

Gender gap

Low ranking must **spur** policy **relook**

THE World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index has ranked India 129th out of 146 nations on the list. The data **reflects** a troubling reality **in stark contrast to** the India growth story. The **methodology** of arriving at the **conclusions** **may** be open to **debate**, but numbers don't lie. It would be **prudent** to **heed** the larger message. As the results of the Lok Sabha elections have shown, the **distress** on the ground **is** real. **Continuity** in the **governance** model **is** all very well, but the developmental strategies need **comprehensive evaluation**, with **rebooting** of policies and plans, if required. Change is visible, but it is **skewed** and too slow.

According to the report, India's **economic parity** score has been on an upward trend for the past four years. That said, in the economic parity and opportunity sub-index, it finds itself at the 142nd position, one of the lowest globally. India is ranked 120th on wage equality for similar work. Women in India on an average earn



Rs 39.8 for every Rs 100 that men earn. The country maintains its 142nd slot on the health and survival index. A **notable** positive is India's high ranking on **gender parity** in secondary education **enrolment**. Ranked 65th in the **parameter** of political **empowerment** of women, it is 10th on parity in the number of years with female and male heads of state over the last 50 years. The women's reservation **legislation** **could** be a **transformative** moment, **provided** the political leadership **accords** the issue the seriousness it deserves.

Globally, **68.5 per cent** of the gender gap **has** been closed, says the report. Achieving full gender parity will take 134 years more, **equivalent** to five generations. This is India's century, we are constantly **reminded**. No excuse would **suffice**. [Practice Exercise]

- **Provided** (conjunction) – only if; on condition that यदि; इस शर्त पर कि, बशर्ते कि
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicate subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Spur** (verb) – Stimulate, encourage, motivate, incite, prompt प्रोत्साहित करना
2. **Relook** (noun) – Review, reassessment, reconsideration, reevaluation, reexamination पुनर्विचार
3. **Reflect** (verb) – Indicate, show, reveal, demonstrate, mirror दर्शाना
4. **Stark** (adjective) – Complete, utter, total, absolute, sheer, पूर्ण
5. **In contrast to** (phrase) – Opposed to, in opposition to, contrary to, differing from, unlike इसके विपरीत
6. **Methodology** (noun) – System of methods, approach, technique, procedure, process पद्धति
7. **Conclusion** (noun) – End, result, outcome, determination, resolution निष्कर्ष
8. **Debate** (noun) – Discussion, argument, discourse, dialogue, contention बहस
9. **Prudent** (adjective) – Wise, sensible, judicious, cautious, careful विवेकपूर्ण
10. **Heed** (verb) – Pay attention to, listen to, take note of, consider, follow ध्यान देना
11. **Distress** (noun) – Suffering, agony, pain, trouble, hardship कष्ट
12. **Governance** (noun) – Administration, management, rule, control, regulation शासन
13. **Comprehensive** (adjective) – Thorough, complete, exhaustive, extensive, all-encompassing व्यापक
14. **Evaluation** (noun) – Assessment, appraisal, analysis, judgment, examination मूल्यांकन
15. **Reboot** (verb) – Restart, refresh, renew, overhaul, reinitiate पुनः आरंभ करना
16. **Skew** (verb) – Distort, misrepresent, bias, twist, warp विकृत करना
17. **Economic parity** (noun) – Economic equality, financial balance, income equality, financial parity, economic equivalence आर्थिक समानता
18. **Notable** (adjective) – Remarkable, significant, noteworthy, outstanding, prominent उल्लेखनीय
19. **Gender parity** (noun) – Gender equality, gender balance, sex equality, gender equivalence, gender fairness लैंगिक समानता
20. **Enrolment** (noun) – Registration, admission, enlistment, sign-up, matriculation नामांकन
21. **Parameter** (noun) – Criterion, standard, measure, guideline, factor मानदंड

22. **Empowerment** (noun) – Authorization, enablement, emancipation, liberation, granting of power सशक्तिकरण
23. **Legislation** (noun) – Lawmaking, regulation, statute, enactment, act कानून
24. **Transformative** (adjective) – Revolutionary, groundbreaking, life-changing, radical, reformative परिवर्तनकारी
25. **Accord** (verb) – Grant, give, bestow, confer, agree देना
26. **Equivalent** (to) (adjective) – Equal, comparable, analogous, tantamount, similar समान
27. **Remind** (verb) – Prompt, jog memory, recall, bring to mind, cue याद दिलाना
28. **Suffice** (verb) – Be enough, be adequate, meet the needs, satisfy, fulfill पर्याप्त होना

