

NEWS TODAY

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S (WEF) GENDER GAP REPORT- 2023

• As per the latest report, **India has been ranked at 127 out of 146 countries in terms of gender equality.**

➤ India has **improved 1.4% points and 8 places from its earlier rank of 135 from 2022 index.**

• **Key Highlights of the report:**

➤ At the current rate of progress, **it will take 131 years to reach full parity.**

➤ **Iceland with 91.2% takes the top spot** along with **Norway (87.9%) and Finland (86.3%)**

➤ India has attained better parity in education enrolment

▪ However, it has reached **only 36.7% parity on Economic Participation and Opportunity and 25.3% parity On Political Empowerment.**

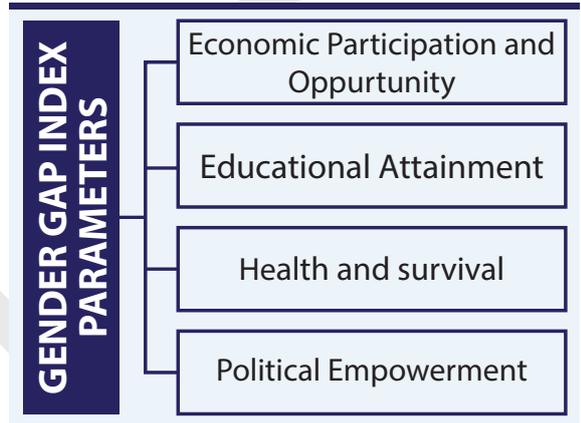
➤ Bangladesh (59), China (107), Nepal (116), Sri Lanka (115) and Bhutan (103) fared better than India on Gender parity.

• **Govt initiatives to improve Gender Parity:**

➤ **To improve Economic Participation and Health & Survival:** Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna, Sukanya Samridhi Yojna.

➤ **To improve Education attainment:** Samagra Shiksha initiative, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas.

➤ **To improve political participation:** Govt has reserved 33% of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women.



GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL ASSESSMENT AND INDEX (GRAI) 2022 LAUNCHED

• **GRAI 2022** is conceptualised and designed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Govt. of India.**

➤ It **assessed and ranked** various departments based on a **comprehensive index** in the dimensions of **Efficiency, Feedback, Domain and Organisational Commitment** and the corresponding 12 indicators.

➤ Eighty-nine Central Ministries and Departments were assessed and ranked based on a comprehensive index.

➤ **GRAI has highlighted that** time taken in disposing of grievances declined from 32 days in 2021 to 18 days in 2023.

➤ Data between January and December 2022, was used from the **Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System (CPGRAMS).**

• **About CPGRAMS**

➤ CPGRAMS is an **online platform** that aims to **enable submission of grievances** by the aggrieved citizens from anywhere and anytime (24x7).

➤ Tracking grievances is facilitated through the system **generated unique registration number.**

➤ Available in **22 scheduled languages along with English.**

➤ In **2022, the Government implemented the 10-step reforms of CPGRAMS**

▪ It included Universalization of **CPGRAMS 7.0, Technological Enhancements using AI/ML, etc.**

CPGRAMS Reforms 7.0: Benefits

Citizen friendly / Questionnaire guided registration process

The process re-engineering would enable both identification of gaps between policy and delivery and enable grievance analysis

Capturing of grievance precisely through drop-down menus.

• Automatic Escalation of grievance to next higher level in case not resolved by the field office
• Will enable supervision & monitoring by higher levels.



Reduction in redressal time because the grievance is mapped to the concerned redressal office/officer by circumventing the line offices/officers in the system thus restricting their role to that of an advisory/supervisory

BONN CLIMATE MEET CONCLUDED IN DUBAI

- It was held to set the agenda and preparation for CoP 28 to be held at Dubai.
- **Key Discussions during the conference:**
 - **A draft framework for Global Stocktake (GST) was released**
 - It is an exercise **aimed at assessing countries progress against climate change**, and deciding ways and means to enhance global action against climate change.
 - **The first GST will take place in CoP 28** as mandated by the 2015 Paris agreement.
 - **The Mitigation Work Programme (MWP):** It was set up at **COP26 in Glasgow** in 2021 for climate action focusing on increasing emission cuts.
 - **The developing countries complained that the developed countries are yet to offer finance and technology transfers** to achieve their emission targets.
 - **Loss and Damage Principle:** It was a **result of CoP27**.
 - Developed and Developing countries were divided on how it would be funded.
 - **The New Collective Qualified Goals (NCQG)** which was **agreed upon by the 2015 Paris conference for climate financing prior to 2025 is set to miss its target**.
 - The **Developed countries are reluctant and called for viewing NCQG as a "collective goal"** for all developed and developing countries.

