

Equal pay for men & women cricketers

October 31, 2022

In news- In a landmark move, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that it will be implementing a new pay equity policy for its contracted women cricketers, effectively paying men and women cricketers the same match fees.

Key updates-

- The Honorary Secretary of BCCI said that women cricketers will be paid the same match fee as the men: Test matches at Rs 15 lakhs, ODI matches at Rs 6 lakhs and T20I at Rs 3 lakhs.
- Until now, Indian women's cricketers earned Rs 4 lakhs for test matches, and Rs 1 lakh for T20s and ODIs.
- In cricket, apart from the match-wise fees, there is a **retainership payment system**.
- For women cricketers, Rs 50 lakh for Grade A cricketers, Rs 30 lakh for Grade B and Rs 10 lakh for Grade C cricketers are paid annually apart from the match fees.
- Men cricketers, who play a higher number of games, are paid between Rs 7 crore and Rs 1 crore depending on their grade, starting with an A Plus grade. **There will be no change in this, as of now.**
- **There will also be equity on matters such as travel, accommodation,** and the wider playing and training environment. The men's team also continues to have higher retainers than the women.

Other countries to bring pay parity in sports-

- The **first country to do so was New Zealand in July 2022.**
- New Zealand Cricket, **the governing body for professional**

cricket in the country, and the players' association signed a five-year deal so that both international and domestic level-women players will receive the same match fees as men across all formats and competitions.

- **Australia has also recently begun ambitious plans to popularise cricket in the country in 2022, with a focus on bringing women's cricket on par with men's cricket.**
- **Cricket Australia**, the governing body for professional and amateur cricket in the country, **aims to double the number of boys playing the game in the age group of 5-12 years** to 2,10,000 and quadruple the number of girls in the same age bracket to 60,000.
- It has also increased women's pay significantly in the last few years.
- Similarly, the **Committee of Administrators that runs the affairs of the Table Tennis Federation of India, said in May 2022 that it would offer equal prize money for men and women** in all the national zonal tournaments – including national championships across age groups.
- In another significant step, the **US Soccer Associations for men and women negotiated agreements for equal pay this year as well.**