Summary of the Editorial

1. India ranks 129th out of 146 countries on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index.
2. This ranking highlights a significant disparity between India's growth story and gender equality.
3. The index's methodology may be debatable, but the data reveals a concerning reality.
4. The Lok Sabha election results indicate real distress on the ground.
5. There is a need for a comprehensive evaluation and potential rebooting of developmental strategies and policies.
6. While changes are occurring, they are uneven and slow.
7. India's economic parity score has improved over the past four years.
8. Despite this, India ranks 142nd in the economic parity and opportunity sub-index.
9. Wage equality is also low, with India ranked 120th, and women earning Rs 39.8 for every Rs 100 men earn.
10. India maintains the 142nd position on the health and survival index.
11. A positive note is India's high ranking on gender parity in secondary education enrollment.
12. In political empowerment of women, India ranks 65th.
13. India is 10th in parity for the number of years with female and male heads of state over the past 50 years.
14. The women's reservation legislation could be transformative if given due importance by political leadership.
15. Globally, 68.5% of the gender gap has been closed, but achieving full gender parity will take 134 more years.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, which of the following best describes the main concern raised by the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index ranking for India?** Practice Exercise
 - A. The low ranking of India indicates a severe economic crisis that needs immediate intervention.
 - B. The ranking suggests that despite economic growth, gender inequality remains a significant issue.
 - C. The low ranking points to a complete failure of India's governance and developmental strategies.
 - D. The ranking is based on flawed methodology and does not accurately reflect the situation in India.
2. **What does the passage imply about India's progress in gender equality in terms of economic parity and opportunity?**
 - A. Despite some progress, India still ranks very low globally in economic parity and opportunity.
 - B. India has made significant improvements in gender parity, especially in economic opportunity.
 - C. India's wage equality for similar work has been improving steadily, leading to a higher global ranking.
 - D. The passage suggests that India's economic policies have been effective in closing the gender gap.
3. **Based on the passage, what is a notable positive aspect regarding gender parity in India?**
 - A. India is ranked 120th on wage equality for similar work.
 - B. India is ranked 142nd on economic parity and opportunity sub-index.
 - C. India has achieved full gender parity in health and survival index.
 - D. India has a high ranking on gender parity in secondary education enrolment
4. **What does the report suggest about the global progress towards achieving full gender parity?**
 - A. Full gender parity has already been achieved globally.
 - B. Full gender parity will be achieved in the next generation.
 - C. Achieving full gender parity will take 134 years more.
 - D. Full gender parity is not achievable.
5. **Which of the following statements about India's ranking in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index is true?**
 - A. India ranks 65th in secondary education enrolment parity for women.
 - B. India ranks 120th on the economic parity and opportunity sub-index.
 - C. India ranks 142nd in health and survival index.
 - D. India ranks 65th overall in the Global Gender Gap index.
6. **Select the best express synonym of the highlighted word**

After the protest, several activists were taken into **detention**, highlighting the government's strict stance on public dissent.

 - A. Custody
 - B. Consideration

- C. Approach
D. Blanket
7. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
A. Perfectionist
B. Pessymist
C. Optimist
D. Fatalist
8. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
A bad egg who had served several years in prison.
A. Someone who doesn't like eggs
B. Someone who likes to break eggs
C. Someone who regularly makes mistakes
D. Someone who is dishonest and unreliable
9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Once we got out of rush-hour traffic, it was **smooth sailing** the rest of the way home
A. Easy progress
B. Calm weather
C. Comfortable place
D. Plain dress
10. **Select the word which means the same as the given group of words.**
One who loads and unloads ships.
A. Spinster
B. Stevedore
C. Captain
D. Rustic
11. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution'.
The shopkeeper would have fined her if he come to know that she damaged the toy on exhibit
A. No substitution
B. he comes to knew
C. he came to know
D. he came to knew
12. **Select the best express synonym of the highlighted word**
The grass seemed to **undulate** with the gentle breeze, creating a soothing, wave-like pattern across the field.
A. Course
B. Successive
C. Mark
D. Fluctuate
13. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
A presidential candidate who comes from behind to surprise everyone by winning the election could be considered the dark horse.
A. An honest fellow
B. An unexpected winner

C. A mean person

D. A slow runner

14. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

A. Boundary

B. Photograph

C. Processing

D. competency

15. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**

Are you **sober** enough to drive, Jim?

