TO BE INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 158 of 2026

THE CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

A

BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title and commencement.

1. (*1*) This Act may be called the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-second Amendment) Act, 2026.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Amendment of article 54.

2. In article 54 of the Constitution, for the *Explanation*, the following *Explanation* shall be substituted, namely:—

'*Explanation*.—In this article and in article 55, "State" includes the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union territory of Puducherry.'.

Amendment of article 55.

3. In article 55 of the Constitution, in the proviso to the *Explanation*, for the words and figures "until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published", the words and figures "until the year 2051" shall be substituted.

Amendment of article 81.

4. In article 81 of the Constitution,—

(*a*) in clause (1),—

(*i*) in sub-clause (*a*), for the words "five hundred and thirty", the words "eight hundred and fifteen" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) in sub-clause (*b*), for the word "twenty", the word "thirty-five" shall be substituted;

(*b*) in clause (3), in the proviso,—

(*i*) for the words and figures "until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published", the words and figures "until the year 2051" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) in item (*ii*), for the figures and word "2001 census", the words, brackets and figures "latest published census figures available on the date of the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-second Amendment) Act, 2026" shall be substituted.

Amendment of article 82.

5. In article 82 of the Constitution, in the third proviso,—

(*i*) for the words and figures "until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published", the words and figures "until the year 2051" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) in item (*i*), for the words and figures "on the basis of the 1971 census", the words, figures and letter "in accordance with article 334A" shall be substituted;

(*iii*) in item (*ii*), for the figures and word "2001 census", the words, brackets and figures "latest published census figures available on the date of the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-second Amendment) Act, 2026" shall be substituted.

Amendment of article 170.

6. In article 170 of the Constitution,—

(*a*) in clause (1), for the words "five hundred", the words "six hundred and fifty" shall be substituted;

(*b*) in clause (2), in the proviso to the *Explanation*, for the words and figures "until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, be construed as a reference to the 2001 census", the words, figures and brackets "until the year 2051, be construed as a reference to the latest published census figures available on the date of the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-second Amendment) Act, 2026" shall be substituted;

(*c*) in clause (3), in the third proviso,—

(*i*) for the words and figures "until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published", the words and figures "until the year 2051" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) in item (*i*), for the words and figures "on the basis of the 1971 census", the words, figures and letter "in accordance with article 334A" shall be substituted;

(*iii*) in item (*ii*), for the figures and word "2001 census", the words, brackets and figures "latest published census figures available on the date of the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-second Amendment) Act, 2026" shall be substituted.

Amendment of article 330.

7. In article 330 of the Constitution, in the proviso to the *Explanation*, for the words and figures "until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, be construed as a reference to the 2001 census", the words, figures and brackets "until the year 2051, be construed as a reference to the latest published census figures available on the date of the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-second Amendment) Act, 2026" shall be substituted.

Amendment of article 332.

8. In article 332 of the Constitution,—

(*a*) in clause (3A), for the words and figures "the taking effect, under article 170, of the re-adjustment, on the basis of the first census after the year 2026", the words and figures "the readjustment, under article 170, takes effect after the year 2051" shall be substituted;

(*b*) in clause (3B), for the words and figures "on the basis of the first census after the year 2026", the words and figures "after the year 2051" shall be substituted.

Substitution of article 334A.

9. For article 334A of the Constitution, the following article shall be substituted, namely:—

Reservation of seats for women to take effect.

"334A. (1) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Part or Part VIII, the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State, the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Puducherry and the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall take effect after the first delimitation exercise undertaken upon the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-second Amendment) Act, 2026:

Provided that for the purposes of giving immediate effect to such reservation, the delimitation so undertaken shall provide for an increase of fifty per cent. in—

(*a*) the number of seats allocated to each State and Union territory in the House of the People; and

(*b*) the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of each State and Union territory,

over and above the number of seats existing immediately before such delimitation.

(2) The reservation of seats for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State, the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Puducherry and the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 unless Parliament may by law extend the period for such further time as it may specify in this behalf.

(3) The reservation of seats for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State, the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Puducherry and the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall be allotted by rotation in a State or a Union territory, by such authority and in such manner, as Parliament may by law determine.

(4) Nothing in this article shall affect any representation in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State, the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Puducherry or the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir until the dissolution of the then existing House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of a State or Union territory.".

