

## ● POLITY

## ● ECONOMICS

## ● TECHNOLOGY

## ● ECOLOGY

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

## LOK SABHA PASSES HISTORIC WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

**CONTEXT:** The Lok Sabha's passage of the Women's Reservation Bill is indeed a historic development in Indian politics. Here are some key points from the news article:

- **Bill Overview:** The Women's Reservation Bill aims to amend the Indian Constitution to provide one-third reservation for women in both the Lok Sabha (the lower house of Parliament) and the State Assemblies. This legislation has been in discussion for 27 years before finally being passed in the Lok Sabha.
- **Passage in Lok Sabha:** The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha with overwhelming support, as 454 members voted in favor of it. According to the Indian Constitution, a "two-thirds majority of the members present and voting" is required to pass such a constitutional amendment.
- **Opposition:** Only two members opposed the bill, namely Asaduddin Owaisi and Syed Imtiyaz Jaleel of the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen.
- **Debate:** An eight-hour debate took place in the Lok Sabha during the passage of the bill. MPs from various political parties, including both the Treasury and Opposition benches, participated in the debate. There was discussion and debate over several aspects, including who should receive credit for the bill's passage and the issue of whether there should be a separate quota for women from Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- **Future Steps:** The bill will now be taken up by the Rajya Sabha (the upper house of Parliament) for further consideration. It might also require approval from at least half of the Indian states to become law.
- **Prime Minister's Response:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to MPs from different political parties for their support in passing the bill. He termed it a "historic legislation."
- **Demand for OBC Quota:** The Congress party, which initially supported the bill, demanded a separate quota within the quota for women from Other Backward Classes (OBCs). They argued for this demand after conducting a caste census. The debate also included discussions on whether the bill should be linked to a delimitation exercise, which is currently frozen until 2026.
- **Government Assurance:** Home Minister Amit Shah assured the House that the government would address any shortcomings in the bill's provisions. He urged the Opposition to support the bill, promising that reservation for women would be guaranteed.

This development marks a significant step towards promoting gender equality and increasing women's representation in India's political institutions, pending approval in the Rajya Sabha and the states.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## INDIA ISSUES A TIT-FOR-TAT TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR CANADA

**CONTEXT:** Citing "politically condoned violence", India on Thursday issued a travel advisory for all Indian nationals in Canada, including students, urging them to register with Indian missions.

The ongoing India-Canada spat began after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, while speaking in the House of Commons on Monday, blamed Indian agents for the murder of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June.

The bilateral relations have also been affected by the ongoing online activities by Sikhs for Justice leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, who has launched a campaign saying "Indo Hindus Leave Canada".

Following Mr. Trudeau's accusations on Monday, Foreign Minister Melanie Joly announced the expulsion of Pavan Kumar Rai, a diplomat in the High Commission of India in Ottawa. In an unconventional move, she also announced that Mr. Rai is the head of station of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) of India. In response, India expelled a senior Canadian diplomat on Tuesday.

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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## RAJASTHAN YIELDS OLDEST PLANT-EATING DINOSAUR FOSSILS

**CONTEXT:** IIT Roorkee scientists identify oldest sauropod dinosaur fossils from middle-Jurassic period in Thar desert.

**BACKGROUND:** Scientists from IIT Roorkee identified dinosaur fossils in the Thar desert, Jaisalmer Basin, dating back to the Middle Jurassic period. These fossils belong to *Tharosaurus indicus*, a dicraeosaurid sauropod, making them the oldest diplodocoid fossils globally and the first dicraeosaurid sauropods found in India. The discovery sheds light on India's prehistoric biodiversity.



### DEVELOPMENT SO FAR:

- Sauropods, a group of dinosaurs, were known for their enormous size, often exceeding 100 feet, making them larger than even the blue whale.
- However, the Dicraeosauridae family, including *Tharosaurus*, were unique sauropods characterized by their smaller size, shorter necks, and tails compared to other long-necked sauropods.

