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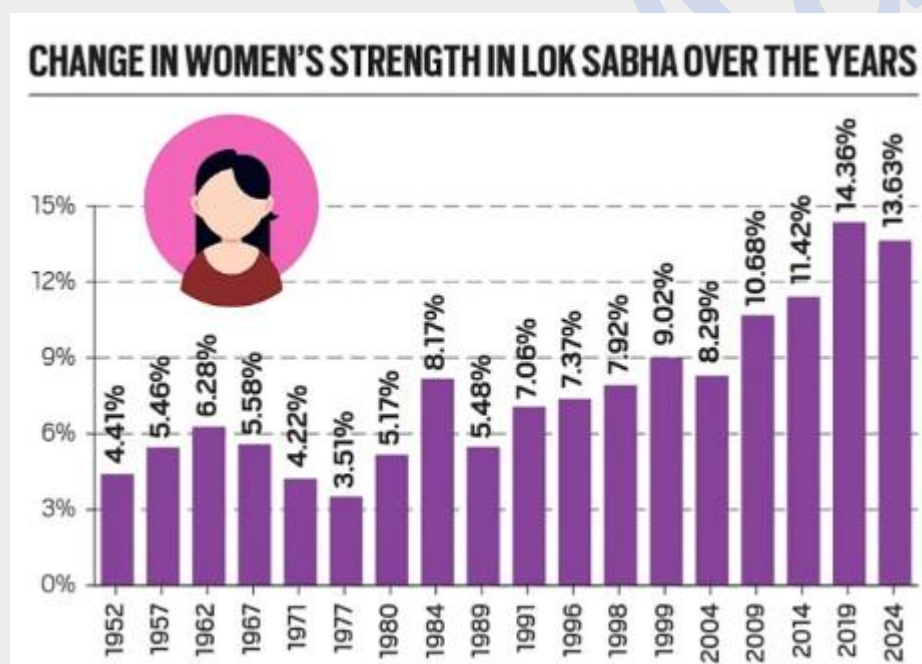
1. The representation of women in the incoming Lok Sabha, how it compares to previous years

Why in News?

India has elected 74 women MPs to Lok Sabha this year, four fewer than in 2019 and 52 more than in India's first elections in 1952. These 74 women make just 13.63% of the elected strength of the Lower House, much less than the 33% that will be reserved for women after the next delimitation exercise.

Slow change

Over the years, Lok Sabha's gender composition has shown a general trend towards increasing women's representation. But progress has been slow.

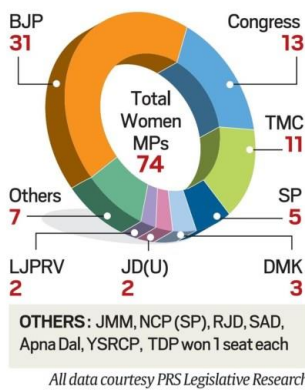


In 1952, women made up just 4.41% of the strength of the Lower House. This number increased to more than 6% in the election held a decade later, but again dipped to below 4% in 1971 (ironically, with Indira Gandhi, India's first and only woman Prime Minister, at the helm). Since then, there has been a slow, but steady rise in women's representation (with a few exceptions), which crossed the 10% mark in 2009, and peaked in 2019 at 14.36%. India still lags behind several countries — 46% of MPs in South Africa, 35% in the UK, and 29% in the US, are women.

Party-wise share

In 2024, women Lok Sabha MPs come from 14 parties. The BJP leads this list with 31 women MPs, followed by the Congress (13), TMC (11), SP (5), DMK (3), and Chirag Paswan-led LJPRV

PARTY WISE WOMEN LS MPs



and JD(U), both with two. Seven parties have one woman MP each. Among the 3 parties with double-digit women MPs in the Lok Sabha, the TMC boasts the highest proportion (37.93%), followed by Congress (13.13%) and BJP (12.92%).

Candidates' composition

Out of the total 8,360 candidates, who stood in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, just around 10% were women. This number too has increased over time — it stood at 3% in 1957. This is the first time that women candidates' proportion touched 10%. Roughly 16% of BJP's candidates were women, as opposed to 13% of Congress candidates — both higher than the overall average.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

2. India attends Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial meeting in Singapore

Why in News?

Indian delegation led by Secretary, Department of Commerce participated in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial meeting held in Singapore on 6 June 2024.

The IPEF Ministerial Statement of 14 November 2023 declared substantial conclusion of negotiations for Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and the overarching Agreement on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity. Pursuant to this, the IPEF partners completed legal review of the text for these agreements and domestic approval processes.



IPEF Clean Economy Agreement

Agreement on Clean Economy intends to accelerate efforts of IPEF partners towards energy security and transition, climate resilience and adaptation. This agreement will facilitate investments, concessional financing, joint collaborative projects, workforce development

and Technical Assistance and Capacity Building for industries, in particular MSMEs, to further integrate the Indian companies in the value chains, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. These cooperative activities will be undertaken through joint collaborative actions such as Cooperative Work Programmes and the IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund.

Cooperative Work Programme (CWP)

The IPEF partners welcomed the continued efforts to build and sustain longer-term cooperation among various groupings of interested partners on a range of climate solutions through the CWP mechanism, in furtherance of the overarching goals of the IPEF Clean Economy Agreement.

IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund

The IPEF partners applauded the operational launch of the IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund, which supports the expansion of the pipeline of quality clean economy infrastructure projects in the IPEF emerging and upper-middle income economies under the IPEF Clean Economy Agreement.

The Fund's founding supporters – Australia, Japan, Korea, and the United States – have made significant progress in their respective domestic processes to provide US \$33 million of initial grant funding to catalyze up to US \$3.3 billion in private investment.

Investor Forum

A business delegation led by Invest India also participated in the Forum. The investor Forum provided a unique opportunity for project proponents and startup community to interact and network with more than 100 top global investors.

IPEF Fair Economy Agreement

Agreement on Fair Economy intends to create a more transparent and predictable business environment which can spur greater trade and investment in the markets of member countries; promote level playing field for businesses and workers in the economies of the IPEF partners.

The IPEF Upskilling Initiative

The IPEF partners welcomed the substantial progress on the IPEF Upskilling Initiative, which was launched in September 2022 to support sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development by providing primarily women and girls in IPEF emerging and middle-income partner countries with access to digital skills training. Under the initiative, 14 participating U.S. companies and the Asia Foundation provided 10.9 million upskilling opportunities in IPEF partners, primarily for women and girls, in the last 2 years of which India received 4 million of these opportunities.

Next Steps

Ministerial meeting also decided to encourage holding of first meeting of the three Supply Chain institutional committees virtually in July 2024 and in-person in Washington DC in later half of 2024. It was also decided to hold next ministerial meeting virtually in September 2024 and work towards holding the first meeting of IPEF Council and the Joint Commission in 2025.

About IPEF

IPEF was launched on 23 May 2022 at Tokyo, Japan, comprising of 14 countries – Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and USA. The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic engagement and cooperation among partner countries with the goal of advancing growth, economic stability and prosperity in the region.

The framework is structured around four pillars relating to Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Pillar IV). India had joined Pillars II to IV of IPEF while it has maintained an observer status in Pillar-I.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Organisations

Source: PIB

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