

28-02-2023

Top court refuses plea on menstrual leave

Why in Newspapers?

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to hear a petition related to menstrual leave. The petition sought **framing of rules for granting menstrual leave to working women and girl students in all states.**

Quick Issue?

- The matter comes under the policies of the State Governments, a bench headed by **Justice DY Chandrachud** said that the **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** has the right to take a decision in this matter.



Historical Background?

- The court called it a policy matter and said that **leave for menstrual distress** has different dimensions and **may discourage employers from hiring women employees.**
- Menstrual leave, also known as menstrual leave, **refers to all policies that allow female employees or students to take leave due to menstrual pain or discomfort.**
- **Countries promoting menstrual leave:** - Spain, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea, Zambia, South Korea and Vietnam.
- **Spain** is the **first European country** to offer paid menstrual leave to female employees, which includes a **holiday entitlement of three days per month**, which can be extended to five days.
- Some companies in India have introduced menstrual leave policies, including Zomato, which announced **10 days of paid period leave annually in the year 2020.**
- Other companies like **Swiggy and Byju's** have followed suit.

Other Key Facts?

The Right of Women to Menstrual Leave and Free Access to Menstrual Health Products Bill, 2022

- The proposed bill provides for **three days paid leave** for women and trans women during periods of menstruation and seeks to make it beneficial for girl students as well.
- The Bill cites research that indicates that **about 40% of girls do not miss school during their periods** and about **65% said it affects their daily activities at school.**

- **Bihar and Kerala** are the only Indian states to have introduced menstrual leave policies for women.
- Kerala recently announced that **menstrual and maternity leave would be provided to girl students in universities** under the state's higher education department, and a school in Kerala has started a similar system.
- The **Menstrual Leave and Menstrual Health Products Bills** have been introduced in Parliament, but are yet to be ratified.

Mizoram Refugee Crisis

Why in Newspapers?

A resolution passed in the Mizoram Assembly on Friday said that these **refugees are brothers and sisters of the Mizo people**. So it is the responsibility of the Mizoram government to make arrangements for their stay and food. The Mizoram government has requested the central government that **Border Security Force (BSF)** personnel should not stop those refugees from crossing the border.

Quick Issue?

- More than five hundred people who fled **Bangladesh's Bandarban** have taken shelter in **Mizoram, India**.
- He says that he fled to India to escape the operation launched by the **Bangladesh Army against the Kuki Chin National Army**.

Historical Background?

- More than five hundred people who fled Bangladesh's Bandarban have taken shelter in Mizoram, India.
- He says that he fled to India to escape the operation launched by the Bangladesh army against the **Kuki Chin National Army**.
- Most of these refugees are from the **Bam tribes (Christians)**, along with some people from the **Tangtanga tribe**.
- These Bangladeshi nationals, including women, have taken shelter in large villages in southern Mizoram.
- According to the Bangladesh Police, these people are not part of Bangladesh, but have gone across the border due to security.

Why these borders are entering India?



- These people are **leaving Bangladesh and entering Mizoram following armed conflict between the Bangladeshi army and the Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA)**, an ethnic insurgent group.
- This campaign is being carried out by the **Bangladeshi army against the Kuki Chin National Front (KNF)**, whose members are members of this community.
- **Kuki Chin National Front** is a political organization, it also has an armed wing called **Kuki Chin National Army**.
- **Bangladesh Army and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)** are continuously running operations against the same.
- India is not a signatory to the **1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol** and does not recognize the rights of states.
- **Undocumented mergers** entering India can also be prosecuted for **violating the Foreigners Act**.

Other Key Facts?

Cookie-Chin

- The **Kuki-Chin tribe** is found in the hill ranges of **Bangladesh, Mizoram and Myanmar**.
- The Kuki-Chin, Bangladesh are Christian community living in the **Chittagong Hill Tracts** who share close ties with the people of Mizoram.
- The Kuki people worship a god named **Uthen**.
- Traditionally there are **little secrets** in the workings, **each of which is dishonoured by the head**, with the **youngest son of the headdress** inheriting his father's property.
- Chin is the term used for the people of Chin state of Myanmar, Chin in India is called Kuki.
- The **Kuki-Chin tribe** includes groups like **Peiti, Thadau, Vaapi, Gangte, Hamar, Aimol and Monsang**.



Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Why in Newspapers?

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday inaugurated the **19th Annual Zone III Conference of Mandal Mandal Association (CPA) India Region** in Gangtok, Sikkim.

Quick Issue?

- Shri Birla said that **Zone III of the CPA India Region** is an important forum where matters of ghost regions are discussed on a number of topics and issues, and **aspects on common solutions**.
- He said that the **joint efforts of the Legislative Assemblies** of the erstwhile regions have brought drastic changes in the economic and social life of the regions.



Historical Background?

- It is **one of the oldest established organizations** in the Commonwealth. It was established in 1911. It was earlier known as 'Empire Parliamentary Association'.
- The mission of this association is to **promote knowledge** of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy, with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth.
- The headquarters of the **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association** is located in **London**.
- The **highest authority of the Association is the General Assembly**, which is constituted by the delegates of the **annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference**.
- The organization operates **Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP)**, a network across the Commonwealth that promotes greater representation of women in parliament.

Other Key Facts?

This time the conference is focused on three themes:

- Making Parliament and Legislatures more accessible to the public
- Drug abuse and future plans to tackle this menace
- Cyber crime