### IMPORTANCE OF INDIAN LANDMASS

- *Tharosaurus*, an ancient diplodocoid sauropod dinosaur, lived approximately 167 million years ago when India was part of the southern hemisphere continent Gondwanaland.
- Researchers suggest that India could have been the origin of these diplodocoid sauropods during the Middle Jurassic period, with land connections allowing them to migrate to other continents.
- The presence of younger diplodocoid fossils in other continents supports the theory that India was the site of early radiation for these dinosaurs.
- The discovery of *Tharosaurus*, along with previous dinosaur finds in India, indicates that India played a significant role in the early evolutionary history of sauropod dinosaurs.

*"Doing nothing is very hard to do. You never know when you're finished."—Leslie Nielsen*

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

## CENSUS AND DELIMITATION WORK AFTER LS POLL, SAYS SHAH

**CONTEXT:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stated that the implementation of the women's reservation Bill, as per the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023 (also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam), will occur only after 2029. This decision is contingent on the completion of a delimitation exercise based on data from the first Census conducted after the Act is enacted.

### Key points from this news article:

- **Implementation Timeline:** The women's reservation Bill, which seeks to reserve one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, will not be implemented until after 2029. This timeline is tied to the completion of a delimitation exercise.
- **Delimitation Exercise:** The implementation of the Bill is linked to the conduct of a delimitation exercise. Delimitation is the process of defining the boundaries of constituencies for elections. This exercise is crucial for determining the distribution of reserved seats for women.
- **Census Delay:** While Mr. Shah mentioned that the Census and delimitation exercise would be conducted after the general election, he did not specify the dates for the delayed Census. The last Census in India took place in 2011, and there has been ambiguity surrounding the timing of the next Census since 2021.
- **Reason for Census Delay:** The COVID-19 pandemic was initially cited as the reason for postponing the Census, which was originally planned to commence in two phases in 2020 and conclude by March 31, 2021.
- **The delay in conducting the Census and subsequent delimitation has implications for the implementation of the women's reservation Bill, as the distribution of reserved seats for women is contingent on updated demographic data obtained through the Census. The timeline of 2029 suggests that the Bill's provisions may not be implemented until several years in the future, pending the completion of these essential processes.**

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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## BOLD STEP TOWARDS ETHICAL STANDARDS IN SPACE

**CONTEXT:** Human drive for competition, exploration, and flag-planting exemplified by historic polar expeditions in the early 20th century.

### REGULATION AND ANTARCTICA'S WELL-BEING:-

- The Antarctic Treaty emerged from the International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1958, aiming to regulate Antarctic activities due to Cold War concerns.
- Argentina proposed banning atomic explosions in Antarctica; the U.S. initially objected but later agreed to limit tests without prior notice.
- The treaty prioritizes scientific research freedom and peaceful use of Antarctica.
- It indirectly achieved demilitarization, forbidding nuclear tests, military actions, resource exploitation, and territorial claims.
- Presently, 54 nations, including India, are parties to the Treaty, monitoring ecological integrity through close systems.
- Antarctica hosts 66 research stations, with over 4,000 people during summer and about 1,000 over winter, potentially impacting its well-being.
- The article hints at parallels between Antarctic exploration and the space race, emphasizing the need to prevent an arms race in outer space.

### AN AGREEMENT THAT IS ABOUT RESTRAINT: -

As India celebrates the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission, it must also embrace a mature policy regarding lunar exploration. The Moon Agreement, adopted in 1979, emphasizes the moon's peaceful use, preserving its environment, and establishing an international regime for resource exploitation. India should lead by example, treating the moon as a partner, not property.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement underscores the mission's significance for humanity. Now, India can pioneer a new ethics for outer space activities, emphasizing non-militarization and responsible debris management. Aligning treaties with evolving space missions and moral principles is essential, as outer space belongs to all of humankind and beyond.

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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## TRUENAT TEST

**CONTEXT:** ICMR approves Truenat test for Nipah in Kerala; BSL 2 hospitals can use it, with SOP forthcoming.

**DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR:** Kerala is effectively managing the Nipah virus outbreak, with no new cases reported. Six cases, including two deaths, have been confirmed, and four patients are under treatment, showing signs of improvement. The state conducts sero-surveillance and plans long-term surveillance and One Health initiatives to strengthen response measures and protect public health.

### What is Truenat test?

The World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed Truenat molecular diagnostic tests as initial assessments for tuberculosis (TB) and rifampicin resistance. These tests are suitable for low-resource primary healthcare settings and have demonstrated high diagnostic accuracy in evaluations conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research and The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), meeting international standards.

