MEASURING THE PULSE OF PROPERITY: AN INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM ANALYSIS

Introduction

1.1 Overview

Economic freedom is the fundamental right of every human to control his or her own labor and property. In an economically free society, individuals are free to work, produce, consume, and invest in any way they please. In economically free societies, governments allow labor, capital, and goods to move freely, and refrain from coercion or constraint of liberty beyond the extent necessary to protect and maintain liberty itself. For much of human history, most individuals have lacked economic freedom and opportunity, condemning them to poverty and deprivation. Today, we live in the most prosperous time in human history. Poverty, sicknesses, and ignorance are receding throughout the world, due in large part to the advance of economic freedom. In 2022, the principles of economic freedom that have fueled this monumental progress are once again measured in the Index of Economic Freedom, an annual guide published by The Heritage Foundation, Washington's No. 1 think tank. We measure economic freedom based on 12 quantitative and qualitative factors, grouped into four broad categories, or pillars, of economic freedom:

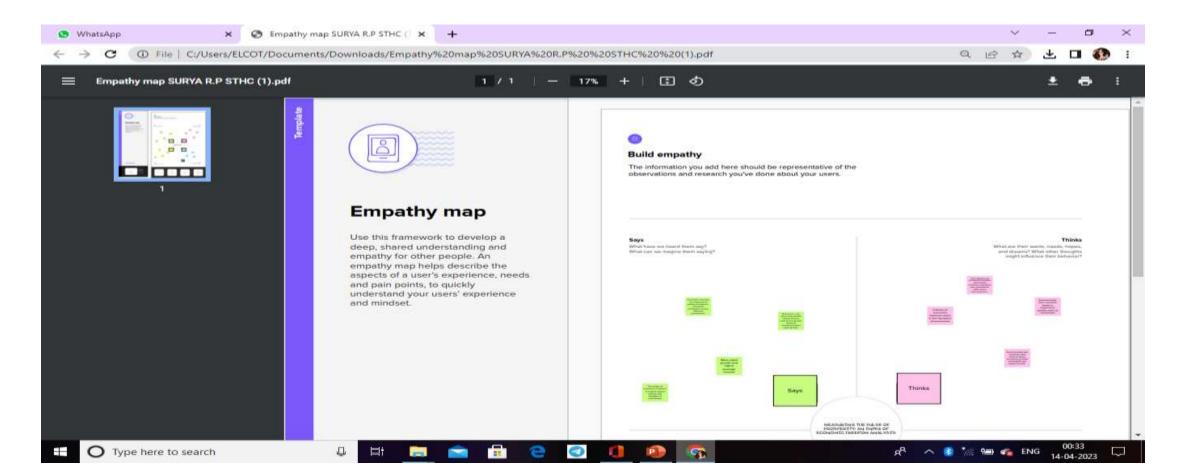
- *Rule of law property rights, government integrity, judicial effectiveness)
- *Government size (government spending, tax burden, fiscal health)
- *Regulatory efficiency (business freedom, labor freedom, monetary freedom)
- *Open markets (trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom)