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Article 82 and clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution provide that upon completion of each census, the total number of seats allotted to each State in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies, and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine. The third proviso to article 82 and the third proviso to clause (3), of article 170, *inter alia*, provide that there shall be no fresh readjustment of constituencies until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published.

2. The Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2001 amended articles 55, 81, 82, 170, 330 and 332 to freeze the allocation of seats in the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of the 1971 census until the first census conducted after the year 2026, while providing for the readjustment of territorial constituencies on the basis of the census figures of the year 1991.

3. Subsequently, the Constitution (Eighty-seventh Amendment) Act, 2003 amended articles 81, 82, 170 and 330 to provide for readjustment of territorial constituencies including those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, based on the census figures of 2001, without affecting the total number of seats allotted to the States in the House of the People or the State Legislative Assemblies.

4. Meanwhile, the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 (popularly known as '*Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam*'), amended article 239AA and inserted articles 330A, 332A and 334A in the Constitution, to provide for reservation of nearly one-third of seats for women in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies (including women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) with the objective of enhancing women's representation in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The said provisions contemplate that such reservation shall become operative after the first delimitation is undertaken on the basis of the relevant census taken after the commencement of the said Amendment Act.

5. The objective of the present Bill is to give immediate effect to one-third reservation for women, including women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States and the Union territories, through a delimitation exercise, and for the said purpose, such delimitation shall provide for an increase of fifty per cent., in the number of seats in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States and Union territories, over and above the number of seats existing immediately before such delimitation. Therefore, the implementation of reservation of seats for women is linked to the constitutional scheme of readjustment in the allocation of seats in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies and re-drawing boundaries of territorial constituencies by the Delimitation Commission.

6. Accordingly, the Bill seeks to amend articles 54, 55, 81, 82, 170, 330, 332 and 334A of the Constitution so as to provide, *inter alia*, for—

(*i*) including the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the definition of State occurring in the *Explanation* to article 54 relating to the election of President along with the existing National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union territory of Puducherry;

(*ii*) an increase in the maximum strength of the House of the People to eight hundred and fifteen members from the States and thirty-five members from the Union territories, and of the Legislative Assembly of a State to six hundred and fifty members;

(*iii*) giving immediate effect to the reservation of seats for women after the first delimitation exercise undertaken upon the commencement of the proposed Amendment, by increasing fifty per cent. in the number of seats of the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies, over and above the number of seats existing immediately before such delimitation;

(*iv*) the allocation of seats and the division into territorial constituencies so readjusted to continue until the year 2051;

(*v*) continuation of the existing special provisions for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura until the readjustment taking effect after the year 2051;

(*vi*) the reservation of seats for women to continue for a period of fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023;

(*vii*) the rotation of seats reserved for women will be determined by such authority and in such manner, as Parliament may by law determine.

7. The proposed Bill would facilitate delimitation and put in operation the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies. This will also promote women empowerment and provide opportunity for women to participate in the nation-building process and will facilitate inclusivity and help in achieving the goals of *Viksit Bharat*@2047.

8. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

NEW DELHI; ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL.

The 27*th November*, 2026.

ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

* * * * *

Election of President.

54. The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of—

(*a*) the elected members of both Houses of Parliament; and

(*b*) the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

Explanation.—In this article and in article 55, "State" includes the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union territory of Puducherry.

Manner of election of President.

55. (1) As far as practicable, there shall be uniformity in the scale of representation of the different States at the election of the President.

(2) For the purpose of securing such uniformity among the States *inter se* as well as parity between the States as a whole and the Union, the number of votes which each elected member of Parliament and of the Legislative Assembly of each State is entitled to cast at such election shall be determined in the following manner:—

(*a*) every elected member of the Legislative Assembly of a State shall have as many votes as there are multiples of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the State by the total number of the elected members of the Assembly;

(*b*) if, after taking the said multiples of one thousand, the remainder is not less than five hundred, then the vote of each member referred to in sub-clause (*a*) shall be further increased by one;

(*c*) each elected member of either House of Parliament shall have such number of votes as may be obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to the members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States under sub-clauses (*a*) and (*b*) by the total number of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament, fractions exceeding one-half being counted as one and other fractions being disregarded.

(3) The election of the President shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

Explanation.—In this article, the expression "population" means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published:

Provided that the reference in this *Explanation* to the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published shall, until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, be construed as a reference to the 1971 census.

* * * * *

Composition of the House of the People.