- Truenat MTB and Truenat MTB Plus diagnose Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB), while Truenat MTB-RIF Dx identifies rifampicin resistance, a common TB treatment.
- These tests run on portable Truenat devices, providing results in under an hour, using real-time micro polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology.
- Truenat devices operate in various environmental conditions, making them suitable for primary healthcare settings.
- Developed by Bigtec Labs, they were validated by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and incorporated into India's National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).
- The tests offer high sensitivity and specificity, including the detection of rifampicin resistance, crucial for TB management in India.

### Truenat test for COVID – 19 and NIPAH

- Truenat offers tests for both COVID-19 and Nipah virus using real-time micro polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology.
- These tests are conducted on portable Truenat devices, delivering results in under an hour.
- Truenat tests are suitable for primary healthcare settings due to their ease of use and adaptability to various environmental conditions.
- The COVID-19 Truenat test has been widely deployed in India to aid in the rapid diagnosis of the virus.
- Truenat's reliable and fast diagnostic capabilities contribute to the effective management and containment of both COVID-19 and Nipah virus outbreaks.

Truenat tests, utilizing real-time PCR technology, provide valuable tools for diagnosing both COVID-19 and Nipah virus. Their portability, speed, and reliability enhance disease management in diverse healthcare settings, benefiting public health efforts.

## ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

## ADB LOWERS INDIA GDP GROWTH OUTLOOK FOR THIS FISCAL TO 6.3%

**CONTEXT:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal year from 6.4 % to 6.3 %. The Asian Development Bank cited declining exports and erratic rainfall patterns as reasons for downgrading the GDP growth rates.

### Tempering expectations

ADB pares its FY24 GDP growth view on concerns that the erratic rains in this year's monsoon could hit farm output

■ Erratic rainfall has resulted in damage to rice crop, lower kharif sowing for pulses, says Bank

■ Lender slashes its farm sector growth outlook for the year by almost 1 percentage point

■ Says uptick in capacity utilisation in several industries reflects better policy environment



The Indian economy grew 7.8 % in the first quarter of this fiscal year despite global uncertainties. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) expect consumption-oriented growth propelled by big-ticket infrastructure projects. States had also ramped up investments by 78 % supplementing Capital expenditures of the Centre. Banks registered a credit growth of 19 % in the first quarter with a decline in banks' non-performing loans, and an uptick in capacity utilisation rates in several industries.

The ADB's economists also raised their inflation forecast for the year to 5.5 %, from 5 % estimated in April, and retained their real GDP growth projection for 2024-25 at 6.7 %, on expectations that private investment and industrial output would increase.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) slashed farm sector growth outlook for the year by almost 1 % El Niño based erratic weather patterns, including flooding in certain regions and deficient rains, particularly in August. The erratic rainfall patterns have resulted in damage to the rice crop in particular and lower sowing for pulses in the kharif season.

The ADB was upbeat on investment prospects in the economy, despite a decline in net foreign direct investment flows in the first quarter to \$5 billion from \$13.4 billion last year.



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## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

## WHAT IS THE TUSSLE BETWEEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE DELHI WAQF BOARD?

**CONTEXT:** The tussle between the Central government and the Delhi Waqf Board revolves around the ownership of 123 properties, including historic mosques, medieval dargahs (shrines), and cemeteries.

**Here are the key points and details of the dispute:**

- **Ownership of Properties:** The Delhi Waqf Board claims ownership of these 123 properties, which are mosques, dargahs, cemeteries, and other religious sites. These properties have historical and cultural significance.
- **Committee Formation:** In response to a Delhi High Court order, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry formed a two-member committee, led by retired Justice S.P. Garg, to study the status of these monuments. The committee's report concluded that no representation or objection was received from the Delhi Waqf Board, leading to the properties lapsing into the hands of the Central government.
- **Delhi Waqf Board's Dispute:** The Delhi Waqf Board disputed the committee's findings, arguing that the report had caused widespread panic and resentment within the Muslim community. They claimed that the report had not been shared with them, and they also questioned the authority of the committee, as there was no directive from the High Court to form such a committee in 2014. The Waqf Board has approached the Delhi High Court for redressal.
- **Change in Ownership:** The Central government, based on the committee's report, asserted control over these properties, leading to confusion and concern among worshippers who were unaware of the change in ownership.
- **Surveys and Demolition:** The Land and Development Office under the Housing Ministry began conducting surveys of these properties and pasted notices outside them. The notices did not explicitly mention these properties as mosques or dargahs. This led to tensions, and in April, the boundary wall of the Babur Road Masjid-Madrassa compound was demolished.
- **Court Involvement:** The Delhi High Court allowed the surveys to continue but directed the authorities to minimize disruptions to daily activities at these properties, including prayer timings.
- **Recent Developments:** The Central government has argued in court that the Delhi Waqf Board cannot be considered the owner of these properties and can, at best, be a custodian, but only if the properties are Waqf properties. The surveys of prominent religious sites, including mosques and dargahs, have continued, while the graveyards have not been affected so far.

