



TATHASTU ICS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



19 SEPTEMBER, 2023

S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	WOMEN RESERVATION BILL
2.	RUBBER BOARD TO INCREASE AREA UNDER RUBBER IN NORTH EAST
3.	GLOBAL STOCKTAKE REPORT

WOMEN RESERVATION BILL

SOURCE: [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#), [MINT](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its **approval to a constitutional amendment bill that aims to introduce reservations for women in both Parliament and state assemblies.**
- This decision paves the way for the introduction of this groundbreaking bill during the current special session of Parliament, according to officials.

HISTORY OF THE BILL:

- The **108th Amendment Bill** of the Constitution in 2008 aims to **allocate 33% of the total seats in state legislative Assemblies and Parliament for women.**
- Additionally, this bill suggests setting aside a portion of this **33% quota for SCs, STs, and Anglo-Indians.**
- The proposed arrangement would involve periodically assigning these reserved seats to various constituencies within the state or union territory through rotation.
- Furthermore, the bill stipulates that the reservation of seats for women will conclude 15 years following the commencement of the amendment act.

WHY DO WE NEED SUCH A RESERVATION?

Women's Reservation Bill: A Timeline

- ◆ First introduced in Parliament in 1996 under Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda; no government has passed the bill yet
- ◆ In its current version, called the 108th Constitution Amendment Bill, it reserves one-third (33%) of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the State legislative assemblies
- ◆ Reserves 1/3rd of total number of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for women of those groups
- ◆ In the Lok Sabha, 1/3rd of all constituencies will be reserved for women on rotation basis
- ◆ Reservation will cease to exist 15 years after the commencement of the Amendment Act
- ◆ The Rajya Sabha passed this bill on March 9, 2010, but the Lok Sabha never voted on it

Why Women in Legislation Matter

- ◆ **Better Economic Performance:** Women legislators raise economic performance by about 1.8 percentage points per year
- ◆ **Fewer Criminal Charges:** Women are only one-third as likely as men to be carrying pending criminal charges while entering office
- ◆ **Less Corrupt:** Their material assets grow by 10 percentage points lesser than male counterparts, indicating that women are less likely to be corrupt
- ◆ **Get Work Done:** Share of incomplete road infrastructure projects is 22 percentage points lower for women than male legislators
- ◆ **Conscientious:** Women are more efficacious and less vulnerable to political opportunism

PRESENT STATUS IN INDIA:

➤ **73rd and 74th Amendment Act:**

These constitutional amendments (73rd and 74th) mandated one-third female representation in Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies, with a similar quota for Scheduled Caste/Tribe women.

➤ As per the **2022 Global Gender Gap Report**, India is positioned 48th out of 146 countries in the dimension of Political Empowerment.

➤ The Inter-Parliamentary Union reports that India lags behind neighbouring countries like Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh in terms of women's presence in the lower House.

➤ In Gujarat's 182-member assembly, only 8% of the legislators are women.

➤ Himachal Pradesh, despite having a significant female voter base, elected 67 men and just one woman.



GLOBAL SCENARIO:

➤ **RWANDA:**

- Rwanda holds the distinction of being the world's first nation to have a parliament where women constitute the majority, with an impressive **61.3% representation** in the Chamber of Deputies.

➤ **SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES:**

- As of August 2023, **Finland, among the Nordic countries, stands out with the highest number of female prime ministers, totalling three.**
- Sanna Marin, the former Prime Minister of Finland, made history in 2019 when she was sworn in as the world's youngest sitting head of state.

➤ **ASIA:**

- In South Asia, **Nepal leads** in terms of women's political participation, **boasting a 33% representation rate.**
- Among East Asian nations, Taiwan holds the top position with the highest proportion of women in Parliament, standing at 38.0%.

CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION:

➤ **Continuation of unequal status of women:**

This would sustain the existing gender inequality, as it may give the impression that women are not competing on the basis of merit.

➤ **Not advantageous for the marginalized:**

Reservations might primarily favour privileged women, exacerbating the plight of marginalized and underprivileged groups.

