



05 March 2024

National and International News

Women, Business and Law Index



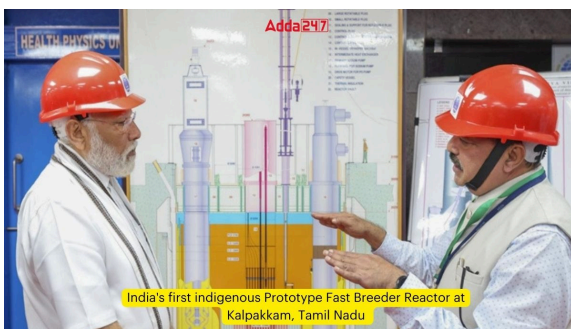
Context:

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



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,



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ensuring high levels of safety.

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.



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Narasapur crochet lace



ICBM:

- An intercontinental ballistic missile is a **ballistic 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



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



- Durgi Stone Carvings
- Etikoppaka Toys
- Allagadda Stone Carving
- Atreyapuram Pootharekulu
- Araku Valley Arabica Coffee
- Banaganapalle Mangoes

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.

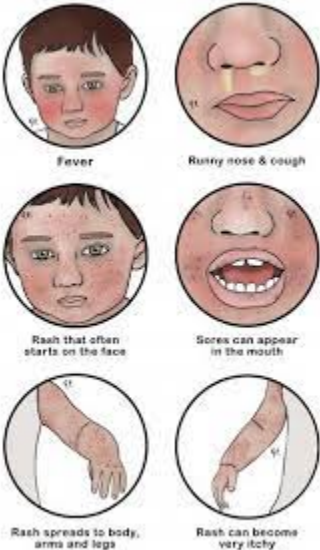


Kerala Regional News

<p>Nilgiri Tahrs spotted for first time at Chimmony sanctuary</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Nilgiri Tahrs were spotted at Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary in the district for the first time • This discovery raises hopes for the conservation of this species as it indicates an extension of their habitat range. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total population of the Tahr does not exceed 2,000 at present and a conservative estimate would place the numbers within the 1,800-2,000 range (IUCN) <p>Did you Know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among 12 ungulate (hoofed mammal) species found in India, the Nilgiri Tahr is the only mountain dweller found in Southern India. <p>IUCN Red List Status: Endangered</p>
<p>Inauguration of school textbook distribution in Kerala next week</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state-level inauguration of Kerala's school textbook distribution will be held next week on March 12th, 2024 • This event will be held at the Government Higher Secondary School for Girls in Thiruvananthapuram • Printing of 1.43 crore textbooks for Classes II, IV, VI, VII, and X for 2024-25 academic year has been completed • This initiative aims to provide students with ample time to access and study their learning materials in advance of the new academic year.
<p>Kerala Agricultural University inks MoU with AIR Thiruvananthapuram</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has become the brand sponsor of the popular farming program "Vayalum Veedum" broadcast on All India Radio Thiruvananthapuram station. • This collaboration was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by both parties. • This partnership aims to leverage the reach of All India Radio to disseminate agricultural knowledge and best practices to farmers across Kerala.



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	<p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Vayalum Veedum" program, meaning "Farm and Home" in Malayalam, focuses on providing valuable information and resources to farmers on various agricultural topics.
<p>Over 73,000 names newly added to voters' list in Thiruvananthapuram district</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 73,330 individuals have been newly added to the voters' list in the district since July 21, 2023. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the latest figures, the district has 27,82,800 voters including 13,20,017 women, 14,62,691 men and 92 transgender voters. The list includes 25,416 persons with disabilities, 28,598 young voters, and 78,032 voters aged above 80. Thiruvananthapuram district has 2,730 polling booths. Also, 65,342 names have been removed from the list. This includes deceased voters, duplication of names, people who have moved away and absentee voters
<p>Chickenpox cases go up in Ernakulam district</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ernakulam District, Kerala has seen a recent increase in chickenpox cases, with 246 and 273 cases reported in January and February 2024, respectively. The district health department has advised residents to be cautious, particularly those with comorbidities, children, and the elderly, who are most at risk of serious complications. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chickenpox, also known as varicella, is a highly contagious disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus (VZV). Symptoms: Itchy rash, fever, fatigue, headache Transmission: Airborne and through contact with infected individuals Complications: Pneumonia, encephalitis (brain inflammation), bacterial skin infections
<p>World Obesity Day</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Obesity Day, held annually on March 4th, is a unified day of action to raise awareness and



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encourage solutions to address the global obesity crisis.

About:

- The inaugural World Obesity Day was held on **March 4th, 2015**.
- It was established by the **World Obesity Federation**
- lit aimed to **bring global attention to the rising issue of obesity** and encourage collaborative efforts to address it

Theme:

- The World Obesity Day 2024 theme is **“Let's Talk About Obesity and...”**
- This theme emphasizes to encourage people to **start conversations that address obesity from a cross-cutting perspective.**
- The idea is to look at health, youth, and the world as a whole in order to find ways to combat obesity together.

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