This dispute primarily centers on the ownership and control of historically significant religious properties in Delhi, and it remains a matter of legal contention between the Delhi Waqf Board and the Central government.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

# VIETNAM, KEY PIECE OF AMERICA'S INDO-PACIFIC PUZZLE

**CONTEXT:** The recent visit of Vietnam by the US President marked the elevation of U.S.-Vietnam relations to a U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership from a U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership forged in 2013. Given the complex history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam during the Cold War, this elevation marks a significant step up.

**A complex foreign policy legacy**

Vietnam's reservations about entering into a strategic partnership with the U.S. have both contemporary and historical relevance.

The geopolitics involving China's growing belligerence in the Pacific theatre, felt most palpably in the waters surrounding Vietnam and the broader South China Sea, has proven to be a first order deterrent for Vietnam's great power engagements.

On the other hand, the historical legacy of Vietnam's contested relations with the U.S. during the Vietnam War, an axile relationship with the communist states China and the Soviet Union, culminating in the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with Soviet Union in 1978, had together imparted a direction diametrically opposite to U.S. interests.

This complex foreign policy legacy is the reason why hitherto Vietnam has entered into a 'comprehensive strategic partnership' with only four nations: China, Russia, India and South Korea.

**Progress in US-Vietnam Relations since Vietnam War**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords signed in 1973 to end the Vietnam War.

Mr. Biden's Indo-Pacific policy now counts Vietnam as among the U.S.'s 'leading regional partners' in the region.

Vietnam is the 10th largest goods trading partner of the U.S. In 2020, the total value of trade in goods and services between the U.S. and Vietnam amounted to approximately \$92.2 billion and exceeded \$138 billion in 2022.

In May 2022, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for

Prosperity (IPEF) was launched by the U.S., with Vietnam as a founding member along with 13 other countries to revive Washington's economic dynamism in the Asia-Pacific.

The U.S.-Vietnam relationship is now rapidly expanding its bilateral spectrum with an emphasis on enhancing political trust, strengthening science, technology, health and digital innovation cooperation, training of high-quality workforce, addressing climate change, and establishing a strong defence relationship in the backdrop of China's increasing assertiveness. Addressing legacy issues underlines these cooperative efforts.

**An assertive China**

The war in Europe has thrown new challenges for Vietnam as its weapons import from Russia — its largest defence supplier — has been hit by West-led sanctions. These limitations in the face of Vietnam's resolve to modernise its military, coupled with an ever-growing assertiveness from China, is also gradually nudging Vietnam in a new direction.

China's dramatic steps in 2014 to place oil rigs in Vietnam's Exclusive Economic Zone and subsequent assertive posturing have tested its avowed policy to stay clear of great power politics in the region.

Undoubtedly, Washington senses an opportunity here and bolstering the defence and security relationship with Vietnam is a key piece of America's grand strategy in the Indo-Pacific.

**Conclusion**

India's initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) partnership with the U.S. along with the Quad's Principles of critical and emerging technology could provide an overarching framework in the Indo-Pacific for a standardisation of technology in its design, development and use. A supply chain arch which extends from Vietnam to Europe via West Asia and anchored by India with the newly-launched India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor during the recent G-20 meet in India could symbolise 'comprehensive strategic partnership' in an apt way.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

# ROW 'UNLIKELY TO DETER CANADIAN INVESTMENTS IN INDIA'

**CONTEXT:** The New Delhi-Ottawa diplomatic row over the killing of a Sikh leader in British Columbia is unlikely to affect the flow of Canadian investments into India.