1.2 Purpose

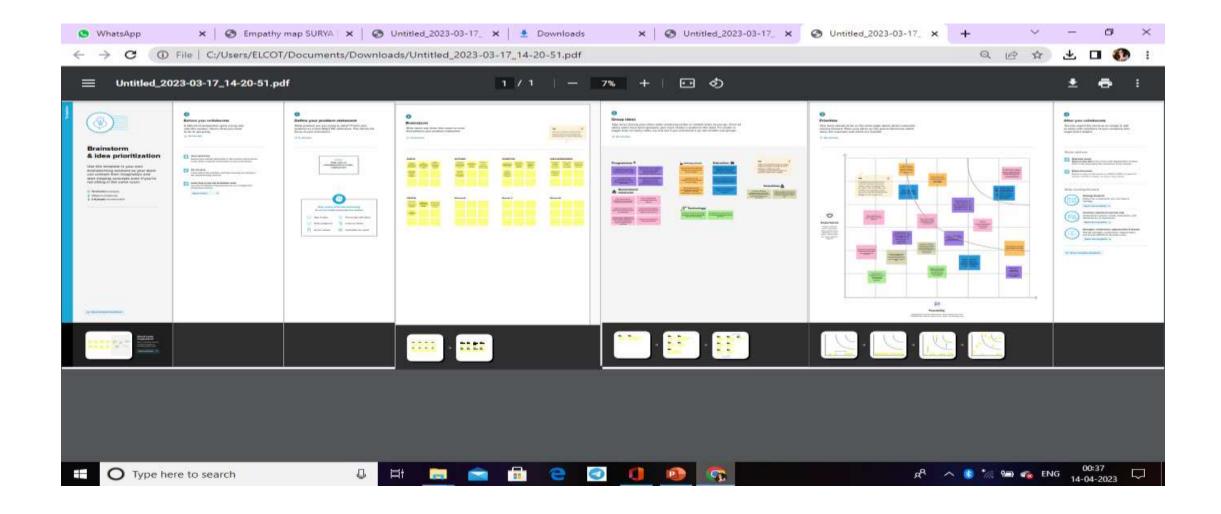
- ☐Generally, countries with higher economic freedom have higher gross domestic product per capita and its growth rates, as well as better health care, education quality, environment protection, income equality, and happiness results.
- □ Economic freedom is the ability of people within a society to control how they earn and spend their money, which directly affects a country's economic growth.
- □ Institutions and policies are consistent with economic freedom when they allow voluntary exchange and protect individuals and their property.

Problem Definition & Design thinking

2.1 Empathy Map:

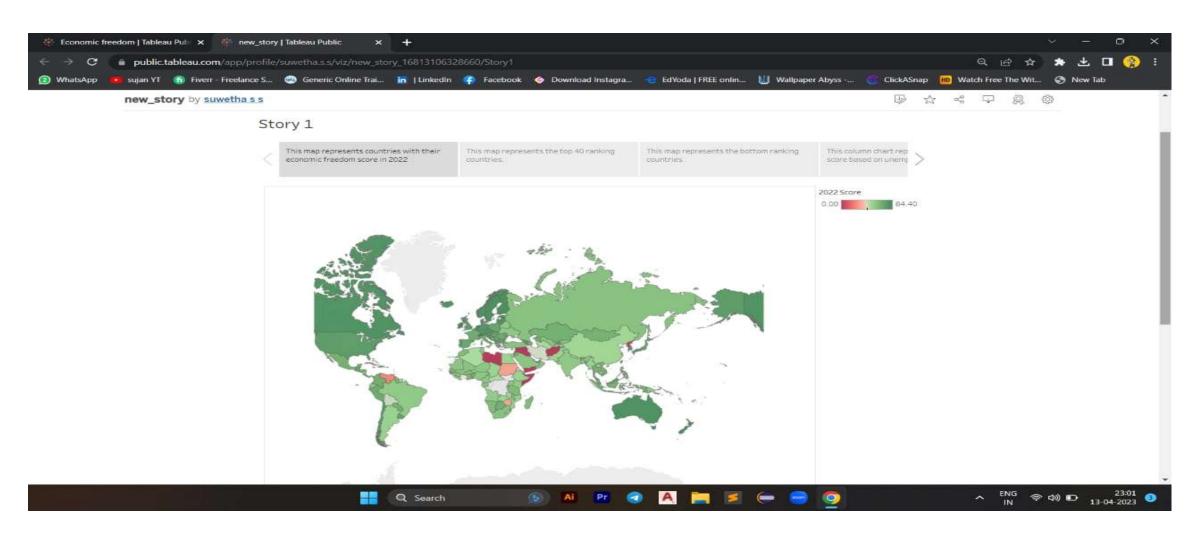


2.2Brain Storming:

