

Menaka Guruswamy Becomes India's First Openly Queer MP

Why in the News?



<https://cdn.testbook.com/1775626488969-menika.jpg/1775626490.jpeg>

Senior advocate **Menaka Guruswamy** took oath as a member of the **Rajya Sabha** on **April 6, 2026**, becoming the first openly queer Member of Parliament in India.

Key Highlights

- **Political Representation:**
 - Elected as a representative from the state of **West Bengal**.
 - Represented the **All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)** party.
- **Legal Career:**
 - Served as a senior advocate in the **Supreme Court of India**.
 - Acted as the lead lawyer for petitioners in the landmark **2018** case that decriminalized homosexuality by reading down **Section 377** of the IPC.
 - Joined the bar in **1997** and worked under former Attorney General **Ashok Desai**.
- **Global Recognition:**
 - Named in **TIME's 100 Most Influential People** in **2019** alongside lawyer Arundhati Katju.

Additional Information

- **Rajya Sabha:**
 - Established under **Article 80** of the Constitution of India.
 - A permanent house where **one-third** of members retire every **second year**.
 - Members are elected for a term of **6 years**.
 - The **Vice President of India** is the **Ex-officio Chairman**.
- **Section 377 (IPC):**
 - A colonial-era law introduced in **1861**.
 - Struck down for consensual acts between adults by a five-judge bench in the **Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India** case in **2018**.
- **Menaka Guruswamy:**
 - Daughter of **Mohan Guruswamy**, a former advisor to the **Union Finance Minister**.
 - First openly queer individual to hold a seat in the **Indian Parliament**.