Bilateral ties between the two nations hit a low after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged India's involvement in the killing of pro-Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This was followed by tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats by both nations.

Canada is the 17th largest foreign investor, with overall investment of about \$3.3 billion from April 2000 to March 2023. During the period, Canadian investments represented about 0.5 % of total FDI flows into the country.

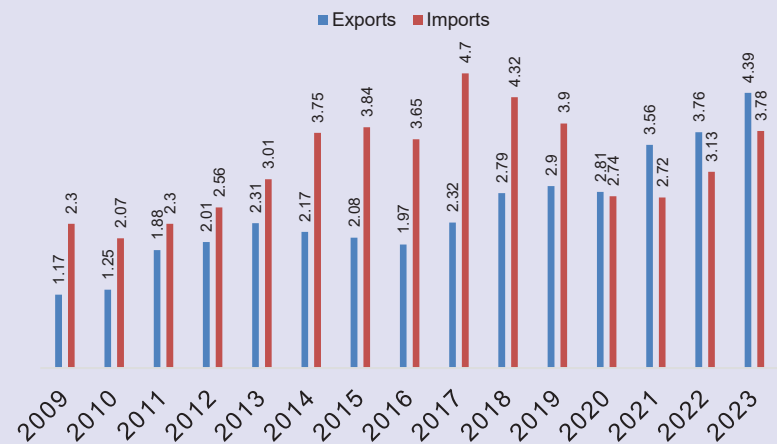


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of the trans-border trade between India and Canada.

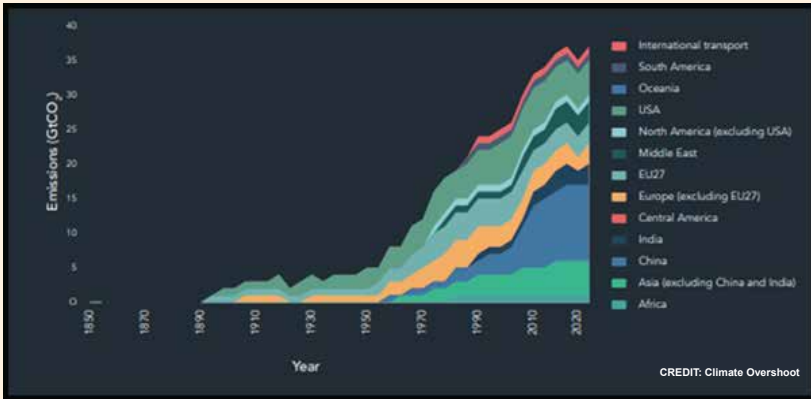
**ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

## CLIMATE CRISIS DEMANDS CAUTION IN MITIGATION

**CONTEXT:** India's historically dry August highlights climate change risks, emphasizing the controversial idea of solar radiation management.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** India experienced its driest August in a century, raising concerns about the impacts of disrupted weather patterns. While the link to climate change remains uncertain, it emphasizes the need for climate mitigation. The passage warns against solar radiation management (SRM) due to its potential global consequences and the lack of mechanisms for accountability and cross-border appeals in geoengineering. There is also limited research on the interconnectedness of global weather systems and their sensitivity to interventions like SRM.

- The Climate Overshoot Commission recommends more research before considering the implementation of solar radiation management (SRM) technologies to address climate change.
- The report acknowledges a lack of understanding about SRM's potential impacts and risks.
- Despite this, the report advocates for keeping SRM as a potential climate mitigation option due to the urgency of limiting global warming.
- The commission's suggestion is criticized for diverting resources from proven emission reduction strategies like cutting emissions and carbon capture.
- The report is also questioned for claiming to represent the interests of developing countries while potentially endorsing high-risk solutions.



### Climate Overshoot Commission

- The Climate Overshoot Commission aims to assess methods for accelerating emission reductions to combat climate change.
- It recognizes the need for more research before considering solar radiation management (SRM) deployment.
- Despite uncertainties, the commission advocates retaining SRM as an option due to the urgency of limiting global warming.
- Critics argue that prioritizing high-risk solutions like SRM may divert resources from proven emission reduction strategies.
- The commission's stance on SRM raises questions about its representation of developing countries' interests amid growing concerns about climate justice.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

## RESEARCH REVEALS IMPACT OF GRAVITATIONAL INSTABILITIES ON GALAXY EVOLUTION

**CONTEXT:** IIA study investigates link between gravitational instabilities and galaxy evolution, considering star formation, gas fraction, and morphology.