A. straight

B. calm

C. drunk

D. unwell

16. **Select the grammatically correct version of the following sentence.**

This phone is inferior of that one.

A. This phone is inferior than that one.

B. This phone is more inferior than that one.

C. This phone is more inferior of that one.

D. This phone is inferior to that one

17. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words given.**

An instrument for measuring the atmospheric pressure

A. thermometer

B. altometer

C. barometer

D. ammeter

18. **Select the best express synonym of the highlighted word**

The course curriculum is designed to **encompass** a broad range of topics, from basic principles to advanced techniques.

A. Incorporate

B. Nuance

C. Reservation

D. Woes

19. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words given.**

Liable to break easily

A. brittle

B. soft

C. bent

D. thin

20. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Because the two main parties have won almost the same number of votes, the minority group holds the key to the result.

A. To own a property

B. To keep a secret

C. To have control of something

D. To have the right of succession

Comprehension

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's message to his visiting Chinese counterpart General Li Shangfu, that Beijing's violation of border agreements had "eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations", _____1_____ once again served as a reminder of how the two neighbours remain far apart in their assessments of what _____2_____ their relationship, and how to fix it. Thursday's talks, on the _____3_____ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers Meeting in New Delhi, saw both sides reiterate their respective stands on the border issue but no meeting of minds. The Defence Minister _____4_____ India's position that the development of ties is premised _____5_____ peace on the borders.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
 - A. Has
 - B. Have
 - C. Are
 - D. Was
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2**
 - A. Struggle
 - B. Settle
 - C. Ails
 - D. Assemble
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3**
 - A. View
 - B. Sidelines
 - C. Front
 - D. Status
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4**
 - A. Relegated
 - B. Yielded
 - C. Toppled
 - D. Underlined
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5**
 - A. Of
 - B. By
 - C. On
 - D. For

Answers

1. B 2. A 3. D 4. C 5. C 6. A 7. B 8. D 9. A 10. B 11. C 12. D
13. B 14. B 15. C 16. D 17. C 18. A 19. A 20. C 21. A 22. C 23. B 24. D
25. C

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanation

1. **B) The ranking suggests that despite economic growth, gender inequality remains a significant issue.**

A: This option is incorrect because the passage does not mention a severe economic crisis but rather highlights the disparity between economic growth and gender inequality.

B: This option is correct as the passage emphasizes the contrast between India's growth story and the troubling reality of gender inequality, highlighted by the low ranking on the Global Gender Gap index.

C: This option is incorrect because the passage suggests the need for comprehensive evaluation and potential policy changes, not a complete failure of governance.

D: This option is incorrect as the passage acknowledges that the methodology may be open to debate but emphasizes that the numbers reflect a real issue.

2. **A.) Despite some progress, India still ranks very low globally in economic parity and opportunity.**

B: This option is correct as the passage explicitly mentions that India is at the 142nd position in the economic parity and opportunity sub-index, indicating a low ranking despite some progress.

B: This option is incorrect as the passage states that India's economic parity score has been improving, but it still ranks very low globally.

C: This option is incorrect because while the passage mentions India's ranking in wage equality for similar work, it does not suggest steady improvement or a higher global ranking.

D: This option is incorrect as the passage calls for a comprehensive evaluation and potential rebooting of policies, implying that current policies have not been entirely effective in closing the gender gap.

3. **D) India has a high ranking on gender parity in secondary education enrolment.**

A is incorrect because being ranked 120th on wage equality for similar work is mentioned as a fact, but it is not highlighted as a notable positive.

D is correct because the passage specifically mentions that a notable positive is India's high ranking on gender parity in secondary education enrolment.

C is incorrect because India maintains its 142nd slot on the health and survival index, which is not a positive aspect.

B is incorrect because being ranked 142nd on the economic parity and opportunity sub-index is mentioned as a low ranking, not a positive aspect.

4. **C) Achieving full gender parity will take 134 years more.**

A is incorrect because the passage states that globally, 68.5 per cent of the gender gap has been closed, indicating that full gender parity has not yet been achieved.

B is incorrect because the passage mentions that achieving full gender parity will take 134 years more, which is equivalent to five generations, not just the next generation.

C is correct because the passage clearly states that achieving full gender parity will take 134 years more.