➤ **Women may lack real power:**

The introduction of reservations could potentially result in a "proxy culture," wherein elected women may lack substantial authority.

Instead, they would operate under the influence or direction of male decision-makers.

➤ **May affect Male candidate's opportunities:**

Setting aside legislative positions for women could lead to qualified men missing out on those positions.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

INITIATIVE	OBJECTIVE
1. BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO	To address the deteriorating sex ratio
2. PM MATRU VANDANA YOJANA	To improve the health and nutrition of pregnant women
3. Support to training cum employment for women (STEP)	Empowerment of women below the poverty line.
4. Gender Budgeting	Gender perspective in policy formulations.
5. Standup India, PM Mudra	To help women to set up their own enterprise.
6. PM Ujjwala Yojana	Providing clean cooking fuel

WAY FORWARD

- **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar** held the belief that the advancement of a society can be gauged by the progress made by its women. The present circumstances underscore the need for change to foster gender equality.
- Educational initiatives and awareness campaigns have the potential to enhance women's engagement in the political sphere.
- Implementing reforms like the introduction of proportional representation and preferential voting systems can contribute to the augmentation of women's presence in politics.
- **Family support:** Promote a culture in which families endorse women's political aspirations, necessitating a shift in perceptions regarding women's roles in the family and their capacity to participate in politics.
- **Changing mindsets:** Boost women's self-confidence and self-esteem, fostering their belief in their political abilities and encouraging them to assert themselves in predominantly male-dominated environments.
- **Women role models:** Recognize and showcase accomplished women in politics like Sushma Swaraj, and Jayalalita as role models to inspire and encourage the upcoming generation.

RUBBER BOARD TO INCREASE AREA UNDER RUBBER IN NORTH EAST

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The **Rubber Board**, in collaboration with the **Central government and the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association**, is executing a project to increase the cultivation of natural rubber in the **Northeastern States**.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INITIATIVE:

- **Self-sufficiency in natural rubber production:**
 - Due to the significance of this crucial raw material, the nation should prioritize enhancing domestic natural rubber (NR) production.
 - This will help achieve self-sufficiency and reduce reliance on imported NR as much as possible.
- **Helpful in tackling extremist activities:**
 - The **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry** asserted that rubber cultivation has played a role in **addressing militancy and insurgency** in the region.
 - In the past, former militants were reintegrated into society by engaging them in rubber cultivation in Assam and Tripura.
- **Regional development:**
 - The project also places emphasis on training and enhancing skills in the area, along with the necessary infrastructure.
 - Farmers and tappers in the region will receive specialized training in optimal rubber cultivation practices and modern technologies.
- **Increase in the quality of the rubber produced:**
 - The project also has the objective of improving the quality of rubber manufactured in the nation.
 - It underscores the importance of creating exemplary smokehouses and enhancing existing ones.



STATUS OF RUBBER CULTIVATION IN INDIA AND AROUND THE WORLD:

- **Cultivation Area in India:** Rubber farming covers 8.5 lakh hectares in India, with approximately 5 lakh hectares in Kerala and Kanyakumari, and 1 lakh hectares in Tripura.
- Based on **FAO Stat 2019 data**, **India ranks as the fourth-largest global producer and consumer of rubber.**
- **Kerala**, within India, stands out as the leading natural rubber producer.
- **Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar, and Goa** are other major producers.
- **Export and Import Trends:**

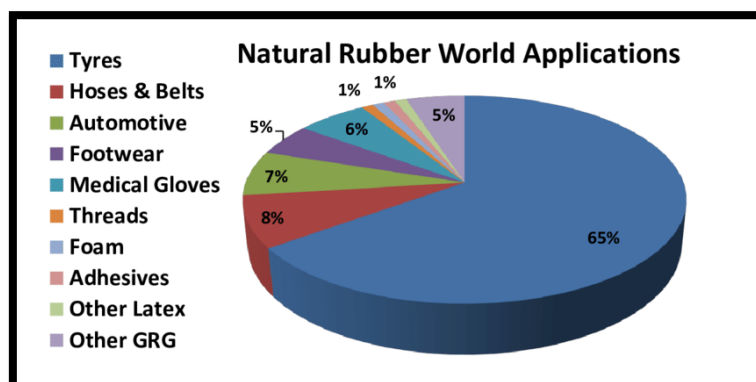
India exports rubber primarily to Germany, Brazil, the U.S.A., and Italy.

