

Global Slavery Index: Where does India rank, and why are its findings contested?

By IASToppers | 2023-06-14 15:10:00



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The Global Slavery Index 2023 was recently published by **Walk Free**, a human rights organisation.



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What is modern slavery?

- Modern slavery refers to **situations of exploitation** that a person cannot **refuse** or **leave** because of **threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuses** of power.
- Modern slavery is an **umbrella term** and includes a whole variety of abuses such as forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery-like practices, forced or servile marriage, and the sale and exploitation of children.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) **8.7** of the **United Nations** resolve to end modern slavery by **2025**.



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What is the Global Slavery Index?

- The Global Slavery Index presents a global picture of modern slavery.
- The Global Slavery is based on **data** provided by the **Global Estimates of Modern Slavery**.
- The **Global Estimates of Modern Slavery** is produced by International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration (**IOM**).
- This is the **fifth edition** of the Global Slavery Index.

What are the country-wise findings?

- The index uses parameters “**prevalence of modern slavery**” which refers to the **incidence** of modern slavery per **1000 population**.
- These countries share some political, social, and economic characteristics, including limited protections for civil liberties and human rights.
- The countries hosting the **maximum** number of people living in modern slavery accounts for nearly **two** in every **three** people living in **modern slavery** and over half the world’s population.
 - Six of them are **G20 nations**: India, China, Russia, Indonesia, Türkiye, and the US.
 - **Rest of the countries are**: North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Nigeria, and Bangladesh.
- The **UK** has the **strongest government** response to modern slavery.

Countries where modern slavery is

Most prevalent

- #1 North Korea
- #2 Eritrea
- #3 Mauritania
- #4 Saudi Arabia
- #5 Türkiye

Least prevalent

- #160 Switzerland
- #159 Norway
- #158 Germany
- #157 Netherlands
- #156 Sweden

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2/3 of people in modern slavery were in



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Government's taking the most and least action to address modern slavery

Most action

- #1 United Kingdom
- #2 Australia
- #2 Netherlands
- #2 Portugal
- #2 USA

Least action

- #176 North Korea
- #175 Eritrea
- #174 Iran
- #173 Libya
- #172 Somalia

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Other key findings of the report:

- **49.6 million** people are living in modern slavery globally out of which, India has **11 million**.
- Among these **50 million people**- 12 million are **children**, 28 million suffer from **forced labour** and 22 million from **forced marriages**.

Why are the findings of this index contested?

- A **universal**, reliable calculation of modern slavery **isn't** possible as modern slavery has no internationally agreed definition (unlike trafficking in persons which does).
- Modern slavery has **no international legal** definition.