

## GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX 2025: INDICIES

**NEWS:** India slips to 131st position in Global Gender Gap Index 2025

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

India has ranked 131 out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by the World Economic Forum, reflecting slow progress in gender parity. While India showed gains in education and economic participation, setbacks in political representation dragged down its overall rank.

#### Context and India's Performance

- India ranked 131st out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by the World Economic Forum (WEF), dropping two places from the previous year.
- India's overall gender gap closure score: 64.1% — among the lowest in South Asia.

#### About World Economic Forum (WEF)

- An international NGO and think tank headquartered in Switzerland.
- Founded on 24 January 1971 by Klaus Schwab.
- Known for its flagship event, the annual Davos Summit, and indices like the Global Gender Gap Report.

#### About the Global Gender Gap Index

- Annual report published by WEF to assess gender parity across four key dimensions:
  - Economic Participation and Opportunity
  - Educational Attainment
  - Health and Survival
  - Political Empowerment
- Each country gets a score between 0 and 1; 1 represents complete gender parity.
- Focuses on **relative parity**, not absolute development levels — a poorer country with higher equality can score better.

#### India's Performance by Sub-indicators

##### 1. Economic Participation and Opportunity

- Score: Improved by +0.9 percentage points to 40.7%.
- Earned income parity: Rose from 28.6% to 29.9%.
- Labour force participation rate: Stable at 45.9%, the highest for India so far.

## 2. Educational Attainment

- Score: 97.1% — nearing full gender parity.
- Improvements: Female literacy rates and increased enrolment in higher education.

## 3. Health and Survival

- Score: Slight improvement due to better sex ratio at birth and healthy life expectancy.
- Note: While parity improved, the **overall life expectancy** has fallen for both men and women globally.

## 4. Political Empowerment

- Score: Declined by -0.6 points since 2024.
- Women in Parliament: Dropped from 14.7% to 13.8%.
- Women in Ministerial Roles: Fell from 6.5% to 5.6%.
- Significantly below the 2019 peak of 30% women in ministerial positions.

### India's Regional Performance (South Asia)

- India ranks lower than:
  - Bangladesh (Rank 24 globally) – Best in South Asia.
  - Bhutan (119), Nepal (125), Sri Lanka (130)
- India ranks higher than:
  - Maldives (138), Pakistan (148 – the lowest globally).

### Global Overview – 2025 Report

- Overall global gender gap closure: 68.8%, highest annual gain since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Full global parity is still estimated to be **123 years away** at current pace.
- No country has yet achieved full gender parity.

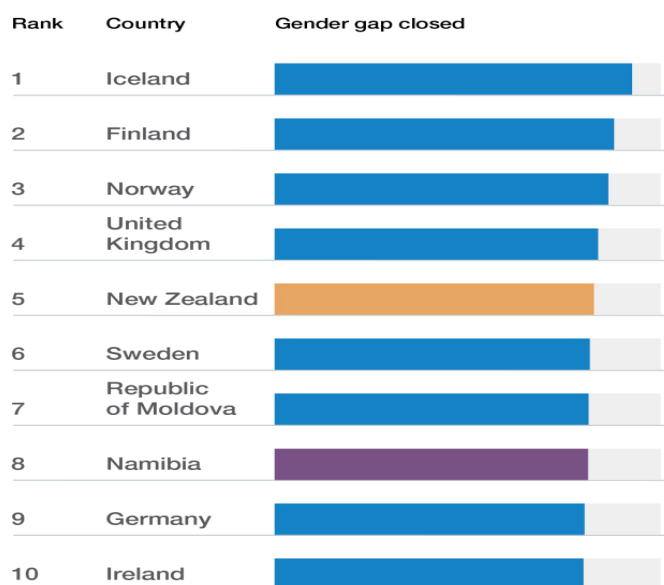
### Top 5 Global Performers

- Iceland – 1st for the 16th consecutive year, only country to close over 90% of its gender gap.
- Others in top 5: Finland, Norway, United Kingdom, New Zealand.

### Global Trends

- Political Empowerment: Greatest improvement since 2006 (+9 percentage points), from 14.3% to 23.4%.
- Women in top leadership: Only 28.8% of top roles held by women, despite 41.2% work-force share.
- Gender parity has improved globally by +4.8 percentage points since 2006.

## The Global Gender Gap Index 2025 Rankings



## Regional Rankings

- Northern America: Highest parity (75.8%)
- Followed by: Europe, Latin America & Caribbean, Central Asia, East Asia & Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Southern Asia: 7th
- Middle East & North Africa: Lowest region

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-gender-gap-rank-global-gender-gap-index-2025-world-economic-forum/article69685804.ece>