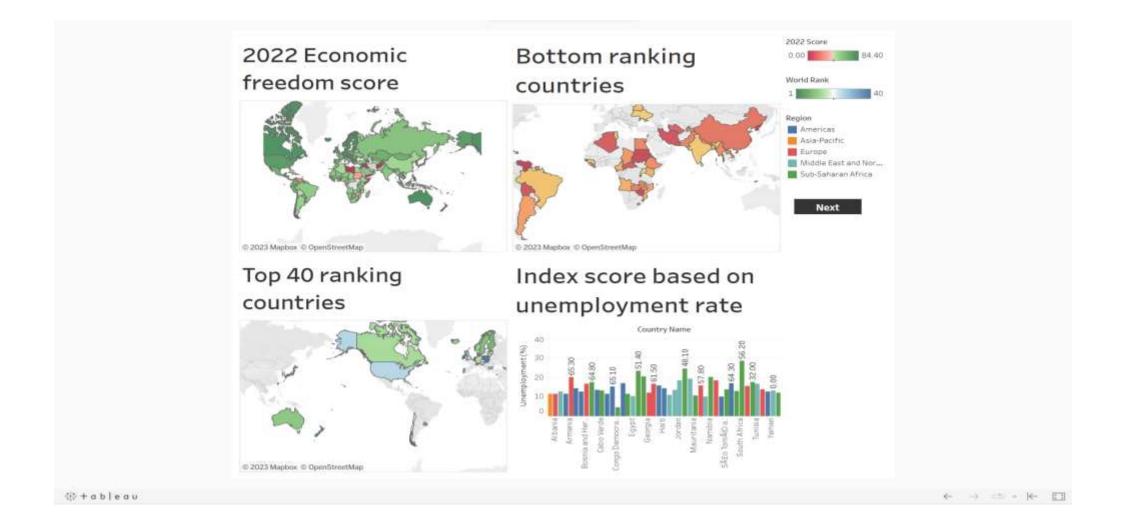


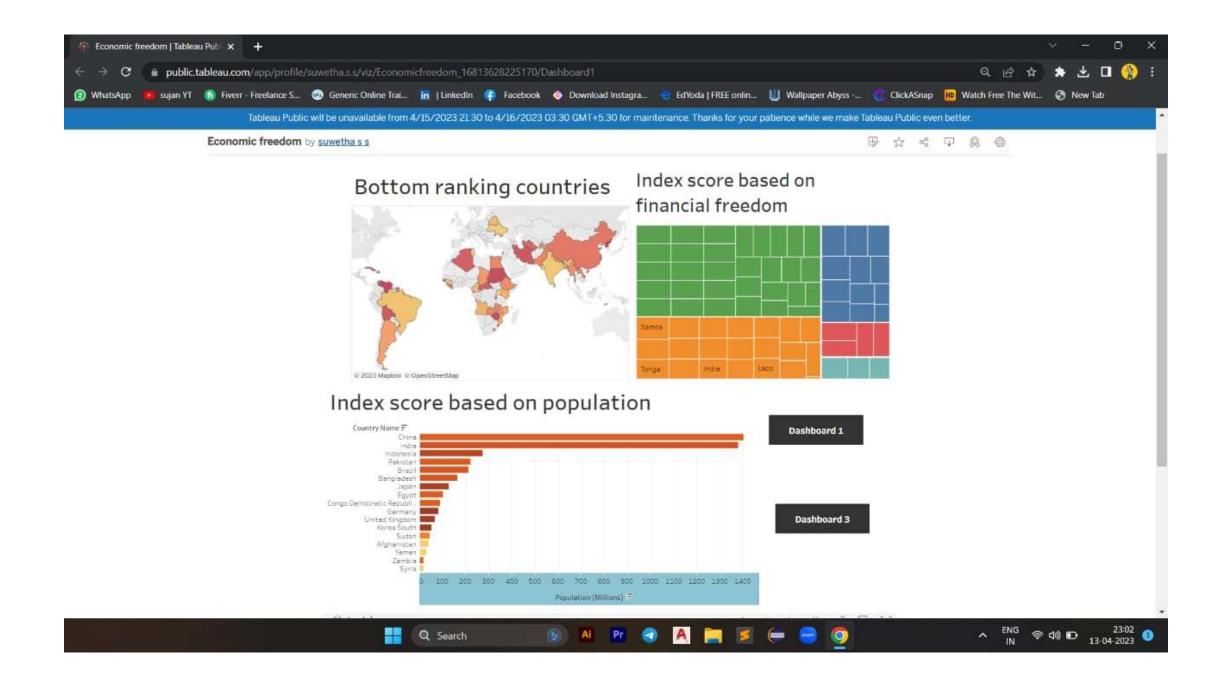
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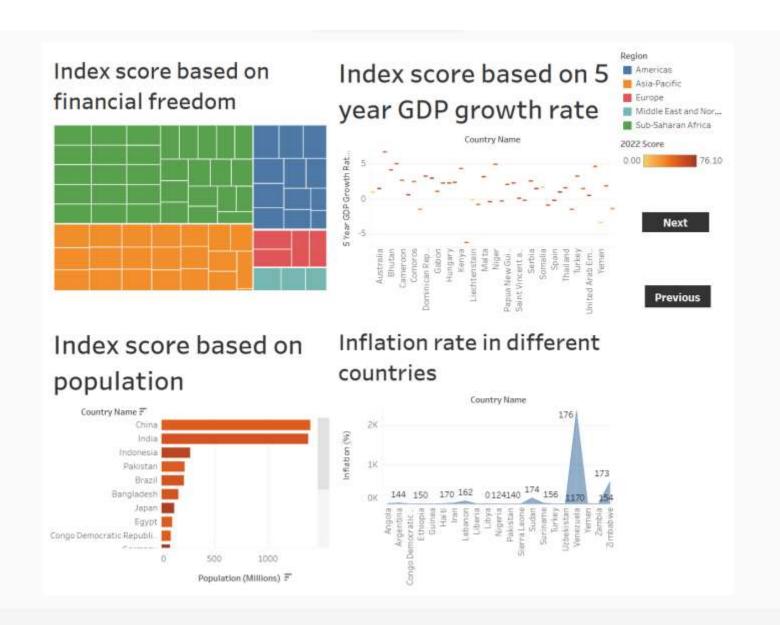
