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GENERAL STUDIES PAPER1

FACTORS DRIVE THE SELECTION OF A LOCATION FOR A BIOMANUFACTURING HUB



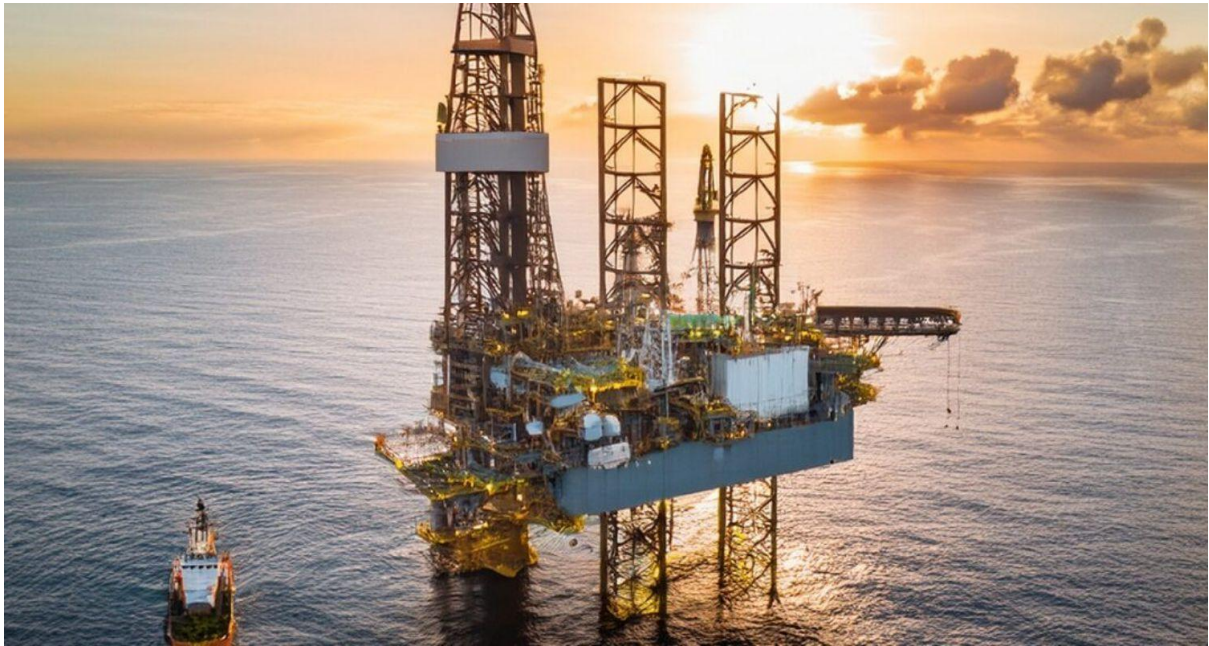
Availability of a skilled workforce: Biomanufacturing requires highly specialized and technically proficient staff, including scientists, engineers, and technicians. Hubs are often located in or near areas with a strong talent pipeline

Proximity to research and development (R&D): Being near R&D centers—often associated with universities and research hospitals—allows for seamless technology transfer during a drug's development.

Academic and industry collaboration: Hubs thrive when academic and research institutions collaborate with industry, fostering innovation and a robust ecosystem.

- **Operating costs:** Major, geographically variable operating costs—such as labor, real estate, construction, taxes, and utilities—significantly influence site selection.
- **Utilities, supply, and price:** Biomanufacturing facilities are intensive users of resources like water, electric power, natural gas, and wastewater treatment
- **Feedstock supply:** For fermentation-based biomanufacturing, proximity to essential feedstocks like industrial dextrose is a critical cost factor. Locations may be chosen for their access to these materials.
- **Supportive industrial partners:** Proximity to other industrial complexes or specialized manufacturing partners can offer valuable infrastructure and collaboration opportunities.
- **Proximity to markets:** Access to local and regional markets is crucial for reducing import reliance, building local supply chains
- **Room for expansion:** A site's physical size and potential for future expansion are important for accommodating company growth and future manufacturing needs.

OIL INDIA DISCOVERS NATURAL GAS



Oil India Ltd has discovered natural gas reserves off the Andaman Islands, the State-owned firm .occurrence of natural gas" is in the second exploratory well Vijayapuram-2 drilled in the Offshore Andaman Block AN-OSHP-2018/1.

- discovery that could help cut India's 88% dependence on imports for its oil needs and 50% reliance on overseas for gas requirements.