**HIGHLIGHTS:** Scientists conducted a study comparing various factors in nearby galaxies using data from the SPARC database. They assessed star formation rate, gas fraction, and gravitational instability growth timescale to examine the role of dark matter in galaxy stability. Findings revealed that spiral galaxies like the Milky Way convert gas into stars rapidly, affecting their stability and shedding light on the connection between gravitational instabilities and galaxy evolution, especially in high-redshift galaxies.

### Gravitational Instabilities

Gravitational instabilities refer to the disruptions and deformations in the structure of celestial objects, such as galaxies, caused by the gravitational forces acting on matter within them.

- Gravitational instabilities are processes within galaxies driven by gravity's effects on matter, including gas and stars.
- They can lead to the formation of structures like spiral arms, bars, and dense regions in galaxies.
- Gravitational instabilities play a crucial role in galaxy evolution, influencing star formation rates and patterns.
- These instabilities can trigger the birth of new stars, impacting the overall composition and appearance of galaxies.
- Studying gravitational instabilities helps astronomers better understand the dynamic processes shaping galaxies throughout cosmic history.



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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**THREE YEARS OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS (EDITORIAL)**

**CONTEXT:** In 2020, the United States mediated an agreement (known as the Abraham Accords) between the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Israel, promising to normalise ties between these Arab Gulf states and Israel. In December 2020, Morocco joined the process, signing a normalisation agreement with Israel.

**About the Abraham Accords**

The Abraham Accords are a series of historic agreements signed in 2020 between Israel and several Arab nations, marking a significant shift in Middle East diplomacy and relations.

The accords are named after Abraham, who is considered a common ancestor in Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, symbolizing the desire for peaceful coexistence among the signatory nations.

The primary objective of the Abraham Accords is to establish diplomatic relations and normalize ties between Israel and the Arab countries involved. This includes the exchange of ambassadors, the opening of embassies, and the establishment of trade and economic relations.

The agreements also emphasize economic cooperation, including trade, investment, and technological collaboration.

The Abraham Accords were a significant departure from the previous diplomatic stance of many Arab nations, which had historically refrained from recognizing Israel's right to exist or engaging in formal relations with the country.

The normalization of relations was facilitated by a combination of factors, including shared concerns about Iran's influence in the region, the desire for economic opportunities, and the mediation efforts of the United States, led by the Trump administration.

**Progress so far**

So far, the Abraham Accords have offered a mere glimpse into the full potential of regional cooperation. Even so, the scope of trade between Israel and other West Asian countries increased 74% between 2021 and 2022. Another example is tourism, mostly non-existent in the past, which has skyrocketed. In 2021,

visits from Israel to the UAE increased by 172%. Meanwhile, the number of Israelis flying to Bahrain since the establishment of direct flights has increased exponentially.

The Accords have also had a significant influence on reinforcing Israel's relations with neighbouring countries. For example, the Prosperity Green & Blue agreement between Israel, the UAE, and Jordan determined that a solar field to supply 600 megawatts of electricity to Israel would be established in Jordan, while in return, a desalination plant in Israel would deliver 200 million cubic meters of water to Jordan.

The Abraham Accords encourage collaboration and education. In the summer of 2022, Ben-Gurion University welcomed students from Morocco. Additionally, a number of Emirati students have enrolled in Israeli universities.

**Benefits for Indians**

The vibrant Indian diaspora in the Gulf now has the convenience of direct flights between the UAE and Israel, as well as between Israel and Bahrain. Indian students are enjoying increased ease of travel, gaining improved access to our universities and the opportunity to explore international study programmes.

Furthermore, the Accords have laid the foundation for expanded regional and multinational cooperation, and this has resulted in a flow of economic opportunities reaching India. Notably, we have witnessed substantial commercial collaborations between companies from the UAE, Israel, Bahrain, and the U.S., partnering with the Indian private sector.

