## **Women in Haryana Assembly**

## Why in News?

Recently, the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections highlighted the **persistent gender disparity** in political representation, reflecting the state's historical gender imbalance.

## **Key Points**

- Women in Haryana Politics:
  - Since Haryana's formation in **1966**, only 87 women have been elected to the Assembly.
  - The state has never had a female chief minister.
  - Haryana's gender ratio remains skewed at 916 females per 1,000 males (2023).
  - Since 2000, 47 women legislators have been elected in Haryana.
  - In **2014**, **13 women won seats**, the highest number ever. This dropped to 9 in 2019.
- 33% Reservation for Women: The Bill granting reservation to women in Parliament and assemblies, passed recently, will take effect from 2029.
- Notable Women Contesting in 2024:
  - Arti Singh Rao : Daughter of Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh, contesting from Ateli.
  - **Shruti Chaudhary:** Granddaughter of former CM Bansi Lal, contesting from Tosham.
  - Geeta Bhukkal : Four-time MLA and former education minister.
  - Vinesh Phogat : Wrestling icon, contesting from Julana.
  - Savitri Jindal: Asia's richest woman, contesting as an Independent from Hisar.
  - **Chitra Sarwara:** Contesting independently from Ambala Cantonment after being denied a Congress ticket.

## Women's Reservation Act, 2023

- The <u>Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023</u>, reserves one-third of all seats for women in <u>Lok Sabha</u>, <u>State legislative assemblies</u>, and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, including those reserved for <u>SCs and STs</u>.
- The reservation will be effective after the publication of the census conducted following the Act's commencement and endures for a 15-year period, with potential extension determined by parliamentary action.
- The rotation of seats allocated for women will be governed by parliamentary legislation after each delimitation process.
  - Currently, around 15% of the total members of the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024) are women while in state legislative assemblies, women on average constitute 9% of the total members.