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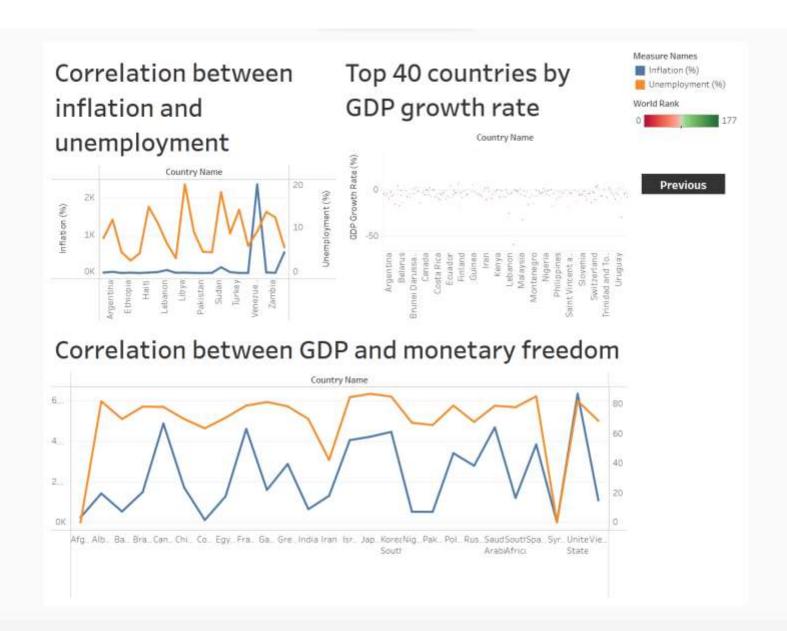
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ABOUT

