

Gender gap earning

Men consistently earn more than women in all forms of work, with the greatest gender gap observed among self-employed individuals.

- The gender gap in earnings has increased for self-employed workers but decreased for regular wage workers.
- A focus on weekly hours worked reveals that women, on average, work fewer hours than men, with the largest gap in self employment.
- The rise in the gender gap in hours worked is attributed to increasing Labour force participation rates (LFPRs) among rural women in self employment, but with many of these jobs being part time in nature.
- In terms of hourly earnings, the gap is significantly reduced for regular wage workers, with men earning 24% more in 2023 and working 19% longer hours.
- Inequality in hourly earnings remains higher in other forms of work, such as casual labor and self-employment.

The Hindu

Phalgu River

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Radiant serenity: The Mahabodhi temple illuminated in Bodhi Gaya, 1/11

Across the river Phalgu to Gaya and Bodhi Gaya, a tapestry of spirituality and beauty



- The Phalgu or Falgu, a river that flows past Gaya, India in the Indian state of Bihar, is a sacred river for Hindus and Buddhists.
- Lord Vishnu's Temple Vishnupad Mandir is situated on the bank of Phalgu river also called Niranjana river.

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International solar alliance

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.
- The ISA strives to develop and deploy cost-effective and transformational energy solutions powered by the sun to help member countries develop low-carbon growth trajectories, with particular focus on delivering impact in countries categorized as Least Developed Countries

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(LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

- Being a global platform, ISA's partnerships with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organizations, civil society and other international institutions is key to delivering the change it seeks to see in the world going ahead
- The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of solar energy solutions.
- It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015. With the amendment of its Framework Agreement in 2020, all member states of the United Nations are now eligible to join the ISA.

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Japan on Transgender

- Japan's Supreme Court ruled that a law requiring transgender people to undergo sterilisation surgery in order to officially change their gender is unconstitutional.
- The decision, which requires the government to reconsider the law, is a first step toward allowing transgender people to

change their identity in official documents without getting sterilized.

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Wilkes region

- Antarctica has not always been a desolate land of ice and snow.
- The earth's southernmost continent once was home to rivers and forests teeming with life. Using satellite observations and ice penetrating radar, scientists are now getting a glimpse of Antarctica's lost world.
- This landscape, located in East Antarctica's Wilkes Land region bordering the Indian Ocean, covers an area roughly the size of Belgium.
- Marriage and Labour force participation
- World Bank estimates (2022) show that the worldwide LFPR for women was 47.3% in 2022.
- Despite the remarkable advancements observed in the global economies, there has been a persistent decline in the labour force participation rate (LFPR) of women in developing nations.
- The estimations also indicate that female labour force participation in India between 1990 and 2022 has decreased from 28% to 24%.

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- This fall has impeded their growth and hindered their ability to achieve their maximum capabilities.
- The issue is made considerably dire when married women express a desire to participate in the labour market.
- After marriage, there is a tendency for women's LFPR to decrease due to many variables.
- These factors encompass women's limited educational attainment, less mobility as a result of increasing family obligations, and societal disapproval associated with women in employment outside the domestic sphere.
- The institution of marriage amplifies domestic obligations for women while concurrently imposing many social and cultural impediments that affect their participation in the workforce
- The labour market entry of women is influenced by a range of individual and societal factors, perhaps impacting married women to a greater extent than their unmarried counterparts.
- Several variables contribute to limited labour participation for women, such as their religious and caste affiliations, geographical location, the wealth of their household, and prevailing societal norms surrounding women's employment outside the house.
- It has been observed that women of the upper strata tend to adhere to stringent societal standards by predominantly assuming domestic roles.
- Conversely, women from the lower strata are more inclined to engage in the labour market, primarily driven by economic constraints that stem from poverty.
- It is imperative to look at suitable solutions in order to promote women's empowerment in the phase of high economic growth.
- The absence of adequate daycare services frequently acts as a disincentive for female labour force participation.
- Therefore, it is imperative to enhance the quality and accessibility of daycare services/crèches for employed women across various socioeconomic strata, encompassing both formal and informal sectors.
- The government has enacted initiatives such as the National Crèche Scheme for The Children of Working Mothers.
- The implementation of such schemes is imperative in both the public and private sectors.