Related News:

- **European Investment Bank, is expected to back 'Debt for Nature Swap'** this year
 - **Debt for Nature Swap, is an arrangement in which countries cut their debt in return for conservation commitments.**

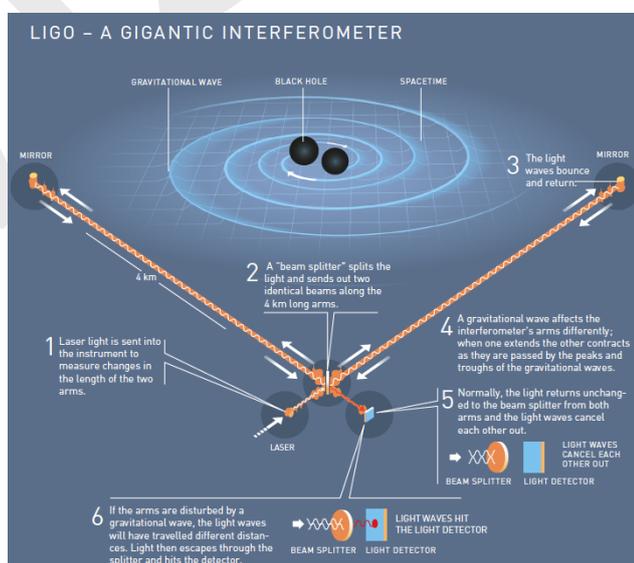
CERN IS HELPING TO BUILD EINSTEIN TELESCOPE

- The Einstein Telescope Collaboration has entered into an agreement with CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) for the design of the detector's vacuum system.
- **Einstein Telescope (ET):**
 - It is a proposed underground infrastructure (at least 200 m beneath the surface) **to host a third-generation, gravitational-wave observatory.**
- It is **proposed to have** a 10km arm length detector over the existing 3km detector in Virgo.
- **The experiment will send a laser beam down into the 120-km-long triangular-shaped tunnel**, which will be then split into two beams reflected by mirrors.
- **Improvement over the second generation observatories:**
 - **The current LIGO and VIRGO interferometers can detect black hole mergers and gravitational waves from 10 bn light-years away.**
 - Whereas the **ET is supposed to spot blackhole mergers at the end of the observable universe at 45 bn light years.**

• Gravitational waves:

- Gravitational waves are **'ripples' in space-time caused by some of the most violent and energetic processes in the Universe.**

- **Proposed by Albert Einstein in his general theory of relativity, they were first observed in 2015 by the LIGO observatory.**



GOVT WITHDRAWS DRAFT LIVESTOCK BILL

- The government has **withdrawn** 'the Livestock Products Bill, 2023' **due to concerns raised by animal activists.**
 - As a result the existing Live-stock importation Act, 1898, and **Live-stock Importation (Amendment) Act of 2001** will continue to regulate the livestock.
- **Livestock Importation Act 1898:**
 - The **Central Government has the right to regulate, restrict or prohibit the import of any livestock** which may be liable to be infected.
 - The **Customs officers shall have the powers to implement the Govt's order.**
 - The **State Government may also make rules for the imported live-stock** within its jurisdiction.
 - The last amendment was done in 2001, which **altered the definition of livestock products** and also included the provisions of the Customs Act 1962.
- **Need to Replace the 1898 Act**
 - The earlier Act regulates only **importation of live-stock and does not cover exports.**
 - It lacks power to **make arrangements for promotion** and development of exports of **live-stock and live-stock products.**
 - Scope of **definition of live-stock is limited**, it does not include feline and canines.
 - To curb zoonotic diseases arising out of import and export of livestock.

UNDP AND DAY-NULM ENTERED INTO A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

- The partnership between UN Development Program and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood mission is aimed at empowering women to make **well-informed career choices** in the field of entrepreneurship.
 - Women account for **only 15 percent of the total entrepreneurs** in India.
 - It will provide support for women looking to **start and expanding their own enterprises**, particularly in sectors like care economy, digital economy, electric mobility, waste management etc.
 - It is a three-year project, extendable beyond 2025 and will cover **eight cities in the initial phase**.
 - It will aid in developing community **business mentors called Biz-Sakhis** in selected project locations.
- **About DAY-NULM:**
 - It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** being implemented by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
 - **Objective:**
 - Aims at **universal coverage of the urban poor** for skill development and credit facilities.
 - Strives for skills training of the urban poor for **market-based jobs and self-employment, facilitating easy access to credit**.
 - Extends its coverage to **all the 4,041 statutory cities and towns**, thereby covering most of India's urban population.