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER 2

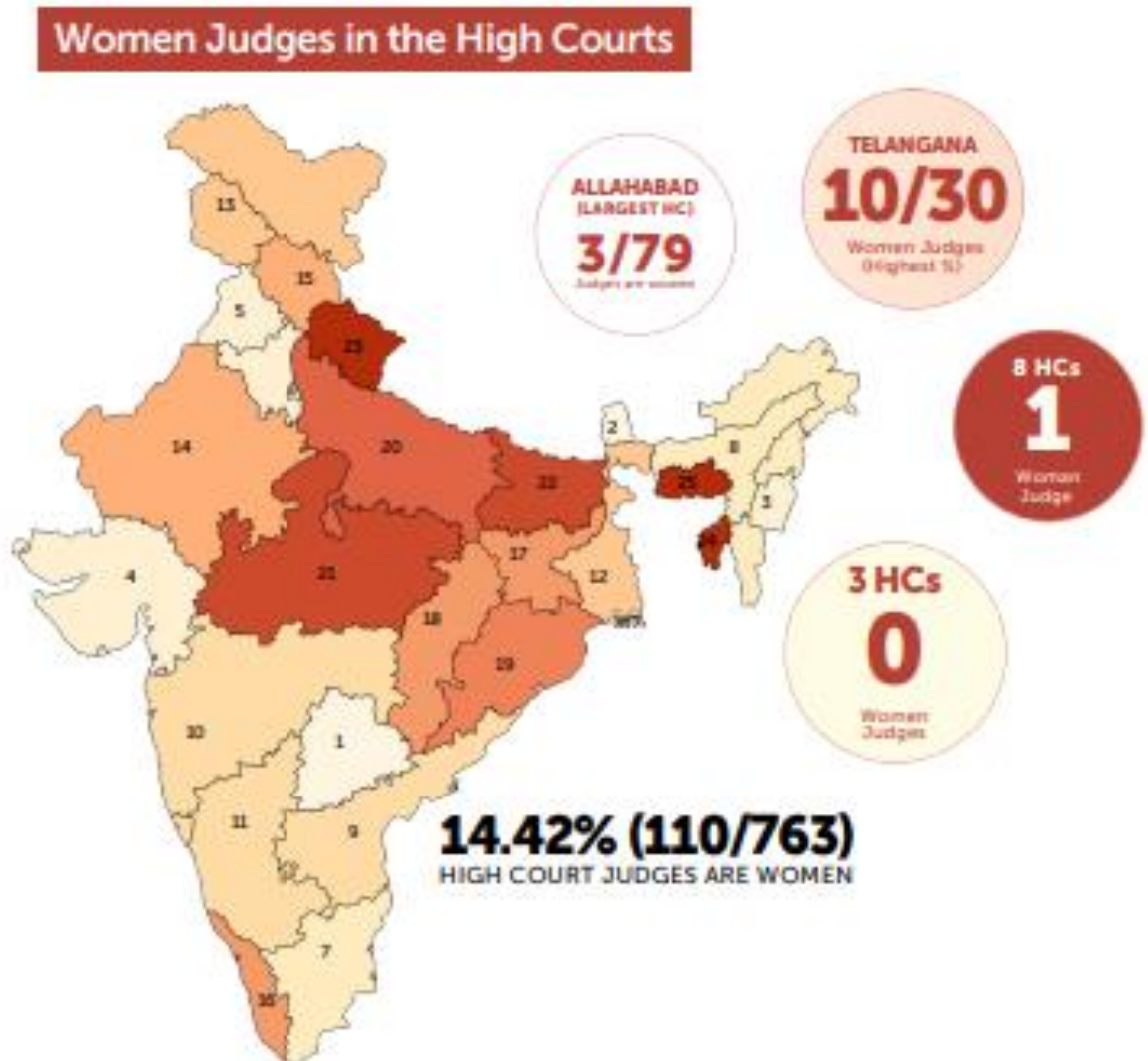
LOW REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN HIGHER JUDICIARY



The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Saturday (August 30, 2025) passed a resolution expressing grave concern over the “disproportionately low” representation of women judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

- India has never had a woman Chief Justice of India since 1950, and the first woman who will become Chief Justice is Justice Nagarathna, in 2025.
- Only 12 out of 242 judges in the High Court Chief Justices have been women, i.e. less than 5% of the total
- women from socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds, is almost negligible.

- The opportunities are skewed when it comes to elevation of women lawyers from the Bar to the higher judiciary.



