

CJI backs 50% quota for women in judiciary

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana has backed 50% representation for women in the judiciary.

Concerns:

- The CJI said women constituted only about 30% of the subordinate judiciary.
- In High Courts, women judges constitute 11.5%, and in the Supreme Court, there are currently just four women Justices out of the sitting 33 (i.e., 12%).
- Of the 1.7 million advocates, only 15% are women.
- Only 2% of the elected representatives in the State Bar Councils are women.
- At present, there is no woman member in the Bar Council of India.

Way Forward:

- There is a need to increase gender diversity in legal education.
- Reservation of a significant percentage of seats in law schools and universities for women would be the first step.
- The inclusion of women judges and lawyers will substantially improve the quality of justice delivery.