ALSO IN NEWS



Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2021

- **Ministry of Women and Child Development (WMCD)** has said that 858 orders of adoptions have been issued after the **implementation of Juvenile Justice (JJ) (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2021**.
- **Key Provisions of the Amendment:**
 - **District Magistrates**, instead of courts have the **power to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act, 2015**.
 - They have also been empowered to **ensure the completion of the adoption process and support children** in distress.
 - Any childcare institution will be registered **only after considering the recommendations of the District Magistrate**.



NATO Plus grouping

- An American Senator has said he plans to introduce a bill to **make India part of the NATO Plus grouping**.
 - However, India had earlier **already rejected the framework**.
- NATO Plus (currently NATO Plus 5) is a security arrangement that brings **together NATO and five aligned nations** (Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel and South Korea) to boost **defence and intelligence ties**.



INDIA-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)

- **The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the Indian Ministry of Defense (MoD) have launched the INDUS-X**
 - It aims to **expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation** between governments, businesses, and academic institutions.
- It will pay the way to:
 - **Enhance connectivity between American and Indian defence startups**.
 - **Explore joint opportunities in high-tech defence** innovation, research, and development
 - **Strengthen bilateral trade relationships and defense establishment linkages**
 - Creation of **Indo-U.S. Joint Innovation Fund** for the funding of the defence startups

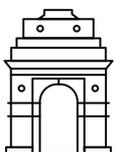


Kalasa-Banduri project

- Recently, tenders floated for implementation of **Kalasa Banduri project** were put out **without obtaining forest and environment clearance**.
- **About Kalasa-Banduri project:**
 - Aims to divert water from **two tributaries of the Mahadayi river** (also known as Mandovi): Kalasa and Banduri to the **Malaprabha river**.
 - Mahadayi originates in the **Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary** in Belagavi district of Karnataka, and **flows into the Arabian Sea in Goa**.
 - Entire project aims to **construct several dams** on the river Mandovi.
 - Aimed at **facilitating drinking water** for towns in drought-hit northern Karnataka.



 <p>Consumer Price Index Agricultural and Rural Labourers (CPI-AL/RL)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-India Consumer Price Index Number for Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers (CPI-AL/RL) was released by the Labour Bureau under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Base year of CPI-AL/RL is 1986-87. ➤ It covers data from 600 sample villages selected from 20 States every month, by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
 <p>Gangotri National Park (GNP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The Park is located in the Uttarkashi District region of the state of Uttarakhand in northern India. Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is known for its mountainous landscape, forests, and glaciers. ➤ Gaumukh glacier, the origin of river Ganges is located inside the park. ➤ Flora: Pine, Deodar, Fir, spruce, oak, rhododendrons etc. ➤ Fauna: Blue sheep, black bear, brown bear, Himalayan Monal, Himalayan snowcock, Himalayan thar, musk deer and snow leopard etc.
 <p>Medical Waste disposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientists from IIT-Guwahati have proposed that the use of compost natural clay can neutralise pathogens in medical waste. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They have observed that while using compacted clays like bentonite and kaolin the Viral contamination reduces to 99.6%. The Biomedical Waste Management Rules 2016, provides the current guidelines for medical waste management in the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The respective State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/ Pollution Control Committee is responsible for its implementation.
 <p>Superconductor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A superconductor is a material that achieves superconductivity, which is a state of matter that has no electrical resistance and does not allow magnetic fields to penetrate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An electric current in a superconductor can persist indefinitely. Superconductors exhibit Meissner Effect (Expulsion of Magnetic Field), when it is cooled below the critical temperature. Applications: Medical diagnosis, super-fast maglev trains etc.
 <p>Biodegradable Paper Supercapacitor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientists at Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) have developed the thinnest, lightweight and biodegradable paper-based supercapacitor. Supercapacitor is an electrochemical charge storage device with a fast charging/discharging cycle, high power density and a longer lifecycle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It has been developed from seaweed (marine macroalgae). Seaweed is the common name for countless species of marine plants and algae that grow in the ocean as well as in rivers, lakes, and other water bodies.
 <p>Personality in News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savitribai Jyotirao Phule (1831- 1897) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Savitribai Jyotirao Phule was a prominent social reformer, educationist and poet. ➤ She is credited for founding the first girl's school in Pune with her husband Jyotirao Phule. Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Took effort towards educating and emancipating child widows, campaigned against child marriage and sati pratha, and advocated for widow remarriage. ➤ She started the Mahila Seva Mandal. ➤ Started a care center called 'Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha'. ➤ Associated with a social reform society called 'Satyashodhak Samaj' founded by Jyotirao in, 1873. Values: Compassion, Justice, etc.



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



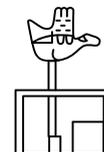
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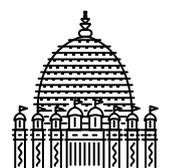
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI