PARLIAMENT & STATE ASSEMBLIES

- SC, while hearing a plea seeking to re-introduce Women's Reservation Bill, 2008, noted that it is an important matter and directed the petitioner to serve notice to Union of India.
- Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008, also known as Women's Reservation Bill, was passed by Rajya Sabha in 2010.
- It aimed to reserve one-third of all seats for women in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
- However, it lapsed in 2014 after dissolution of 15th Lok Sabha.



Arguments in favour of Women reservation

1. Studies on panchayats have shown positive effect of reservation on empowerment of women and on allocation of resources.
2. Historical social exclusion of women from polity due to various social and cultural reasons and patriarchal traditions.
3. To enhance women's participation in decision/policy making process and is critical to nation building process.

Arguments against of Women reservation

1. It would perpetuate unequal status of women since they would not be perceived to be competing on merit.
2. Restricts choice of voters to women candidates.
3. Diverts attention from larger issues of electoral reform such as criminalisation of politics and inner party democracy.

REPRESENTATION IN PANCHAYAT

- 'Panchayat', being "Local government", is a State subject and part of State list of Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India. Clause (3) of Article 243D of the Constitution ensures participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions by mandating not less than one-third reservation for women out of total number of seats to be filled by direct election and number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats.
- The idea of providing the legal status to the women's rights began with the historic Panchayati Raj Act, 1992 (73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment). Its quite interesting to note that 'Mannina Maga (son of the soil)', the former prime minister Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda made the actual promise for reservation of seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies in 1996[...]. Here is the journey of Women's Bill so far[source],
- Women's Reservation Bill [Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, 1996] was first introduced in the parliament on 12th September, 1996 by H.D. Deve Gowda's government. The bill did not get

pass the hurdles of parliament. Mr. Gowda's government reduced to minority and subsequently 11th lok sabha was dissolved and hence the bill lapsed.

- In 1998, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government made another attempt by introducing the Women's Bill [Constitution (84th Amendment) Bill, 1998]. Ironically, this time too, the bill was lapsed because 12th loka sabha had to be dissolved prematurely; Vajpayee's government reduced to minority!
- Yet another attempt was made on December 23, 1999 with the introduction of the Bill in the Lower House. But this bill also could not be pursued due to lack of political consensus.

PREVENTIVE DETENTIONS (PD) UP BY 23.7% COMPARED TO YEAR BEFORE, MOST NUMBER OF SEDITION CASES IN ASSAM

Article 22 in the Constitution of India 1949

22. Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases

- (1) No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice
- (2) Every person who is arrested and detained in custody shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of twenty four hours of such arrest excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the court of the magistrate and no such person shall be detained in custody beyond the said period without the authority of a magistrate
- (3) Nothing in clauses (1) and (2) shall apply (a) to any person who for the time being is an enemy alien; or (b) to any person who is arrested or detained under any law providing for preventive detention
- (4) No law providing for preventive detention shall authorise the detention of a person for a longer period than three months unless (a) an Advisory Board consisting of persons who are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as, Judges of a High Court has reported before the expiration of the said period of three months that there is in its opinion sufficient cause for such detention:
- (5) When any person is detained in pursuance of an order made under any law providing for preventive detention, the authority making the order shall, as soon as may be, communicate to such person the grounds on which the order has been made and shall afford him the earliest opportunity of making a representation against the order
- (6) Nothing in clause (5) shall require the authority making any such order as is referred to in that clause to disclose facts which such authority considers to be against the public interest to disclose
- (7) Parliament may by law prescribe
 - (a) the circumstances under which, and the class or classes of cases in which, a person may be detained for a period longer than three months under any law providing for preventive detention without obtaining the opinion of an Advisory Board in accordance with the provisions of sub clause (a) of clause (4);
 - (b) the maximum period for which any person may in any class or classes of cases be detained under any law providing for preventive detention; and
 - (c) the procedure to be followed by an Advisory Board in an inquiry under sub clause (a) of clause (4) Right against Exploitation

IPC defines Sedition as an offence committed when any person by words or otherwise brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection toward government established by law in India.

SC in **Kedar Nath Vs State of Bihar, 1962** held that a citizen has a right to say or write whatever he likes about government, or its measures, by way of criticism or comment, as long as he does not incite people to violence.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES: 7TH SEPTEMBER

The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on September 07 to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality. It focuses on the transboundary nature of air pollution highlighting the need for collective accountability and collective action. It is an UN-recognised day that aims to raise public awareness at all levels (individual, community, corporate and government) that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.



