

## France Pension Bill [UPSC Current Affairs]

In March 2023, protests erupted across France just after the government adopted highly disliked pension reforms after surviving two no-confidence votes. What is the new proposed pension legislation of the French government? Read on to know more.

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### What is the proposed Pension Reform in France?

- It raised the retirement age in France from 62 to 64.
- The proposed changes will be gradually implemented.
- The age will increase by three months each year until 2030.
- People in physically or mentally arduous jobs will maintain the right to retire early.
- From 2027, the majority of the workers will have to make social security contributions over 43 years rather than 42 years in order to draw a full pension.
- Similarly, the United States is gradually raising its retirement age to 67, and Britain plans to raise the age to 68 between 2037 and 2039.

### Why does the government say change is needed?

- The French government says that the proposed reform is required to keep the pension budget in check.
- The country's pension system costs approximately 14% of the GDP, making it the third highest within the [OECD](#) behind Italy and Greece.
- The existing pension system will record an annual deficit of 13.5 billion euros by 2030, as per the government's forecasts.

### Why are people protesting against the new pension bill?

- The government's move to use Article 49.3 of the Constitution sparked more protests and led to two failed no-confidence votes.
- Article 49.3 allows governments to bypass the National Assembly and force through bills without a vote and is widely held as undemocratic.
- The protestors have taken various means such as strikes across public services and blockades to draw the attention of the world media.

### Way forward:

- The central government needs to uphold the deep constitutional values of France while framing any laws having long-lasting repercussions for the masses. French society has been a symbol of beautiful, functioning democracy for quite long and therefore the displeasure of the public must be taken into consideration going forward.