Gender Snapshot 2026

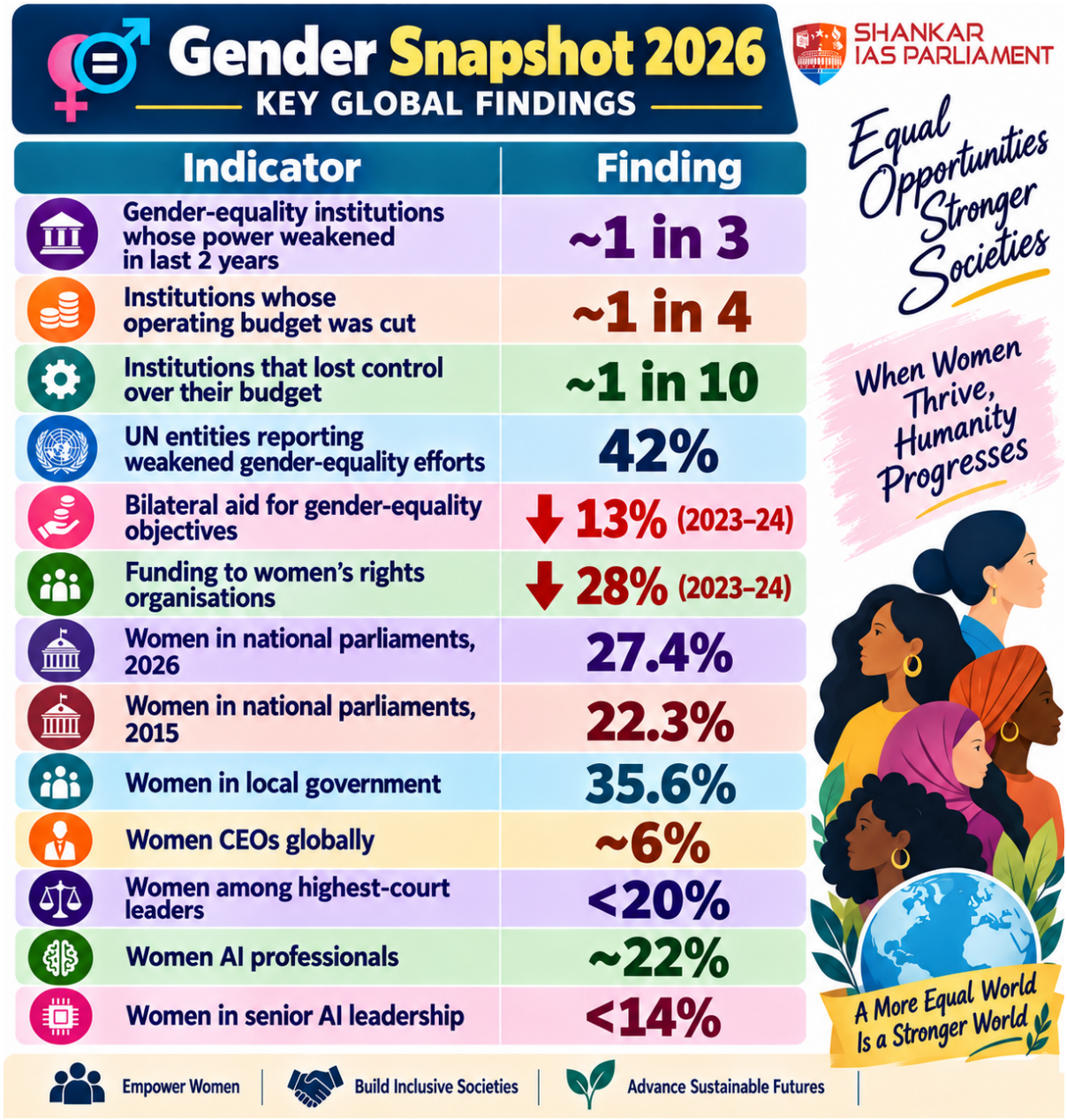
Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Report & Indices*

Why in News?

The recent Gender Snapshot 2026 warns that global progress towards gender equality and SDG 5 is significantly off track for 2030.

Gender Snapshot 2026

- **Released by –** UN Women and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).



- **Key Finding**
- **SDG –** According to the report, none of the targets under Sustainable Development Goal 5 are currently on track to be achieved by 2030.
- At the current rate of progress, achieving gender equality may take an estimated 171 years.

SDG 5 Gender Equality – *To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*

- **Women's Representation in Political Power**
- Currently, men serve as heads of government in **6 out of 7** countries worldwide.
- In 2026, women are projected to occupy **27.4 percent of national parliamentary seats.**
- Since 2023, women's representation in **local government has remained at 35.6 percent.**

- Approximately 90 percent of **defence ministers** globally are men.
- Over 80 percent of **finance ministers** worldwide are men.
- In certain countries, as many as 80 percent **of women candidates** experience violence in public life.
- **Additional Gaps in Leadership Representation**
- Globally, women hold approximately 6 percent of corporate chief executive officer (CEO) positions.
- Women preside over **fewer than 20 percent of the highest courts worldwide.**
- **Gender Equality and Economic Security**
- **Poverty Rates in 2024**
    - The proportion of women living in extreme poverty is 9.9 percent.
    - The proportion of men living in extreme poverty is 9.5 percent.
- **Food Security**
    - If current trends continue, **1.1 billion women and girls** are projected to remain food insecure by **2030**.
    - Eliminating gender disparities in **agricultural productivity** has the potential to lift **45 million people** out of food insecurity.
- **Unpaid Care Work –** Women spend approximately **2.5 times as many hours as men** on unpaid domestic and care work.
- **Violence and Harmful Practices**
- Approximately one in three women worldwide has experienced intimate **partner or sexual violence** in her lifetime.
- **An estimated 316 million women** experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months.
- Nearly one **in five girls** is married before reaching the age of **18**.
- Approximately **230 million women and girls** have survived **female genital mutilation (FGM)**.
- **The Gender Gap in Technology**
- **Representation in Artificial Intelligence –** Globally, women represent approximately **22% of professionals** in the field of artificial intelligence.
- Women occupy **fewer than 14% of senior leadership** positions in artificial intelligence.
- **Gender and Climate Change**
- Approximately **2.9 billion women and girls** reside in countries that are highly or very highly exposed to **climate change and geophysical hazards**.
- Women hold only 27 percent **of national cabinet positions that oversee environmental portfolios**.

Reference

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