

World Inequality Report, 2026

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Economy
| Reports*

Why in news?

The World Inequality Report 2026 was released recently, which highlights extreme and persistent economic disparities worldwide.

- **Released by** - World Inequality Lab.
- The 2026 report is the 3rd report in the series after earlier 2018 and 2022 editions.

Key findings

- **Global Wealth Inequality** - The wealthiest 0.001% now hold 3 times the assets of the bottom 50% of humanity, with their share climbing ***from 4% in 1995 to over 6% 2025***, amid rising inequality and declining global cooperation.
- **Global Wealth Distribution** - The richest 10% command 75% of global wealth, while the poorest 50% hold just 2%.
 - The top 1% alone control 37%, more than 18 times the bottom half. Even the one-in-a-million elite together own 3%, surpassing the wealth of billions.
 - The bottom half of humanity is as large as the combined adult populations of China, India, the US, Indonesia, Nigeria, Brazil, and Russia.
- **Gender Inequality** - For including domestic and care work, women average 53 weekly hours, while men average 43.
- **Pay gap** - Excluding unpaid work, women earn 61% of men's hourly income and when unpaid labor is included, falls to just 32%.
- **Climate Inequality** -
 - Poorest 50% of global population is responsible for only 3% of carbon emissions linked to private capital ownership.
 - Top 10% is accounts for 77% of emissions, Top 1% alone responsible

for 41% of emissions, nearly double the entire bottom 90% combined.

India specific insights

- **Income distribution** - Top 10% of earners capturing 58% of national income, while bottom 50% receive only 15%.
- **Wealth distribution** - Richest 10% holding around 65% of total wealth and the top 1% holding about 40% of total wealth.
- **Comparison with 2022 Report** - Top 10% in India held 57% of the total national income while the bottom 50% share was 13% in 2021 (Inequality has worsened further in just 4 years).
- **Female labor participation** - Remains very low at **15.7%**, stagnant for a decade.

References

[Indian Express | World Inequality Report, 2026](#)