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Urbanization and health risk

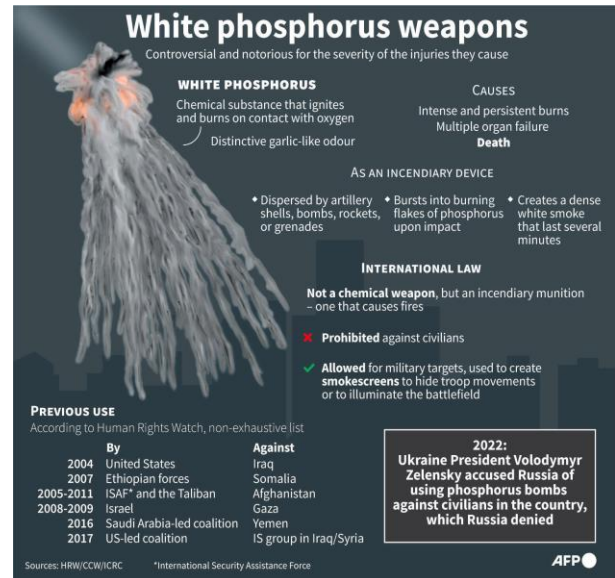
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- India's urban population is estimated to reach 675 million in 2035, the second highest in the world.
- Although there is widespread recognition that cities have been fuelling India's rapid rise to economic superpower status, almost all are failing their inhabitants in terms of delivering on health, environmental and equity targets.
- India's urban inhabitants experience multi-scalar health risks including the world's highest levels of air and noise pollution, limited greenery, lack of access to sidewalks and parks that limit active lifestyles, archaic modes of transport that contribute to air pollution, pernicious access to nutritionally dense unhealthy foods and unprecedented exposure to toxic chemicals and heavy metals.
- This concatenation of exposures dramatically magnifies health risks for heart disease and diabetes, referred to as cardio metabolic disease, especially when combined with a lack of physical activity.

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White Phosphorus and CWC



- White phosphorus has a wide range of applications. It is useful in military operations.
- But it also poses environmental dangers.
- White phosphorus can be employed to create dense smoke screens in the context of combat, hindering visibility and providing cover for military manoeuvres.
- Additionally, it can be used in incendiary devices such as grenades and artillery shells, which can result in persistent and intense fires, effective against people, equipment, and structures
- The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) imposes restrictions on the use of incendiary weapons, including white phosphorus, with the aim of safeguarding civilians.
- In addition, white phosphorus use is subject to the rules and principles of

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international humanitarian law, which aims to minimize harm to both civilians and combatants in armed conflicts.

- This includes the principles of distinction, which require differentiation between combatants and civilians, and proportionality, ensuring that military actions do not cause excessive harm to civilians compared to the military advantage sought.
- International humanitarian law also prohibits indiscriminate attacks that may disproportionately harm civilians and civilian objects.
- Protocol III under the CCW specifically deals with incendiary weapons.
- Article 1 of this protocol defines an “incendiary weapon” as a weapon or munition primarily designed to set fire to objects or to cause burn injury to persons through the action of flame, heat, or combination thereof, produced by a chemical reaction of a substance delivered on the target.
- Article 1(b)(i) includes an exemption in this classification for munitions that may cause unintended incendiary effects, such as illuminants, tracers, smoke, or signaling systems.
- White phosphorus munitions are primarily intended to produce illuminating and smokescreen effects, with the incendiary aspects being secondary or unintentional

- The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is a treaty that establishes a comprehensive ban on the use of chemical weapons.
- White phosphorus, although a chemical agent and toxic, is not covered by the CWC.
- When employed as an incendiary weapon and not for chemical warfare, white phosphorus falls under the regulations of Protocol III of the CCW.

Chemical Weapons Convention
Article 1, Part 1

Each State Party to this Convention undertakes never under any circumstances:

- a) To develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, or transfer, directly or indirectly, chemical weapons to anyone;
- b) To use chemical weapons;
- c) To engage in any military preparations to use chemical weapons;
- d) To assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention.

OPCW



Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

192 member states that represent 98% of the world's population

Non members

Mission: To implement Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in force since January 1993, which calls for the destruction of all chemical weapons

Created in 1997
Director General: Ahmet Uzumcu (Turkey)
HQ: The Hague
Staff: 500
Nobel Prize laureat 2013

Since 1997
Overseen the destruction of 96% of the world's declared chemical weapons stocks of 72,304 tonnes

6,785 inspections of
3,170 sites linked to chemical weapons
3,615 industrial sites

Source: OPCW © AFP

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Countries that have ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, 2022



Chemical weapons are chemicals used to cause death or harm through their poisonous properties. The convention bans developing, producing, acquiring, possessing, transferring, and using chemical weapons and requires countries to destroy them.



Data source: United Nations (2022) [OurWorldInData.org/biological-and-chemical-weapons](https://ourworldindata.org/biological-and-chemical-weapons) | CC BY

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