The Abraham Accords made possible the establishment of the I2U2 Group, formed by Israel, India, the UAE, and the U.S. Its primary focus will be on joint investments in critical areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

India holds a significant position among our partners, and the scope of our collaboration underscores our shared interests, including championing a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, expanding trade, addressing climate change, and countering threats to international security.



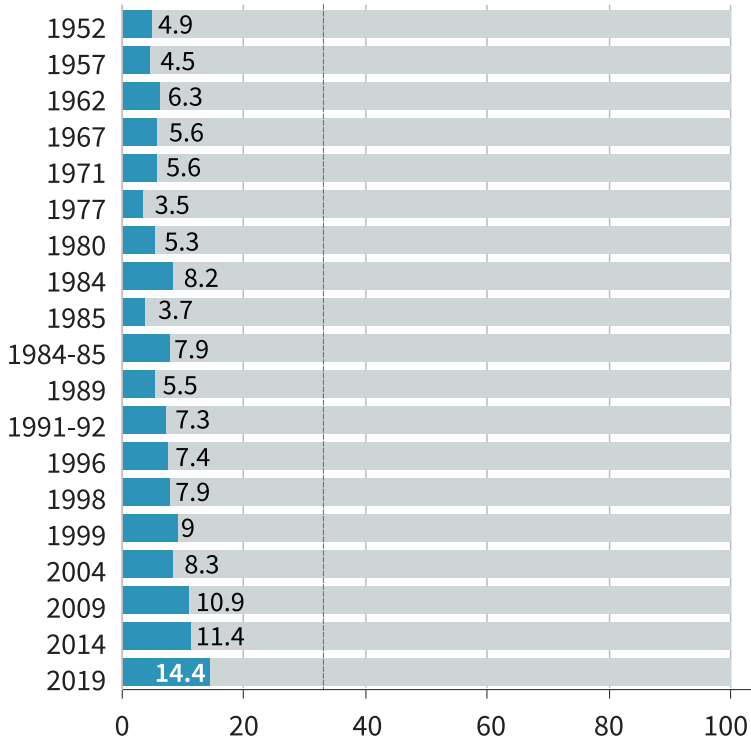
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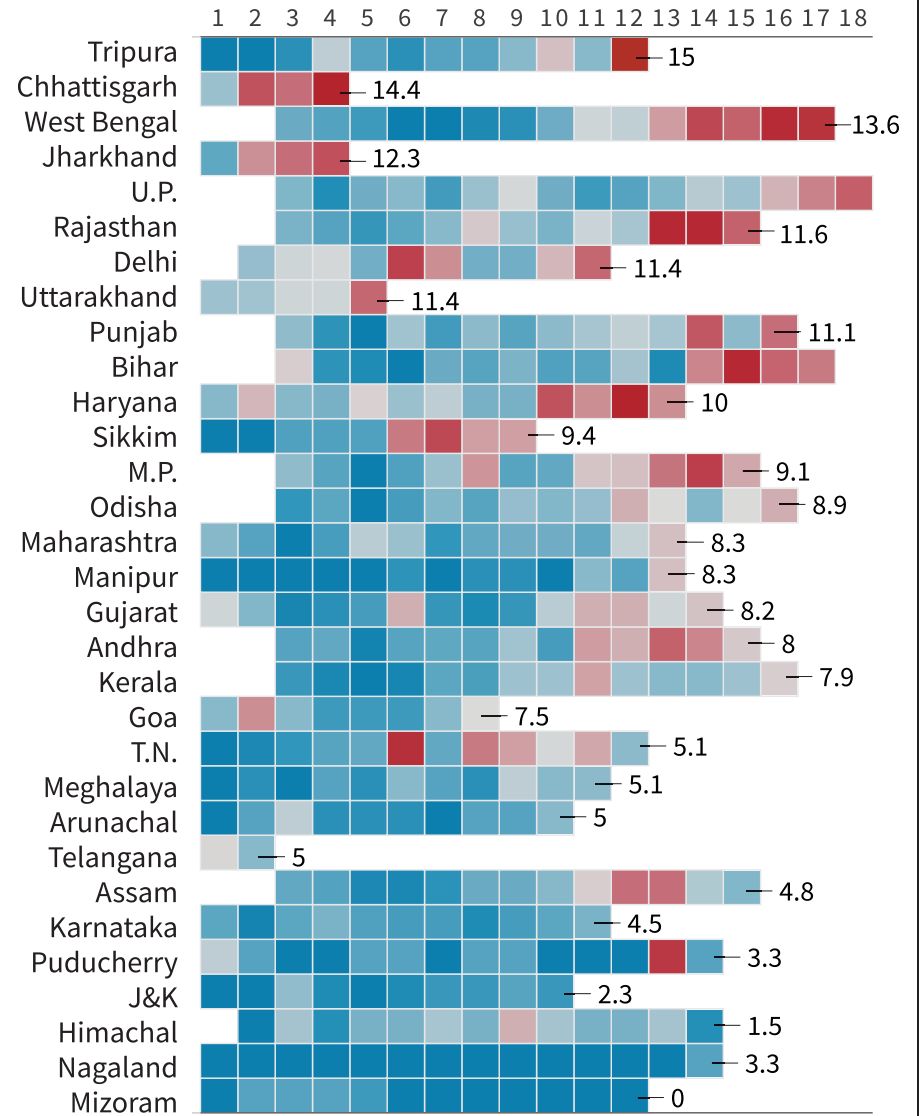
**POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

