

Global Gender Gap Index, 2022

July 14, 2022

In news— World Economic Forum (WEF) has recently released the Global Gender Gap Index for 2022.

What is the Global Gender Gap Index(GGGI)?

- The index **benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions**
- 1. **Economic Participation and Opportunity**- This includes metrics such as the percentage of women who are part of the labour force, wage equality for similar work, earned income etc.
- 2. **Educational Attainment**-This sub-index includes metrics such as literacy rate and the enrolment rates in primary, secondary and tertiary education.
- 3. **Health and Survival**-This includes two metrics: the sex ratio at birth (in %) and healthy life expectancy (in years).
- 4. **Political Empowerment**-This includes metrics such as the percentage of women in Parliament, the percentage of women in ministerial positions etc.
- According to the WEF **it is the longest-standing index**, which tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time since **its inception in 2006**.
- 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**.
- Its cross-country comparisons aim to support the identification of the most effective policies to close gender gaps.

World Rankings-

- As per the index, **it will now take 132 years to reach**

gender parity, with the **gap reducing only by four years since 2021** and the gender gap closed by 68.1%.

- But this does not compensate for the generational loss between 2020 and 2021 as the trends leading up to 2020 showed that the gender gap was set to close within 100 years.
- **South Asia will take the longest to reach gender parity**, which is estimated to be likely in 197 years.
- Although **no country achieved full gender parity**, the top 10 economies closed at least 80% of their gender gaps, **with Iceland (90.8%) leading the global ranking**.
- Iceland was the only economy to have closed more than 90% of its gender gap.
- Other Scandinavian countries such as **Finland (86%, 2nd)**, **Norway (84.5%, 3rd)** and **Sweden (82.2%, 5th)** are in the **top five**, with other European countries such as Ireland (80.4%) and Germany (80.1%) in ninth and tenth positions, respectively.
- **Sub-Saharan African countries Rwanda (81.1%, 6th)** and **Namibia (80.7%, 8th)**, along with one Latin American country, Nicaragua (81%, 7th), and one country from east Asia and the Pacific, **New Zealand (84.1%, 4th)**, also **take positions in the top 10**.

India's ranking-

- **India ranks 135 among a total of 146 countries in the GGI 2022.**

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

Source: World Economic Forum

- India has approximately 662 million (or 66.2 crore) women. In **2022, India's overall score has improved from 0.625 (in 2021) to 0.629.**

- **India's (135th) global gender gap score has oscillated** between 0.593 and 0.683 since the index was first compiled.
- In 2022, India scored 0.629, which is its seventh-highest score in the last 16 yearst.
- **India also "recovered" ground since 2021 in economic participation** and opportunity though the report goes on to add that the labour force participation shrunk for both men (by -9.5 percentage points) and women (-3 percentage points).
- **The gender parity score for estimated earned income improved** because even though the values for both men and women diminished, the decline was more for men.
- **India recorded a declining score on political empowerment** due to the diminishing share of years women have served as head of state for the past 50 years.
- **India also ranks poorly among its neighbours** and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126).
- Only Iran (143), Pakistan (145) and Afghanistan (146) perform worse than India in south Asia.