Global Gender Gap Report 2018

Why in news?

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The Global Gender Gap Report 2018 was recently released by the World Economic Forum.

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What is the report on?

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- The report maps the performance of different countries on an index that evaluates the parity among men and women.
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- Gender gap is measured across four key pillars -
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1. economic opportunity
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2. political empowerment
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3. educational attainment
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4. health and survival
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What are the highlights?

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- **India** has been ranked 108th in World Economic Forum (WEF) gender gap index, same as 2017.
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- **Growth** - Being in 72nd place, India recorded improvement in wage equality

for similar work.
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- It has also closed its tertiary education enrolment gender gap for the first time in 2018.
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- It has managed to keep its primary and secondary gaps closed for the third year running.
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- India is also one of the countries that has done well on the political empowerment of women, ranking 20th.
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- **Shortfalls** - Gender gaps have worsened for India in 2 categories - health and survival, economic participation and opportunity.
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- India ranks 142nd out of 149 countries in the economic opportunity and participation subindex.
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- India needs to make improvements ranging from women's participation to getting more women into senior and professional roles.
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- India continues to rank third-lowest in the world on health and survival.
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- It remains the world's least-improved country on this subindex over the past decade.
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- In fact, India actually widens the gender gap on this subindex this year.
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- India has the second-largest artificial intelligence (AI) workforce, but it has one of the largest AI gender gaps, with only 22% of roles filled by women.
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What is the global scenario?

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- The global list was topped by Iceland, having closed more than 85% of its overall gender gap.

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- Iceland holds the top spot in the index for the 10th consecutive year.
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- Nordic countries dominated the top slots with Norway, Sweden and Finland in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places respectively.
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- Other countries in the top-10 include Nicaragua, Rwanda, New Zealand, the Philippines, Ireland and Namibia.
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- South Asia was the second-lowest ranking region in the index, with only 65% of its gender gap now closed.
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- India is slightly ahead of the regional average having closed 66% gap.
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- **Overall,** the world has closed 68% of its gender gap i.e. there is still a 32% average gender gap that remains to be closed.
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- But this gender gap extends to over 77% when it comes to political empowerment and over 44% in relation to economic participation.
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- At the current rate of change, the world will take 108 years to close the overall gender gap.
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- Also, it would take 202 years to bring about parity in the workplace.
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What does it imply?

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- Overall, political empowerment and economic participation are the two categories with maximum divergence in gender parity scores.
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- The economies that will succeed in the fourth industrial revolution will be those that are best able to harness all their available talent.
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- So proactive measures that support gender parity and social inclusion and address historical imbalances are therefore essential.
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Source: Financial Express, Business Standard

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