



# 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 **18<sup>th</sup> 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:

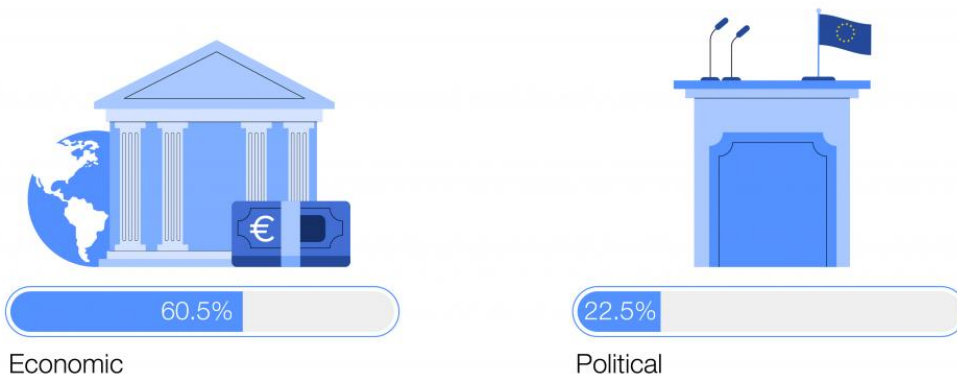
- Women's workforce participation is recovering from the recent surge in **caregiving responsibilities**, highlighting the urgent need for equitable care systems.
- Equitable care policies like **paid parental leave are increasing** but remain inadequate in many countries.

### ▪ 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>