D is incorrect because the passage does not state that full gender parity is unachievable; rather, it provides a timeline for when it might be achieved.

5. **C) India ranks 142nd in health and survival index.**

A: The passage states that India has a high ranking on gender parity in secondary education enrolment but does not provide a specific ranking for this parameter.

B: India is ranked 142nd on the economic parity and opportunity sub-index, not 120th.

C: According to the passage, India maintains its 142nd slot on the health and survival index.

D: India is ranked 129th overall in the Global Gender Gap index, not 65th. The 65th ranking is related to the parameter of political empowerment of women.

6. A) **Detention** (noun) – Confinement, custody, imprisonment, incarceration, holding नजरबंदी

- **Consideration** (noun) – Thought, deliberation, reflection, contemplation, pondering विचार
- **Approach** (verb) – Contact, accost, speak to, talk to, get in touch with, make contact with संपर्क करना
- **Blanket** (adjective) – Total, comprehensive, all-inclusive, general, overall व्यापक

7. B) The incorrectly spelt word among the given options is 'Pessymist'. The correct spelling is 'Pessimist' नकारात्मक विचारवाला, निराशावादी.

8. D) **A bad egg** (idiom) – Someone who is dishonest and unreliable अविश्वसनीय और धोखेबाज व्यक्ति

9. A) **Smooth sailing** (idiom) – Easy progress आसान प्रगति

10. B) **Stevedore** (noun) – A person employed, or a contractor engaged at a port to load and unload cargo from ships. जहाज को लादने-उतारने वाला

- **Spinster** (noun) – An unmarried woman, typically an older woman beyond the usual age for marriage. अविवाहित महिला
- **Captain** (noun) – The person in command of a ship. जहाज का कप्तान
- **Rustic** (noun) – A rural person, especially one who is unsophisticated or old-fashioned. ग्रामीण व्यक्ति

11. C) 'come' के बदले 'came' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'if' Clause में 'would have' का प्रयोग हुआ है, जिससे समझ में आता है कि यह Past Unreal Conditional Sentence है, इसलिए Verb 'come' Past Tense में 'came' होगा; जैसे— If he had studied, he would have passed.

- 'came' will be used instead of 'come' because the use of 'would have' in the 'if' clause indicates that it's a Past Unreal Conditional Sentence, hence the verb 'come' will be in the Past Tense as 'came'; Like— If he had studied, he would have passed.
12. D) **Undulate** (verb) – Wave, ripple, fluctuate, oscillate, sway ऊपर-नीचे होना
- **Mark** (verb) – Denote, indicate, signify, represent, symbolize चिह्नित करना
 - **Successive** (adjective) – Consecutive, sequential, successive, following, subsequent क्रमिक
 - **Course** (noun) – Path, route, direction, trajectory, line मार्ग
13. B) **Dark horse** (idiom) – An unexpected winner अनपेक्षित विजेता/ छुपा रुस्तम
14. B) The incorrectly spelled word is 'Photgraph'. The correct spelling is 'Photograph' फोटोग्राफ, चित्र.
15. C) **Sober** (adjective) – Not affected by alcohol; temperate, serious, rational, clear-headed. गंभीर/ सौम्य
- Antonym: Drunk** (adjective) – Affected by alcohol, intoxicated, inebriated. नशे में
- **Straight** (adjective) – Direct, honest, straightforward; not affected by alcohol when used informally, but not typically used as the opposite of sober. सीधा
 - **Calm** (adjective) – Peaceful, tranquil, composed, serene. शांत
 - **Unwell** (adjective) – Not feeling well, sick, ill. अस्वस्थ
16. D) of'के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'inferior' के साथ हम 'to' का प्रयोग करते हैं; जैसे— He is inferior to his brother in intelligence.
- 'to' will be used instead of 'of' because with 'inferior' we use 'to'; Like— He is inferior to his brother in intelligence.
17. C) **Barometer** (noun) – An instrument for measuring the atmospheric pressure वायुमंडलीय दाब मापने का यंत्र
- **Thermometer** (noun) – An instrument for measuring temperature. तापमान मापने का यंत्र
 - **Altimeter** (noun) – An instrument for measuring altitude, especially in aircraft. ऊंचाई मापने का यंत्र
 - **Ammeter** (noun) – An instrument for measuring electric current in amperes. विद्युत धारा मापने का यंत्र
18. A) **Encompass** (verb) – Include, cover, embrace, incorporate, comprise शामिल करना
- **Woes** (noun) – Troubles, problems, sorrows, distresses, miseries मुसीबतों
 - **Reservation** (noun) – Doubt, objection, qualm, hesitation, skepticism संकोच
 - **Nuance** (noun) – Subtlety, implication, shade, distinction, refinement बारीकी

