



# Women, Business and the Law 2023 Report

**For Prelims:** World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023 (WBL 2023) report, World Bank Group.

**For Mains:** Issues Related to Women in India and world and its effect on development of Human Resource, Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests, Important International Institutions.

## Why in News?

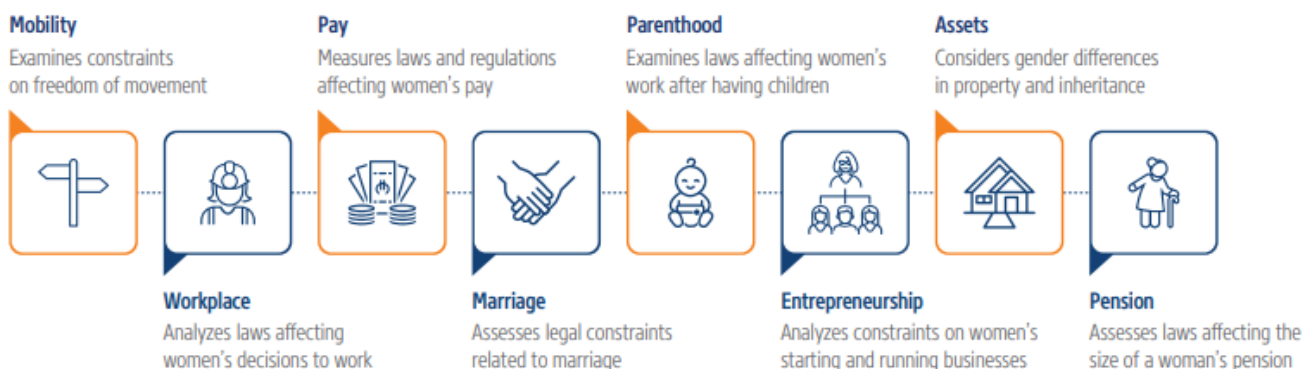
India scored above the regional average in the **World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023 report**. For India, report used data on laws and regulations in Mumbai, India's main business city.

- India received a **perfect score for laws related to freedom of movement, women's work decisions**, and marriage constraints.

## What is Women, Business and the Law 2023 Report?

- About:** Women, Business and the Law 2023 is the 9th in a series of annual reports that analyze laws and regulations affecting women's economic opportunity in **190 economies**.
  - Women, Business and the Law data is available for the period from 1971 to 2023 (calendar years 1970 to 2022)
- Indicators: It has eight indicators-** Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension.

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Source: Women, Business and the Law team.

- Uses:** Data and indicators in Women, Business and the Law 2023, used **to build evidence of the relationship between legal gender equality and women's entrepreneurship and employment**.
  - Since 2009, Women, Business and the Law has been enhancing the study of gender

equality and informing discussions on **improving women's economic opportunities and empowerment.**

## What are Findings of the Report?

### India:

- India as Lower middle Income group country with WBL index score is 74.4 out of 100.
  - 100 representing the highest possible score.
- The **overall score for India is higher than the regional average** observed across South Asia (63.7). Within the South Asia region, **the maximum score observed is 80.6 (Nepal).**
- In India, a thriving civil society also contributed to identifying gaps, drafting legislation, and organizing public opinion through campaigns, discussions, and protests, leading to enactment of the [2005 Domestic Violence Act.](#)

### India - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2023



### Globally:

- Only 14 scored a perfect 100:** Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.
- In 2022, the **global average score is 76.5 out of 100.**
- Nearly **2.4 billion women of working age around the world live in economies** that do not grant them the same rights as men.
- At the current pace of reform, it would take at least 50 years to approach legal gender equality everywhere.
- Progress toward equal treatment for women has fallen to its weakest pace in 20 years.
  - Most reforms focused on increasing paid leave for parents and fathers, removing restrictions on women's work, and mandating equal pay.
  - Progress across the areas measured has also been uneven, with most reforms in Workplace and Parenthood.

## What are the Areas India needs to Focus on?

- Laws affecting pay, pension, inheritance and property rights.** The laws affecting the Indian working woman's pay and pension do not provide for equality with Indian men.
  - To improve on the Pay indicator, **India should mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value**, allowing women to work at night, and allowing women to work in an industrial job in the same way as men.
- In India laws affecting women's pay, laws affecting women's work after having children, constraints on women starting and running a business, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, India could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.
  - For example, **one of the lowest scores for India is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women's pay** (the WBL2023 Pay indicator).
  - Globally, on average, women enjoy only 77 percent of the legal rights that men do.

### UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q.1 India's ranking in the 'Ease of Doing Business Index' is sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following has declared that ranking? (2016)**

- (a) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) World Bank
- (d) World Trade Organization (WTO)

**Ans: (c)**

**Q.2 Which one of the following issues the 'Global Economic Prospects' report periodically? (2015)**

- (a) The Asian Development Bank
- (b) The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- (c) The US Federal Reserve Bank
- (d) The World Bank

**Ans: (d)**

**Q.3 Which of the following organizations brings out the publication known as 'World Economic Outlook'? (2014)**

- (a) The International Monetary Fund
- (b) The United Nations Development Programme
- (c) The World Economic Forum
- (d) The World Bank

**Ans: (a)**

**Q.4 'BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes' is managed by the (2015)**

- (a) Asian Development Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) United Nations Environment Program
- (d) World Bank

**Ans: (d)**

**Source: TH**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/women-business-and-the-law-2023-report>