81. (1) Subject to the provisions of article 331, the House of the People shall consist of—

(*a*) not more than five hundred and thirty members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the States; and

(*b*) not more than twenty members to represent the Union territories, chosen in such manner as Parliament may by law provide.

* * * * *

(3) In this article, the expression "population" means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published:

Provided that the reference in this clause to the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published shall, until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, be construed,—

(*i*) for the purposes of sub-clause (*a*) of clause (2) and the proviso to that clause, as a reference to the 1971 census; and

(*ii*) for the purposes of sub-clause (*b*) of clause (2) as a reference to the 2001 census.

Readjustment after each census.

82. Upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine:

Provided that such readjustment shall not affect representation in the House of the People until the dissolution of the then existing House:

Provided further that such readjustment shall take effect from such date as the President may, by order, specify and until such readjustment takes effect, any election to the House may be held on the basis of the territorial constituencies existing before such readjustment:

Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust—

(*i*) the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States as readjusted on the basis of the 1971 census; and

(*ii*) the division of each State into territorial constituencies as may be readjusted on the basis of the 2001 census,

under this article.

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Composition of the Legislative Assemblies.

170. (1) Subject to the provisions of article 333, the Legislative Assembly of each State shall consist of not more than five hundred, and not less than sixty, members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the State.

(2) For the purposes of clause (1), each State shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the State.

Explanation.—In this clause, the expression "population" means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published:

Provided that the reference in this *Explanation* to the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published shall, until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, be construed as a reference to the 2001 census.

(3) Upon the completion of each census, the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of each State and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine:

Provided that such readjustment shall not affect representation in the Legislative Assembly until the dissolution of the then existing Assembly:

Provided further that such readjustment shall take effect from such date as the President may, by order, specify and until such readjustment takes effect, any election to the Legislative Assembly may be held on the basis of the territorial constituencies existing before such readjustment:

Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust—

(*i*) the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of each State as readjusted on the basis of the 1971 census; and

(*ii*) the division of such State into territorial constituencies as may be readjusted on the basis of the 2001 census,

under this clause.

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PART XVI

SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN CLASSES

Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People.

330. (1) * * * * *

(2) The number of seats reserved in any State or Union territory for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes under clause (1) shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats allotted to that State or Union territory in the House of the People as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or Union territory or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State or Union territory or part of the State or Union territory, as the case may be, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the State or Union territory.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (2), the number of seats reserved in the House of the People for the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam shall bear to the total number of seats allotted to that State a proportion not less than the population of the Scheduled Tribes in the said autonomous districts bears to the total population of the State.

Explanation.—In this article and in article 332, the expression "population" means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published:

Provided that the reference in this *Explanation* to the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published shall, until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, be construed as a reference to the 2001 census.

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Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

332. (1) * * * * *

(3A) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (3), until the taking effect, under article 170, of the re-adjustment, on the basis of the first census after the year 2026, of the number of seats in the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, the seats which shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of any such State shall be,—

(*a*) if all the seats in the Legislative Assembly of such State in existence on the date of coming into force of the Constitution (Fifty seventh Amendment) Act, 1987 (hereafter in this clause referred to as the existing

Assembly) are held by members of the Scheduled Tribes, all the seats except one;

(*b*) in any other case, such number of seats as bears to the total number of seats, a proportion not less than the number (as on the said date) of members belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the existing Assembly bears to the total number of seats in the existing Assembly.

(3B) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (3), until the re-adjustment, under article 170, takes effect on the basis of the first census after the year 2026, of the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tripura, the seats which shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly shall be, such number of seats as bears to the total number of seats, a proportion not less than the number, as on the date of coming into force of the Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Act, 1992, of members belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly in existence on the said date bears to the total number of seats in that Assembly.

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Reservation of seats for women take effect.

334A. (1) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provision of this Part or Part VIII, the provisions of the Constitution relating to the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose after the relevant figures for the first census taken after commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 have been published and shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of fifteen years from such commencement.

(2) Subject to the provisions of articles 239AA, 330A and 332A, seats reserved for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi shall continue till such date as the Parliament may by law determine.

(3) Rotation of seats reserved for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi shall take effect after each subsequent exercise of delimitation as the Parliament may by law determine.

(4) Nothing in this article shall affect any representation in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State or the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi until the dissolution of the then existing House of the People, Legislative Assembly of a State or the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

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further to amend the Constitution of India.

(*Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice and Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs*)