19. A) **Brittle** (noun) – Liable to break easily आसानी से टूटने वाला

- **Soft** (adjective) – Easy to mold, cut, compress, or fold; not hard or firm to the touch मुलायम
- **Bent** (adjective) – Forced out of a straight line; curved टेढ़ा
- **Thin** (adjective) – Having little thickness or depth पतला

20. C) **Hold the key** (idiom) – To have control of something किसी चीज़ पर नियंत्रण रखना

21. A) The subject of the sentence here is "Beijing's violation of border agreements". Even though the noun 'agreements' is plural, the overall subject is actually singular - 'violation', which requires a singular verb to match, hence 'has' is the correct option

22. C) **Ail** (verb) – trouble, afflict, distress, bother, burden पीड़ा देना, सताना

In this context, we need a word that can express the problems or issues that are affecting the relationship between the two countries.

- **Struggle** (verb) – Grapple, battle, wrestle, strive, contend संघर्ष करना
- **Settle** (verb) – stabilize, level out, become stable, reach a steady state स्थायी होना
- **Assemble** (verb) – Put together, construct, build, manufacture संगठित करना

23. B) **On the sidelines of** (phrase) – the talks were held alongside or during a break in the main event

- The preposition "on" before the blank implies a physical or metaphorical location. The term "on the sidelines" is commonly used to describe discussions that happen in parallel or outside of the main event, in this case, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers Meeting

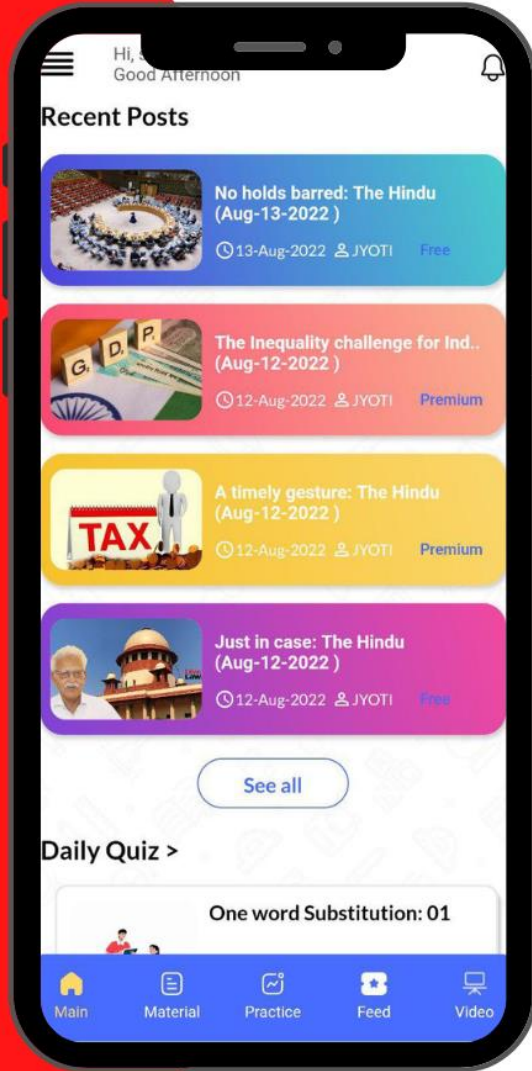
24. D) **Underline** (verb) – emphasize, stress on, highlight, accentuate, accent, call attention to ज़ोर देना

The context of the sentence suggests that the Defence Minister is emphasizing or reinforcing India's position.

- **Topple** (verb) – Overthrow, oust, unseat, bring down गिराना, बेदखल करना
- **Yield** (verb) – Produce, generate, provide, supply, उत्पन्न करना
- **Relegate** (verb) – Demote, downgrade, lower, दर्जा घटाना

25. C) **Premise** (on) (verb) – base, found, establish, ground, rest (on) पर आधारित होना

- The preposition "on" is used here to indicate conditionality or basis. In the context of the sentence, it suggests that the development of ties between the countries depends on ("is premised on") peace on the borders.



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