



# 25-06-2024 NEWS

## Water sharing agreement with Bangladesh

- The two leaders discussed the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Sharing Agreement and the conservation and management of the Teesta River.
- The India-Bangladesh River Ganga Water Sharing Agreement expires in 2026.
- It has been reported that Bangladesh has held talks with the Prime Minister to renew this.
- West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee has said that It is not acceptable to hold consultations in this matter without consulting the concerned state government.
- The people of West Bengal will be severely affected by this deal.
- The Government of West Bengal has been cooperating with Bangladesh on various issues including rail and bus services.
- But water is a livelihood issue for the people of the state. Therefore, there can be no compromise on this.

## Maternity leave for six months for surrogacy

- The Central Civil Service (Leave) Rules 1972 Act has been amended and this 6 months leave provision has been introduced.
- According to this law, a mother who has a child through a surrogate mother is entitled to 180 days (6 months) maternity leave. It has been announced that the child's father will also be given 15 days leave.
- Under this scheme, it has been announced that 180 days of maternity leave will be granted to both the surrogate mother and the mother to whom the child is given, if one or both of whom are government employees and have less than 2 children.
- The new rules allow the surrogate father to take 15 days leave within 6 months of the birth if he is a government employee and has less than 2 children.
- Apart from that, a surrogate mother is allowed to take child care leave if she has less than 2 children as per Central Civil Services (Leave) New Rules 2024.
- As per the existing rules, child care leave for a female Government servant and a male Government servant who is a single parent or parent of two children are granted a total of 730 days leave in their total service period.

## Should we wait 134 years for gender equality?

- In the global gender gap report published by the World Economic Forum, India has fallen two points from last year and is ranked 129th.
- Disappointingly, India ranks in the bottom 20 out of 146 countries included in the survey.
- India has a long way to go to close the gender gap (64.1%) compared to the world average (68.5%).

### **134 years**

- The study was conducted focusing on four main points namely political power, Economic participation, Opportunities are provided, Education, Health.
- In the last one year we have achieved only 0.1% growth globally.
- If we travel in the same way. We have to wait another 134 years for women and men to achieve equality.

- While India has made some progress in terms of education and political participation, it is the inadequacy of these that has led us to regress in the overall gender gap.
- India ranks 124th with a 17.2% gap in literacy between males and females. Similarly, India is among the top 10 countries in terms of state leadership. India is lagging far behind in not giving opportunities to women in the Cabinet, Legislature-Parliaments etc.
- This is evidenced by the number of female members elected in the Lok Sabha elections compared to 2019 (78) this year only 74 women were elected.
- India is making some progress in sharing economic opportunities. By focusing on this we can bridge the gender gap somewhat faster.

### **Women in the labour market**

- The participation of women in the labor market is 45.9%. Government should take care to raise this.
- Ensuring higher education for women, creating jobs, creation of optimal working environment (including adequate number of sanitary toilets, menstrual leave, internal complaint committee to prevent sexual harassment at workplace, equal pay for equal work etc.).
- Creating an enabling environment for women to continue working after marriage (including paid maternity leave, flexible working hours), and enabling men to share housework can increase women's participation in the labor market.
- These are some of the ways to increase women's participation in the labour market.

### **Srinagar is recognized as the World Craft City**

- This prestigious recognition is a legacy of Srinagar. Further this will enhance the artistry and dedication of artisans.
- This will improve tourism and infrastructure in the area along with development of handloom and handicrafts sectors.
- Local artisans also get opportunities to do business in international markets.

### **Resolution in the Legislature to change the state name to Keralam**

- An Unanimous resolution was passed in the state assembly urging the central government to officially change the name of the state of Kerala to 'Kerala'.
- The demand for the formation of 'Kerala' which united the Malayalam speaking communities arose during the freedom struggle.
- The state known as Kerala in Malayalam is written as 'Kerala' in the First Schedule of the Constitution.
- Under Article 3 of the Constitution of India, the central government should amend the name of the state to Kerala.
- He also said that the name of the state should be changed to 'Keralam' in the Indian languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

