Polity & Governance · GS - II

“Women's political representation is essential for making democratic institutions more inclusive and responsive.” Assess the significance of the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 and the challenges associated with its implementation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Political representation, gender equality, 106th Constitutional Amendment, Articles 330A and 332A, delimitation, substantive representation

Model Answer

Democratic inclusion and representation

Women's political representation is an important dimension of substantive democracy. Although women constitute nearly half of India's population, their representation in legislative institutions has historically remained limited.

Significance of the 106th Amendment

1. **Constitutional guarantee:** The amendment provides one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, including one-third of seats reserved for SCs and STs.
2. **Political empowerment:** It can expand women's participation in policymaking and strengthen their access to political leadership.
3. **Inclusive governance:** Greater representation can bring wider attention to issues such as public health, education, safety and gender-sensitive infrastructure.

4. **Institutional transformation:** Reservation can challenge entrenched barriers involving political networks, campaign financing and social discrimination.

Implementation challenges

1. **Delayed operationalisation:** Article 334A links implementation to a delimitation exercise following publication of figures from the first census conducted after the amendment.
2. **Unequal access:** Caste, class, economic dependence and social inequalities may restrict opportunities for women from marginalised communities.
3. **Token representation:** Proxy participation and patriarchal control can undermine independent political decision-making.
4. **Political capacity:** Access to campaign resources, training and party leadership positions remains uneven.

The way ahead

Political parties should promote women in organisational leadership, ensure transparent candidate selection and provide institutional support for elected representatives.

Conclusion

The amendment creates a constitutional pathway towards greater gender inclusion. Its democratic value will ultimately depend on timely implementation and women's ability to exercise independent political authority.

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