

## India is 112<sup>th</sup> among nations ranked in terms of the gap between genders: WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2020

The Global Gender Gap Report 2020 by World Economic Forum (WEF) benchmarks 153 countries on their progress towards gender parity in four dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment. Globally, the average (population-weighted) distance completed to parity is at 68.6%, which is a further improvement since last edition. To date, there is still a 31.4% average gender gap that remains to be closed globally. The positive increase in the average global score translates into several countries advancing towards gender parity (although often at a slow pace): 101 of the 149 countries covered both this year and last year have increased their scores.

Across the four sub-indexes, on average, the largest gender disparity is—once again—the Political Empowerment gap. Despite being the most improved dimension this year (driving the overall positive performance) only 24.7% of the global Political Empowerment gap has been closed in 2020. The second-largest gap is on Economic Participation and Opportunity; 57.8% of this gap has been closed so far, which represents a slight step back since last year. Progress towards closing the Educational Attainment and Health and Survival gaps is more advanced: 96.1% and 95.7%, respectively, of these gaps have been closed to date, both marginally improved since last year.

### Global Gender Gap Index 2020 Rankings

Rank	Country	Score	Rank Change
1	Iceland	0.87	-
2	Norway	0.84	-
3	Finland	0.83	1
4	Sweden	0.82	-1
5	Nicaragua	0.80	-
6	New Zealand	0.79	1
7	Ireland	0.79	2
8	Spain	0.79	21
9	Rwanda	0.79	-3
10	Germany	0.78	4
<b>112</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>-4</b>

Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI compiled from WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2020. Note: – indicates score or rank is unchanged from the previous year. Green depicts improved rank, Red depicts decline in rank as compared to previous year.

Iceland is once again the most gender-equal country in the world for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in a row. It has closed almost 88% of its overall gender gap, further improving since last year. Iceland is followed by Norway (2nd, 84.2%), Finland (3rd, 83.2%) and Sweden (4th, 82.0%). Other economies in the top 10 include Nicaragua (5th, 80.4%), New Zealand (6th, 79.9%), Ireland (7th, 79.8%), Spain (8th, 79.5%), Rwanda (9th, 79.1%) and Germany (10th, 78.7%). The top five most-improved countries in the overall index this year (Ethiopia, Spain, Mali, Albania, and Mexico) have all closed their gaps by 3.4 percentage points or more, and they all share a substantial increase in women's presence in political institutions.

#### **India's position in the Global Gender Gap Index 2020 rankings:**

- India ranks 112<sup>th</sup> on the overall Global Gender Gap Index and the country has closed two-thirds of its overall gender gap (score of 66.8%). It has lost four positions since the previous

edition (108<sup>th</sup> rank), despite a small score improvement, as some countries ranked lower than India have improved more.

- The economic gender gap runs particularly deep in India. Among the 153 countries studied, India is the only country where the economic gender gap is larger than the political gender gap. Only one-quarter of women, compared with 82% of men, engage actively in the labour market (i.e. working or looking for work).
- Furthermore, female estimated earned income is one-fifth of male income, which is also among the world's lowest (144<sup>th</sup>). Women only account for 14% of leadership roles (136<sup>th</sup>) and 30% of professional and technical workers. India ranks a low 150<sup>th</sup> on the Health and Survival sub-index (94.4), as a result of the skewed sex ratio at birth: there are 91 girls born per 100 boys born, a ratio well below the natural one.
- From primary to tertiary education, the share of women attending school is systematically larger than the share of men. But a large difference persists for literacy rate; only two-thirds of women are literate compared with 82% of men. Yet the gap has been narrowing in the past decade, because the literacy rate has significantly increased among women (66%) and slightly decreased among men to 79%.
- Finally, India ranks 18<sup>th</sup> on the Political Empowerment sub-index. Of the past 50 years, the country was headed by a woman for 20 years (4<sup>th</sup>) which largely explains this strong performance. But today, female political representation is low: women make up only 14.4% of the parliament (122<sup>nd</sup>) and 23% of the cabinet (69<sup>th</sup>).

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Warm Regards,

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