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Gender Budgeting and Legislative Measures for Social Equality

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Gender Budgeting and Legislative Measures for Social Equality

■ Yojana Chapter 1 · 2 min read ·

Women comprise over **48% of India's 145 crore population**. India's GDP growth of **6.5% in 2024-25** reflects increasing contributions from nearly **70 crore women**.

Constitutional Framework for Gender Equality

ARTICLE	PROVISION
Article 14	Equality before law
Article 15	Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sex
Article 16	Equality of opportunity in public employment
Article 21	Right to life and personal dignity
Article 23	Prohibition of trafficking and forced labour
Article 39(d)	Equal pay for equal work (DPSP)
Article 42	Just and humane working conditions; maternity relief (DPSP)
Article 51A(e)	Renunciation of practices derogatory to women's dignity (Fundamental Duty)
Articles 243D & 243T	Reservation for women in PRIs and ULBs
Article 325	Inclusion of women in electoral rolls without discrimination

Landmark Constitutional Amendments

73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992):

- Minimum **33% reservation** for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies
- Deepened women's participation in grassroots democracy

106th Constitutional Amendment — Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023):

- **33% seats reserved for women** in Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and NCT of Delhi
- **SC/ST women** included within the reservation quota
- To be implemented after the next delimitation exercise based on the first Census conducted after this Act

Gender-Responsive Legislations

LEGISLATION	YEAR	KEY PROVISION
Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act	2013	ICC/LCC mechanism; revamped SHe-Box (2024) for online grievance redressal
Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act	2005	Recognises domestic violence as human rights violation; civil remedy
Dowry Prohibition Act	1961	Criminalises giving and taking dowry
Indecent Representation of Women Act	1986	Regulates objectification in media and advertisements
Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act	1987	Criminalises Sati and its glorification
National Commission for Women	1992	Statutory body for rights protection and policy advocacy

Four New Labour Codes (effective 21 November 2025)

CODE	YEAR PASSED	LAWS CONSOLIDATED
Code on Wages	2019	4 laws
Industrial Relations Code	2020	3 laws
Code on Social Security	2020	9 laws
OSH&WC Code	2020	13 laws

Benefits for women: Simplified compliance, enhanced formalisation of women's work, improved social security, equal pay mandate, night shift permissions with safeguards, work-from-home recognition.

Criminal Justice Reforms

- **New criminal laws effective 1 July 2024:** Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam — replace IPC, CrPC, Indian Evidence Act
- **Nirbhaya Fund (2013):** Dedicated funding for women's safety infrastructure
- **International commitments:** CEDAW, UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, ILO Conventions on women's rights

Gender Budgeting Statement (GBS) 2025-26

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION
Part A	61 schemes with 100% allocation for women
Part B	Schemes with 30-99% allocation for women
Part C	Schemes with below 30% allocation
Gender Budget share	Increased from 6.8% (2024-25) to 8.9% (2025-26) of total budget
Growth	19% increase over Revised Estimates of 2024-25
Monitoring	Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework by NITI Aayog

UPSC Angle

- **GS1:** Women empowerment, social structure, demographic patterns
- **GS2:** Constitutional provisions, gender budgeting, legislative reforms, cooperative federalism
- **Interview:** “Is 33% reservation for women in Parliament sufficient, or should India aim for 50% as some Nordic countries have achieved?”

Sources: [NextIAS Yojana January 2026](#) , [EduRev Yojana January 2026 Part 2](#)



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