



CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Recently, the Lok Sabha (LS) and Rajya Sabha (RS), both passed Women's Reservation Bill 2023 (128th Constitutional Amendment Bill) or Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam -

- The bill reserves one-third of the seats in Lok Sabha, State legislative assemblies and the Delhi assembly. This will also apply to the seats reserved for SCs (Scheduled Castes) and STs (Scheduled Tribes) in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures.



- The discussion upon the reservation of women reservation bill is prevalent since the tenure of Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1996. As the then Government lacked a majority, the Bill could not have been approved.

Earlier Attempts at Reserving Seats for Women-

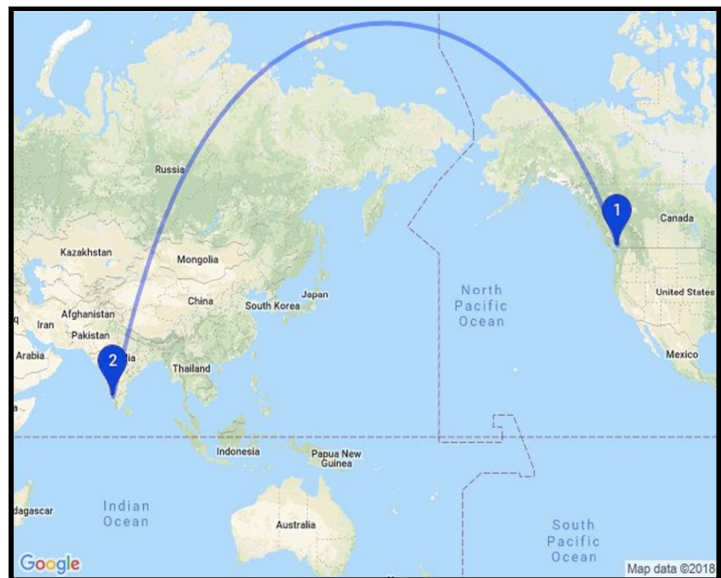
- (a) 1996: First Women Reservation Bill was introduced in the Parliament.
 - (b) 1998 – 2003: Government tabled the Bill on 4 occasions but failed.
 - (c) 2009: Government tables the bill amid protests.
 - (d) 2010: The Union Cabinet passes the Bill and RS passes it.
 - (e) 2014: The Bill was expected to be tabled in LS.
- There are 82 women Member of Parliaments in LS (15.2%) and 31 women in RS(13%).While the number has increased significantly since the 1st Lok Sabha (5%) but is still far lower than in many countries.
 - According to recent UN Women data, Rwanda (61%), Cuba (53%), Nicaragua (52%) are the top three countries in women representation. Bangladesh (21%) and Pakistan (20%) as well are ahead of India in case of female representation.



- The Bill provided for inserting Article 330A to the constitution, which borrows from the provisions of Article 330, which provides for reservation of seats to SCs/STs in the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill introduces Article 332A, which mandates the reservation of seats for women in every state Legislative Assembly. Additionally, one-third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs must be allocated for women, and one-third of the total seats filled through direct elections to the Legislative Assemblies shall also be reserved for women.

2. As diplomatic tensions between India and Canada escalate, the Indian government has suspended visa services in Canada, affecting a range of travelers -

- As diplomatic tensions between India and Canada escalate, the Indian government has suspended visa services in Canada, affecting a range of travelers and sparking questions about the future of diplomatic relations.



- Indian-origin Canadians with valid Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards or valid long-term Indian visas are not affected by the visa service suspension.
- OCI cardholders have lifetime entry privileges into India, allowing them to live and work in the country indefinitely.
- Canadians who possess valid Indian visas will not be impacted by the suspension. Their visas remain valid until further notice.
- Canada has not yet imposed restrictions on Indian visa applicants but may consider reciprocal measures in response to the current situation.

3. Three years of the Abraham Accords -

- The Abraham Accords are a series of agreements to normalize relations between Israel and normalize relations between Israel and several Arab countries, including the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan, mediated by the United States.
- The accords were signed in 2020 and marked a historic breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- The Accords fostered normalisation and peace by bridging cultural, religious, and linguistic differences, connecting people beyond borders.
- The Accords laid the foundation for expanded regional and multinational cooperation, leading to economic opportunities for India.
- Following the Abraham Accords, I2U2 Group was formed, comprising Israel, India, UAE, and the U.S., focusing on critical areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

Abraham Accords



Representatives (left-to-right):
 Bahraini foreign minister [Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani](#) · Israeli prime minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) · American president [Donald Trump](#) · Emirati foreign minister [Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan](#)

Type	Normalization treaty
Context	Arab–Israeli conflict
Signed	September 15, 2020
Location	Washington, D.C., United States
Negotiators	 United States
Signatories	 Bahrain  Israel  Morocco  Sudan  UAE
Languages	English · Arabic · Hebrew



Quiz

Q1. Which of the following best describes the PM-WANI Scheme ?

- It is a framework that enables any entity, such as a shopkeeper or a tea stall owner, to set up a public Wi-Fi hotspot and provide internet service to customers.
- It is an academic development scheme for providing funding to state universities and colleges to improve infrastructure, faculty recruitment, and research facilities.
- It is a women-centric welfare program that aims to create a conducive environment for the overall development of women, especially in rural and marginalized communities.
- It is an agricultural development scheme that aims to improve water-use efficiency in the agriculture sector.

Q2. Consider the following statements, with reference to the Elephant Corridors:

- It is a strip of land that enables elephant movement between two or more habitats.
 - West Bengal has the most number of the elephant corridors in India.
 - The border road organisation and the Ministry of Environment are jointly responsible for building elephant corridors.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None

Q3. With reference to the Mithun (Bos frontalis), consider the following statements:

- It is known as the mountain cattle.
 - The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has given it the 'food animal' label.
 - It is classified as a vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None

Q4. Who is India's Permanent representative to the United Nations ?

- Suchitra Kamboj
- Ruchira Kamboj
- Ruchi Kamboj
- Rutrika Kamboj

Q5. With which country will the Indian Army participate in the joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2023' ?

- USA
- France
- Germany
- Turkiye

Q6. Which company has received permission from the US FDA to begin human trials of its brain chip implant?

- OpenAI
- Neuralink
- DeepMind
- Colossal Biosciences

Answer Key

1	2	3	4	5	6
a	b	c	b	a	b