- the main barriers that women face due to which they do not get appointed to the higher judiciary is the opaque appointment procedure, lack of transparency, absence of an application process
- The underrepresentation of women in the higher judiciary is a result of institutional obstacles and deep-rooted gender biases against women

- The challenges faced by women judges are worsened by the lack of supportive policies to address sexual harassment and discrimination.
- This not only affects women lawyers in the High Court and Supreme Court who do not get equal opportunities for advancement in the legal profession, it is also women and gender diverse law students and future lawyers who do not get to see enough role models for themselves in positions of leadership in the judiciary

DIFFERENCE IN BRAZIL AND INDIA PARDON POWER

In Brazil, a pardon, or *indulto*, is a constitutional power held by the president and is typically granted through an annual decree around Christmastime

The annual Christmas pardon

- The presidential Christmas pardon is a traditional act of clemency intended to address poor prison conditions and aid the reintegration of inmates into society
- Sets clear and specific criteria for eligible prisoners, including the type of crime committed

Limitations and controversies

- While the president's power to issue pardons is constitutional, it is not without limits and has been the subject of several legal and political challenges.

Corruption scandals:

The use of pardons in cases involving corruption has been highly controversial. For example, a 2017 decree by then-President Michel Temer that expanded the scope of pardons drew public and prosecutorial anger

- politically motivated pardon, to political figures like former President Jair Bolsonaro has spurred large protests in Brazil.

- The Constitution prohibits pardons for people convicted of "heinous crimes," including torture, terrorism, and drug trafficking.
- **Judicial oversight:** The judiciary can review and suspend parts of a pardon decree if they are challenged on constitutional grounds

The Indian government can grant pardons through the President under Article 72 and the Governors under Article 161 of the Constitution, typically on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

PRESIDENT'S POWERS (ARTICLE 72)

- **Scope:** Pardons, reprieves, respites, remissions, suspension, or commutation of sentences for offenses related to Union laws, court-martials, or death penalties.
- **Death Penalty:** The President is the only authority who can pardon a death sentence.
- **How it works:** The President must act on the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- **Judicial review:** The Supreme Court has held that this power is subject to limited judicial review to ensure it is not exercised arbitrarily.

GOVERNOR'S POWERS (ARTICLE 161)

- **Scope:** Pardons, reprieves, respites, remissions, suspension, or commutation of sentences for offenses against state laws.
- **Death Penalty:** The Governor cannot pardon a death sentence, but can suspend or commute it.
- **How it works:** The Governor acts on the advice of the state's Council of Ministers.
- **Judicial review:** Like the President's power, the Governor's power is subject to judicial review for arbitrariness.

A CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION (CSO)

A civil society organization (CSO) or non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level.

Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, civil society organisations (CSOs) perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizens' concerns to Governments, monitor policies, and encourage political participation at the community level.

CSOs provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements, including Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Typically, they are organized around specific issues, such as the UN pillars of peace and security, human rights, and development. CSOs often promote UN observances and international years and decades established by the General Assembly to focus world attention on important issues facing humanity.

Example: Civil society, political, environmental organisations and local communities have come together to raise their voice against the waste to energy (WTE) plants in Jawaharnagar and Dundigal, saying they grossly violated the standards prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

TIMELINE FOR THE GOVERNOR TO TAKE A FINAL DECISION ON A BILL

CONTEXT:The Supreme Court had fixed a timeline of three months for the Governor to take a final decision on a Bill submitted to him. The same timeline was made applicable to the President of India also.

The government argument ,The Court cannot direct the Governor or the President, who are high constitutional authorities, to act within a specified time when the Constitution does not have any such time frame.

- the Government of India Act, 1935. Section 75 of this Act is substantially the same as Article 200. Section 75 uses the words “the governor in his **discretion**”
- no time limit has been prescribed by Articles 200 or 201.

Article 200

Article 200 of the Constitution has four options for the Governor when a Bill is presented to him. These options are to assent to the Bill; to withhold assent; return the Bill to the Assembly with a request to reconsider the Bill as a whole or certain clauses, or reserve it for the consideration of the President.

whether the Governor has any discretion in the exercise Article 200?

- Article 163, the Governor functions on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers except in matters specified by or under the Constitution.

Example: The Court has, in cases from *Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab* (1974), to *Nabam Rebia* (2016), the Governor to perform the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.

- The Sarkaria Commission and Punchhi Commission too reiterated this well-recognised constitutional principle.
- So, the question of crucial importance in this context is whether the Governor, while exercising any of the options under Article 200, can act in his discretion. .
- In Article 200 omits the words “in his discretion”.

The issue of discretion.

- The Court, in *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor Of Tamilnadu and Anr* (2025), did not accept the idea of a Governor exercising his discretion in withholding assent to the Bill.
- in the U. K, the sovereign has no power to withhold a Bill without the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- **implication:**the Governor sitting on Bills passed by the legislature for years creates a situation where in the government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.
- Article 355 imposes a duty upon the Union to direct the Governor to perform his constitutional duty under Article 200.

Solution:

The judgments in the two recent cases, namely, *State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to the Governor*(2023) Judges interpret the Constitution and clarify the legal ambiguities, and in that process also **create new rules**.

Thus, to meet a new situation which posed a serious challenge to the constitutional order, are amending the Constitution.