



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.

INDIA'S REPORT CARD

Index/sub-index	2022 (146 countries)		2021 (156 countries)	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Global Gender Gap Index	135	0.629	140	0.625
Political empowerment	48	0.267	51	0.276
Economic participation & opportunity	143	0.350	151	0.326
Educational attainment	107	0.961	114	0.962
Health and survival	146	0.937	155	0.937

What is the Global Gender Gap Index?

- **About:**
 - It **benchmarks countries** on their progress **towards gender parity in four Key dimensions with Sub Metrics**.
 - 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 (48th 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 107th 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 Vidyalyaya:** 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 'shcession', 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](#)