



05 March 2024

National and International News

Women, Business and Law Index



Context:

India has improved its ranking to **113 out of 190 countries** in the World Bank's Women, Business and Law index.

Key points:

- The index, which measures the **enabling environment for women's economic opportunity** in 190 economies, assesses how laws and regulations impact women's economic **rights on a scale of 0 to 100, where 100 signifies equal legal rights for men and women.**
- The report evaluates **eight key areas:** Mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, assets, and pension.
- This is the **10th edition of the report.**
- Globally, no country achieved a perfect score, indicating a lack of equal rights for women worldwide.
- Indian women enjoy 60% of the legal rights given to men, which is lower than the **global average of 64.2%.**

Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor - Kalpakkam



India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu

Context:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the **Kalpakkam nuclear power plant** and observed the commencement of "core loading" at India's first indigenous **Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe).**

Key points:

- In 2003, the government approved the creation of **Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (BHAVINI)** to operate India's most advanced nuclear reactor, the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR).
- The **PFBR**, fully designed and constructed indigenously by BHAVINI with contributions from 200 Indian industries, is a significant achievement.
- Once commissioned, **India will be the second country, after Russia, to have a commercial operating Fast Breeder Reactor.**
- The **PFBR is an advanced third-generation reactor** with inherent passive safety features, ensuring high levels of safety.



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PFBR:

- The PFBR, which **breeds more material for nuclear fission than it consumes**, is a key project of India's nuclear power programme.
- Initially, the **reactor will use uranium-plutonium mixed oxide (MOX) fuel**.
- The **uranium-238 'blanket'** surrounding the fuel core will undergo **nuclear transmutation to produce more fuel**, earning the name '**Breeder**'.
- The use of **Thorium-232** as a blanket is also envisaged.
- Through transmutation, **Thorium will create fissile Uranium-233 for use as fuel in the third stage**.
- FBR is a stepping stone for the third stage, leading to the full utilization of India's abundant thorium reserves.
- After core loading, the **reactor will approach criticality, generating power subsequently**. **PFBRs are cooled by liquid sodium**, with 1,750 tonnes of liquid sodium to be loaded into the reactor.
- India chose the closed fuel cycle option for this reactor, where spent fuel is reprocessed and converted into indigenously-developed unique plutonium-rich mixed carbide fuel.

• Yars Missile



Context:

- Russia recently conducted a fire test of its nuclear ballistic Yars missile.

Key points:

- The **RS-24 Yars** is an **intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)** in Russia's Strategic Missile Forces arsenal.
- It has an **operational range of up to 12,000 kilometers**, making it one of the longest-range missiles globally.
- The RS-24 Yars features a **Multiple Independently targetable Reentry Vehicle (MIRV) system**.
- This allows it to carry multiple nuclear warheads, enhancing its strategic deterrence capability.
- The RS-24 Yars replaces the **older Topol and Topol-M missile systems**.
- It exists in **both mobile and silo-based forms** to increase flexibility and reliability.

ICBM:

- An intercontinental ballistic missile is a **ballistic**



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Narasapur crochet lace



missile with a range greater than 5,500 kilometres, primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery.

- Maximum range varies from 7,000 to 16,000 kilometers, according to the Federation of American Scientists.
- Compared to other types of ballistic missiles, ICBMs are significantly **faster and have a greater range**.
- **Agni-V**, an Indian ICBM, has a range of over 5,000 kilometers.

Context:

- The Narasapur crochet lace craft, famous in the **Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh**, has received the **Geographical Indications (GI) tag from DPIIT**.
- The GI tag aims to revive the craft and boost its demand, especially against competition from machine-made lace products from China.

Key points:

- Originated in **1844** when Macrae and his wife from Scotland taught the lace-making technique to local women at Dummugudem, Telangana.
- The craft is limited to **19 mandals in West Godavari** and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema districts in the Godavari region.
- Major trade points include **Narsapur, Palacole, Razole, and Amalapuram**, involving around 15,000 women in production.

GI Tags in Andhra Pradesh

- Srikalahasthi Kalamkari
- Kondapalli Bommallu
- Machilipatnam Kalamkari
- Budithi Bell & Brass Metal Craft
- Andhra Pradesh Leather Puppetry
- Uppada Jamdani Sarees
- Tirupathi Laddu
- Guntur Sannam Chilli
- Venkatagiri Sarees
- Bobbili Veena
- Mangalagiri Sarees and Fabrics
- Dharmavaram Handloom
- Pattu Sarres And Paavadas
- Bandar Laddu
- Udayagiri Wooden Cutlery
- Durgi Stone Carvings
- Etikoppaka Toys



- Allagadda Stone Carving
- Atreyapuram Pootharekulu
- Araku Valley Arabica Coffee
- Banaganapalle Mangoes

Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' receives GI tag



Context:

After a year of Tripura's queen pineapple receiving the GI tag, 'risa,' a traditional tribal attire, has also been granted the GI recognition, as announced by Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha in Agartala.

Historical Significance:

- The attire is claimed to have originated before the **Manikya kings' rule over Tripura**, which lasted **over 500 years starting from the 15th century**.
- Maharaj Trilochana, also known as Subhrai Raja, is said to have invented nearly 250 designs of '**rignai**' during his time for his 250 wives.

Features of Tripura's Traditional Attire:

- The traditional Tripuri female attire consists of three parts: '**risa**,' '**rignai**,' and '**rikutu**.'
- '**Risa**' is a handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment, headgear, stole, or a present to express respect. It is wrapped around the torso twice.
- '**Rignai**' is primarily worn as the lower garment, similar to the sari of mainland India.
- '**Rikutu**' is mainly used as a wrap, 'chunri,' or 'pallu' of the Indian saree, also used to cover the heads of newly married Tripuri women.

Cultural and Religious Significance:

- '**Risa**' is worn in religious festivals such as Garia Puja by tribal communities and as a turban by men during weddings and festivals.
- Adolescent **Tripuri girls are first given a 'risa' to wear in an event called Risa Sormani, at ages 12 to 14.**
- The cloth is also used as a makeshift hanger to hold an infant on mothers' backs and is presented as a mark of honor to distinguished recipients.
- '**Risa**' is common in almost all **19 indigenous tribal communities of Tripura**, with each community having its own design.



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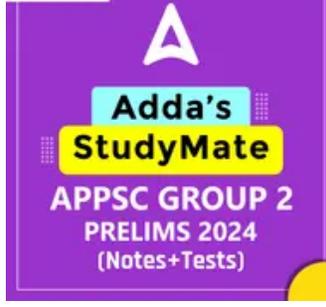
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