# WOMEN'S SHARE IN ASSEMBLIES LESS THAN 10% IN 20 STATES

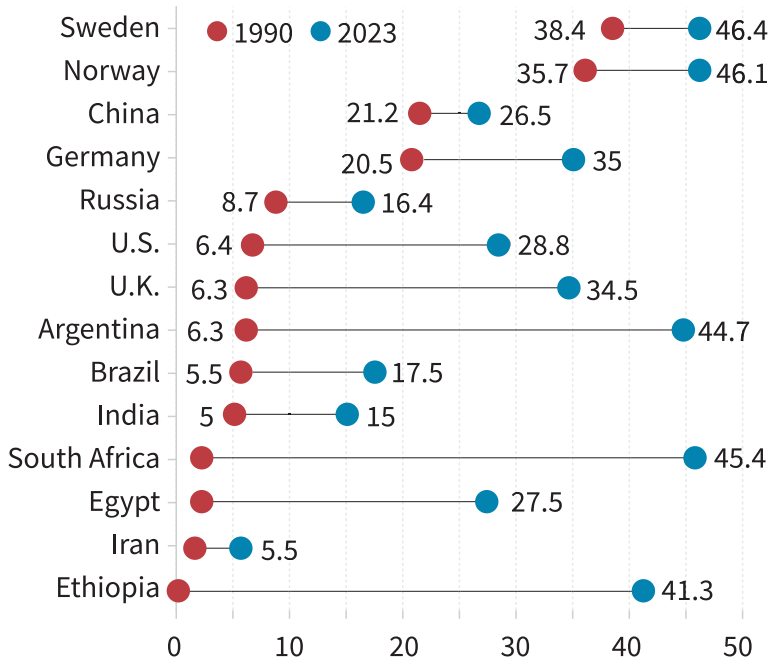
**Chart 1 | The share of women members in the Lok Sabha (%)**



**Chart 2 | The share of women in State Legislative Assemblies (%)**

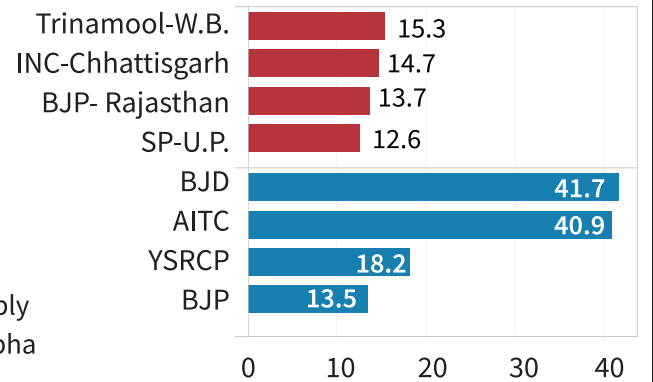


**Chart 4 | Women in Parliaments of select countries (%)**



**Chart 3 | The chart shows the parties with the highest share of women legislators in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies (%)**

■ Share in Assembly  
■ Share in Lok Sabha



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