On the other hand, India, the world's second-largest rubber importer after the U.S.A., primarily sources its natural rubber from Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand.

CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE INITIATIVE:

➤ Labour intensive:

- Rubber farming includes labour-intensive tasks such as tapping, demanding skilled workers. Nonetheless, the combination of declining rubber prices and increasing labour costs has rendered cultivation economically unsustainable.



➤ Import competition:

- Inverted duty structure on rubber is a major problem associated with rubber manufacturing in India.
- The availability of imported rubber at lower prices often acts as a deterrent to domestic rubber production.

➤ Insufficient domestic production:

- India's rubber production falls short of satisfying the increasing demand for natural rubber, with the tire industry being the primary consumer of rubber in the nation.

➤ Climate change:

- The alterations in weather patterns brought about by climate change present considerable obstacles to rubber cultivation.
- Especially in traditional areas like Kerala that are susceptible to these climate shifts.

➤ Challenges associated with land use:

- Due to the lack of profitability in rubber cultivation, plantations are either being sold or repurposed for alternative uses, resulting in the fragmentation of rubber holdings.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR RUBBER CROP

INITIATIVE	OBJECTIVE
1. NATIONAL RUBBER POLICY 2019	It incorporates measures to bolster the natural rubber production sector as well as the complete rubber industry value chain.
2. RUBBER PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT SCHEME	Support rubber crops by providing financial incentives.
3. FDI Relaxations	100% FDI in rubber plantations to attract investments.
4. RUBBER BOARD	For promoting research and policy support

WAY FORWARD:

- **Promotion of GM Rubber:**
 - The Rubber Board research farm is cultivating the world's inaugural genetically modified (GM) rubber plants designed specifically to thrive in the climatic conditions of Northeast India.
- **Improving technology:**
 - Encourage the adoption of contemporary agricultural technologies, such as rubber-tapping machinery and automation, to enhance productivity and decrease labour expenditures.
- **Improving market linkages:**
 - Promote collaborations between farmers and rubber-related industries, like tire manufacturing, to secure a consistent demand and equitable pricing.
- **Improving infrastructure and logistics:**
 - Set up rubber clusters and industrial parks to develop a conducive environment for rubber processing and enhancing its value.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC:

ABOUT RUBBER PLANT:

- ✓ Natural rubber is a type of elastic material formed from isoprene, an organic compound.
- ✓ It is derived from the latex of various tropical trees, with *Hevea brasiliensis* being the most significant source.
- ✓ These rubber trees typically have a productive lifespan of approximately 32 years in plantation settings.

CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:

- ✓ **Climate:** Tropical climates (high humidity and even rainfall)
- ✓ **Soil:** Well-drained soils
- ✓ **Rainfall:** Greater than 250 centimetres.

RUBBER BOARD:

- ✓ It is a statutory entity established by the Rubber Act of 1947.
- ✓ It operates under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ **Headquarters:** Kottayam, Kerala
- ✓ **FUNCTIONS:**
 - Supporting research, development, extension, and training initiatives.
 - Oversees rubber-related statistics, and promotes rubber marketing.
 - Issuance of licenses to rubber producers, manufacturers, and exporters/traders, known as the "Rubber Board license/registration," which is mandatory for those involved in rubber production and export.

GLOBAL STOCKTAKE REPORT

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The **United Nations climate secretariat** released a '**synthesis report**' summarizing the **progress towards the Paris Agreement's 2015 goals**.
- This report is part of a broader initiative known as the '**global stocktake**,' which occurs every five years.
- In 2015, nations pledged in Paris to limit global temperature increases to under 2 degrees Celsius and strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius while regularly evaluating individual countries' efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and shift to renewable energy from fossil fuels.