Advantages And Disadvantages

Advantages:

- ✓ The study of economics helps people understand the world around them. It enables people to understand people, businesses, markets and governments, and therefore better respond to the threats and opportunities that emerge when things change.
- ✓ Economic freedom smooths the business cycle Economic freedom not only helps the economy grow faster overall, but it also makes growth less volatile.
- ✓ An economic advantage is a position or capability that allows you to outperform in a particular market. It's a similar concept to competitive advantage but at the level of economic fundamentals
- ✓ Increased efficiency, productivity, fair competition, and innovation are key advantages of a market economy.
- ✓ The most obvious benefit of economic freedom is that, as a system, it is the most conducive to widespread prosperity, that is, to high or rising income and ...

Disadvantages:

- ➤ Societies with pronounced economic inequality suffer from lower long-term GDP growth rates, higher crime rates, poorer public health, increased political inequality, and lower average education levels.
- Some disadvantages could include: Creates scarcity due to an inability to plan for individual needs. Forces government rationing due to inability to calculate demand on set prices. Eliminates market competition, resulting in a lack of innovation and advancement.
- ➤ High rates of unemployment or underemployment. Increasing inequality, with many not being included in the growth process. High rates of poverty and low growth. Volatile growth dependent on one source.
- Increased efficiency, productivity, fair competition, and innovation are key advantages of a market economy. On the other hand, the disadvantages of a market economy are intense competition, poor working conditions, environmental degradation, and economic disparities.
- ➤ Since profit maximization is the biggest motivation for firms, they may try to reduce their costs unethically. ...Merit Goods. Goods and services that are not profitable will not be produced or run.
- Eversive Power of Firms unampleyment and Inequality

Applications

- 1. Economic factors include economic growth, percentage of unemployment, inflation, interest and exchange rates, and commodity (oil, steel, gold, etc) prices. These affect the discretionary income and purchasing power of households and organisations alike.
- 2. There is a positive correlation between economic freedom and a country's overall prosperity and growth rate due to economic development. Free countries with market economies tend to have a greater wealth per capita, cleaner environments, higher life expectancy, and less poverty
- 3. An index of economic freedom measures jurisdictions against each other in terms of parameters such as trade freedom, tax burden, judicial effectiveness, and more. These factors may be weighted according to their influence on economic freedom and compiled into a single score that allows for a ranking.

Conclusion

- ❖ In conclusion, all economic systems are designed to manage the production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services, they simply have varying degrees of control along the economic spectrum.
- ❖ Inflation creates economic uncertainty and is a dampener to the investment climate slowing growth and finally it reduce savings and thereby consumption. The producers would not be able to control the cost of raw material and labour and hence the price of the final product.
- Unemployment is inversely related to productivity of the economy

Future Scope

- We expect the U.S. economy to expand at a muted 0.5-1% pace in 2023, as measured by real GDP, which incorporates our prediction for a mild recession beginning in late 2023. This would be a further deceleration in growth from 1.5-2% in 2022, 6% in 2021, and the longer-term average annual growth rate of 1.8%.
- We expect India to grow in the range of 6.5%–6.9% in FY 2022–23 and 5.8%–6.3% in FY 2023–24. Considering the extent of volatility associated with the global and domestic economy, we are restricting the duration of our projection to just a year ahead.
- The Indian economy is projected to record relatively healthy Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 6.9% in 2022-23 and inflation has started moderating.
- Economic growth increases state capacity and the supply of public goods. When economies grow, states can tax that revenue and gain the capacity and resources needed to provide the public goods and services that their citizens need, like healthcare, education, social protection and basic public services.

Appendix

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