# Global Gender Gap Index 2022

**For Prelims:** World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Index 2022

**For Mains:** Global Gender Gap Index 2022, Gender, Issues related to women

## Why in News?

Recently, the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** ranked **India at 135 out of 146 countries** in its **Global Gender Gap (GGG) Index for 2022.**

- India's **overall score has improved from 0.625 (in 2021) to 0.629,** which is its **seventh-highest score in the last 16 years.**
    - **In 2021,** India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries.
- The **gender gap** is the difference between women and men as reflected in social, political, intellectual, cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes.

## What is the Global Gender Gap Index?

- **About:**
  - It **benchmarks countries** on their progress **towards gender parity in four Key dimensions with Sub Metrices.**
    - Economic Participation and Opportunity
    - Educational Attainment
    - Health and Survival
    - Political Empowerment
  - On each of the four sub-indices as well as on the overall index the GGG index provides scores between 0 and 1, where **1 shows full gender parity and 0 is complete imparity.**
  - **It is the longest-standing index,** which tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time **since its inception in 2006.**
- **Objectives:**
  - To serve as a compass to track progress on relative gaps between women and men on health, education, economy and politics.
  - Through this annual yardstick, the stakeholders within each country are able to set priorities relevant in each specific economic, political and cultural context.

## What has India Fared on Four Key Dimensions?

- **Political Empowerment (Percentage of Women in Parliament and in Ministerial Positions):**
  - India ranks the highest ($48^{th}$ out of 146).
  - Notwithstanding its rank, its **score is quite low at 0.267.**
    - Some of the best ranking countries in this category score much better.
    - For instance, **Iceland is ranked 1 with a score of 0.874 and Bangladesh is ranked 9 with a score of 0.546.**
- **Economic Participation and Opportunity (Percentage of women in labour force, Wage Equality for similar work, Earned income):**
  - India ranks **a lowly 143 out of the 146 countries** in contention **even though its score has improved over 2021 from 0.326 to 0.350.**
    - In 2021, India was pegged at **151 out of the 156 countries.**
  - India's score is **much lower than the global average,** and only Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan are behind India on this metric.
- **Educational Attainment (Literacy Rate and the Enrolment rates in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education):**
  - India **ranks $107^{th}$ out of 146**, and its score has **marginally worsened since last year.**
    - In 2021, India was **ranked 114 out of 156.**
- **Health and Survival (Sex ratio at birth and Healthy Life Expectancy):**
  - India is **ranked the last (146) among all the countries.**
  - Its score hasn't changed from 2021 when it was ranked 155th out of 156 countries.

## What are the Indian Initiatives to reduce Gender Gap in Social, Economic and Political Life?

- **Economic Participation and Health and Survival:**
  - **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:** It ensures the protection, survival and education of the girl child.
  - **Mahila Shakti Kendra:** Aims to empower rural women with opportunities for skill development and employment.
  - **Mahila Police Volunteers**: It envisages engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers in States/UTs who act as a link between police and community and facilitates women in distress.
  - **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh:** It is an apex micro-finance organization that provides micro-credit at concessional terms to poor women for various livelihood and income generating activities.

    - **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna:** Under this scheme girls have been economically empowered by opening their bank accounts.
    - **Female Entrepreneurship:** To promote female entrepreneurship, the Government has initiated Programmes like Stand-Up India and Mahila e-Haat (online marketing platform to support women entrepreneurs/ SHGs/NGOs), Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESSDP).
    - **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya:** They have been opened in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs).
- **Political Reservation:** Government has reserved 33% of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women.
    - **Capacity Building of Elected Women Representatives:** It is conducted with a view to empowering women to participate effectively in the governance processes.

## What are Global Findings?

- **Ranking:**
    - **Iceland has retained its position as the world's most gender-equal country,** among 146 nations on the index.
    - Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden are the **top five countries** on the list respectively.
    - **Afghanistan is the worst-performing** country in the report.
- **Scenario:**
    - Overall GGG is **closed by 68.1%.** At the current rate of progress, **it will take 132 years to reach full parity.**
    - Although no country achieved full gender parity, the **top 3 economies closed at least 80% of their gender gaps,**
        - Iceland (90.8%)
        - Finland (86%),
        - Norway (84.5%)
    - South Asia will take **the longest to reach gender parity,** which is estimated to be likely in 197 years.
- **Impact of Covid-19:**
    - The progress toward gender parity has been halted and even reversed due to the **Covid-19 pandemic.**
    - Women have borne the **brunt of the** recession**, widely dubbed the 'shecession',** largely because they work in sectors that were most impacted, such as retail and hospitality.
    - The pandemic recession has **hit women harder than the 2009 financial crisis** impacted male workers.

## What is World Economic Forum?

- **About:**
    - The World Economic Forum is the **International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.**
    - It was **established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **Major Reports:**
    - **Energy Transition Index.**
    - **Global Competitiveness Report.**
    - Global IT Report
        - WEF along with INSEAD, and Cornell University publishes this report.
    - **Global Gender Gap Report**
    - Global Risk Report
    - Global Travel and Tourism Report

**Source: TH**

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