ABOUT THE REPORT:

- The 'Global Stocktake' report is a recurring evaluation of countries' endeavours to meet the objectives set forth in the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- The term 'Global Stocktake' is used because it assesses and appraises the advancements individual nations have made in cutting down greenhouse gas emissions and shifting towards renewable energy resources.

PURPOSE

- Even though nations have already presented their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) detailing their climate action strategies.
- The 'Global Stocktake' motivates them to reevaluate and potentially strengthen these commitments before the next round of NDCs is issued in 2025.



MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE REPORT:

1. PROGRESS TOWARDS PARIS AGREEMENT.	The report emphasizes that the current worldwide advancement towards fulfilling the goals of the Paris Agreement is insufficient.
2. EMISSION REDUCTIONS	Substantially heightened ambition is required to achieve a 43% reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, followed by a 60% reduction by 2035, ultimately reaching the goal of global net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050.
3. RENEWABLE ENERGY	To fulfill climate objectives, it is essential to increase the utilization of renewable energy resources while rapidly phasing out the use of 'unabated fossil fuels,' which include coal plants lacking carbon capture and storage technology.
4. DEFORESTATION AND LAND DEGRADATION	We should work towards halting and reversing deforestation and land degradation, all the while encouraging agricultural methods that are pivotal in both emission reduction and improving carbon storage.
5. LOSS AND DAMAGE	Immediate action spanning climate and development policies is imperative to effectively address the challenges linked to 'loss and damage' resulting from climate change and to provide assistance to impacted communities.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE REPORT:

➤ COOPERATION IN CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSIONS:

- The results of the 'Global Stocktake' report carry considerable weight in international climate dialogues.
- It guides deliberations and choices in gatherings like the UN Climate Conference of Parties (COP).

➤ RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION:

- The G20 Leaders Declaration acknowledges the significant financial needs associated with shifting towards an economy reliant on renewable energy sources.

➤ CLIMATE FINANCING:

- The Declaration recognizes the necessity for approximately USD 5.8-5.9 trillion in the period before 2030 to support developing countries.
- Additionally, it underscores the need for around USD 4 trillion annually for clean energy technologies by 2030 to attain the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCING (ADAPTATION VS. MITIGATION):

Aspect	Adaptation Efforts	Mitigation Efforts
Focus	Addressing the impacts of climate change and building resilience to its effects.	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to prevent or limit climate change.

Primary Goal	Minimizing the adverse effects of climate change on vulnerable communities and ecosystems.	Lowering carbon emissions to limit global temperature rise.
Examples of Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure for flood and storm protection. - Building drought-resistant agriculture. - Enhancing water management systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewable energy projects (solar, wind, hydro). - Energy-efficient technologies. - Reforestation and afforestation programs.
Key Beneficiaries	Vulnerable communities, especially in developing countries, and ecosystems.	Global community with a focus on reducing emissions, often worldwide.
Funding Sources	International climate finance mechanisms like the Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund (GCF).	Climate finance mechanisms like carbon markets, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and national budgets.
Time Horizon	Often involves shorter-term projects with immediate or near-term benefits.	Generally focused on medium to long-term projects with gradual emissions reductions.
Measurement	Metrics often include improved resilience, reduced vulnerability, and increased adaptive capacity.	Metrics include greenhouse gas emissions reduction, carbon intensity, and energy efficiency.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Streamline and simplify the procedures for accessing climate finance** to reduce administrative burdens and delays, especially for smaller and more vulnerable countries.
- **Involve developing countries**, especially those most vulnerable to climate change, in the decision-making processes of climate financing institutions. This includes the governance structures of funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- **Encourage private sector investment** in climate-friendly projects through financial incentives, risk-sharing mechanisms, and policy frameworks that promote sustainable investments.