International Day of Clean Air for blue skies 2022: Theme

This year's theme of "The Air We Share" focuses on the transboundary nature of air pollution, stressing the need for collective accountability and action. It also highlights the need for immediate and strategic international and regional cooperation for more efficient implementation of mitigation policies and actions to tackle air pollution.

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies 2022: Significance

The United Nations commemorates the International Day Of Clear Air For Blue Skies by hosting summits with member states. Attendees put forth their perspectives and discuss the data on the impacts of air pollution and air quality around the globe.

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies: History

During its 74th session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on December 19, 2019. The resolution also encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate the day's observance in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders. In the lead-up to the passing of the resolution, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition collaborated with UNEP and the Republic of Korea to advocate for the day.

UTTARAKHAND GOVT LAUNCHED 'SAMARTH' E-GOVERNANCE PORTAL

The Uttarakhand education department launched an e-governance portal "Samarth". This portal provides all administrative and educational updates including information about entrance exams, salary structures, and appointments from five state universities and 140 public schools. The initiative has been taken in a bid to make the education system more transparent in the state.



INDIA BECAME THE WORLD'S FIFTH LARGEST ECONOMY

Why in News?

Recently, India became the world's fifth largest economy by overtaking the United Kingdom. Now, the United States, China, Japan, and Germany are the only nations with economies larger than India's.

The real Gross Domestic product (GDP) growth of 6-6.5% in a world full of uncertainties is the new normal and India is set to be the third largest economy by 2029.

What are the Key Highlights of this Achievement?

New Milestone:

Moving past one of the biggest economies in the world, especially one that ruled over the Indian sub-continent for two centuries, is a major milestone.

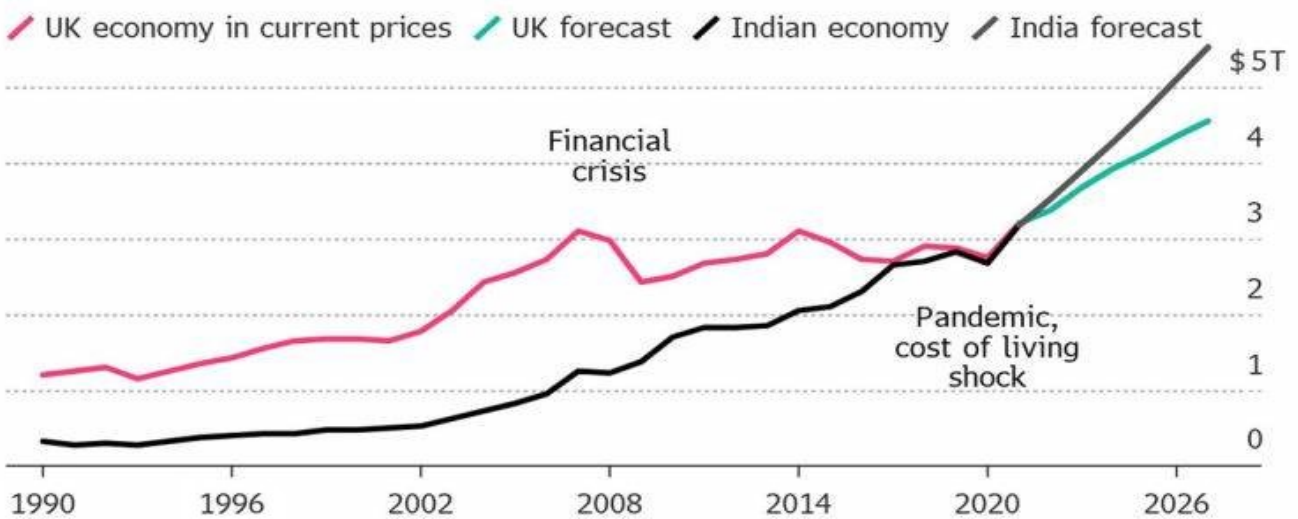
Size of Economy:

The size of the Indian economy in 'nominal' cash terms in the quarter through March, 2022 was USD 854.7 billion while for UK was USD 816 billion.

Comparison with United Kingdom:

Overtaken

The Indian economy is forecast to be a fifth larger than the UK by 2027



Note: Seasonally adjusted, forecasts from 2022

Population Size:

As of 2022, India has a population of 1.41 billion while the UK's population is 68.5 million.