



Global Gender Gap Report 2024

For Prelims: [Global Gender Gap Report 2024](#), [WEF](#), [Global Gender Gap Index](#), [Gender Parity](#), [Local Governance](#)

For Mains: [Global Gender Gap Report 2024](#), [Issues of Gender Inequality](#) in Different Sectors.

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Why in News?

Recently, the [World Economic Forum](#) released the **18th edition** of its annual [Global Gender Gap Report for 2024](#), comprehensively benchmarking gender parity across **146 economies** worldwide.

What is the Global Gender Gap Index?

▪ About:

- It benchmarks countries on their progress towards gender parity in **four Key dimensions with Submatrices**. [//](#)

The Global Gender Gap Index Framework



Subindex 1
Economic Participation and Opportunity



Subindex 2
Educational Attainment



Subindex 3
Health and Survival



Subindex 4
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 in health, education, economy and politics.
 - Through this **annual yardstick**, the stakeholders within each country are able to set priorities relevant to each specific economic, political and cultural context.

What are the Key Findings of the Report?

- **Overall Findings:**
 - The **global gender gap score** in 2024 is **68.5%**, meaning **31.5%** of the gap remains unaddressed. **Progress** has been **extremely slow**, with only a 0.1% point improvement from 2023.
 - At the current rate, it will take **134 years to reach full gender parity** globally far beyond the **2030 SDG target**.
 - The gender gaps remain largest in **Political Empowerment (77.5% unaddressed)** and Economic Participation & Opportunity (39.5% unaddressed).
- **Top-Ranking Countries:**
 - **Iceland (93.5%)** remains the **world's most gender-equal society** for the **15th** consecutive year. It is **followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand** and Sweden in the top 5 rankings.
 - **7 out** of the top **10** countries are from **Europe** (Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Ireland, Spain).
 - Other regions represented are Eastern Asia and the Pacific (**New Zealand at 4**), Latin America and the Caribbean (**Nicaragua at 6**), and **Sub-Saharan Africa (Namibia at 8)**.
 - **Spain and Ireland** made notable jumps into the top 10 in 2024, climbing 8 and 2 ranks respectively compared to 2023.
- **Regional Performance:**
 - **Europe leads** with **75% of its gender gap closed**, followed by Northern America (74.8%) and Latin America & Caribbean (74.2%).
 - The Middle East and North Africa region ranks last at 61.7% of its gender gap closed.
 - **Southern Asia** region ranks 7th out of 8 regions with a gender parity score of **only 63.7%**.
- **Economic & Employment Gaps:**
 - **Women's workforce** representation lags behind men's across **nearly every industry** and economy at 42% overall and only 31.7% in senior leadership roles.
 - The "leadership pipeline" shows a 21.5% point drop from entry-level to managerial level for women globally.
 - Women's hiring into leadership roles deteriorated in 2023-24 due to worsening economic conditions.
- **Care Burden Impact:**
 - Women's workforce participation is recovering from the recent surge in **caregiving responsibilities**, highlighting the urgent need for equitable care systems.
 - Equitable care policies like **paid parental leave are increasing** but remain inadequate in many countries.
- **Technology & Skills Gaps:**
 - Women remain underrepresented in **STEM** at 28.2% of that workforce versus 47.3% in non-STEM roles.
 - Gender gaps exist in skills like **AI, big data and cybersecurity** which will be crucial for the future of work.

Largest gender gaps

The two largest gaps to bridge are in Economic Participation and Opportunity, and Political Empowerment



How has India Fared in the Gender Gap Report 2024?

- **India's Rank:** India has slipped two places in the global rankings to **129th in 2024 from 127th in 2023 out of 146 countries**.
 - **Within South Asia, India ranked fifth** after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan. Pakistan ranked last in the region.
- **Economic Parity:** India is among the countries with the **lowest levels of economic parity**, similar to Bangladesh, Sudan, Iran, Pakistan, and Morocco, with less than 30% gender parity in estimated earned income.
- **Educational Attainment:** India showed the **best gender parity** in [secondary education](#) enrolment.
- **Political Empowerment:** India ranked **65th globally** in [political empowerment of women](#) and 10th in parity of years with female/male heads of state over the past 50 years.
 - However, women's representation at the [federal level](#), in Ministerial positions (6.9%), and in [Parliament](#) (17.2%) remains low.
- **Gender Gap Closure:** India has closed 64.1% of its gender gap as of 2024. The slip in ranking from 127th to 129th was primarily due to **small declines in 'Educational Attainment'** and **'Political Empowerment'** parameters, although 'Economic Participation' and 'Opportunity' scores saw slight improvements.

Indian Initiatives to Reduce Gender Gap in Social, Economic and Political Life

- [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao](#)
- [Mahila Shakti Kendra](#)
- [Mahila Police Volunteers](#)
- [Rashtriya Mahila Kosh](#)
- [Sukanya Samridhi Yojna](#)
- [Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya](#)
- **Political Reservation:** The government has reserved 33% of the seats in [Panchayati Raj Institutions](#) for women.
 - The **Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023**, has also reserved **one-third of all seats** for women in [Lok Sabha](#), **State legislative assemblies**, and the Legislative Assembly of the **National Capital Territory of Delhi**, including those reserved for SCs and STs.
- **Female Entrepreneurship:** To promote female entrepreneurship, the Government has initiated Programmes like [Stand-Up India](#) and [Mahila-e-Haat](#) (an online marketing platform to support women entrepreneurs/[SHGs/NGOs](#)), Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESSDP).

Drishti Mains Question:

Q. Critically analyse India's performance in the Global Gender Gap Index,2024. Discuss the key areas of improvement and suggest measures to accelerate gender parity in India.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world? (2017)

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) UN Human Rights Council
- (c) UN Women
- (d) World Health Organization

Ans: (a)

Mains:

Q. Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness. **(2021)**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/global-gender-gap-report-2024>