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Global Innovation Index 2025 – GII

27 March 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED

SCIENCE & TECH

ECONOMY

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ISSUING BODY	FREQUENCY	INDIA'S RANK	TOP PERFORMER
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	Annual	38 / 139 +1	Switzerland

KEY FINDINGS

- India ranked 38th out of 139 economies, up from 39th in 2024
- India leads Central and Southern Asia and ranks 1st among lower-middle-income economies
- India has been an innovation overperformer for 15 consecutive years since 2011
- Switzerland tops for the 15th consecutive year with a score of 66.0
- China entered the top 10 for the first time (10th rank)
- India ranks 1st globally in ICT services exports

ABOUT THE INDEX

The **Global Innovation Index (GII)** is published annually by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, a specialised agency of the United Nations headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. First published in 2007, the GII provides detailed metrics on the innovation performance of economies worldwide, covering 139 economies in the 2025 edition.

Methodology

The GII is calculated as the average of two sub-indices:

SUB-INDEX	PILLARS	WHAT IT MEASURES
Innovation Input	5 pillars	Resources and conditions that enable innovation
Innovation Output	2 pillars	Actual results of innovative activities

The **7 pillars** are:

Input pillars:

- ① Institutions (political, regulatory, business environment)
- ② Human capital and research (education, R&D)
- ③ Infrastructure (ICT, energy, logistics)
- ④ Market sophistication (credit, investment, trade)
- ⑤ Business sophistication (knowledge workers, innovation linkages, knowledge absorption)

Output pillars: 6. Knowledge and technology outputs (patents, knowledge creation, knowledge impact) 7. Creative outputs (intangible assets, creative goods and services, online creativity)

Innovation Efficiency Ratio = Output sub-index / Input sub-index. Countries that produce more innovation output relative to their input level are called “**innovation overperformers**”.

INDIA'S PERFORMANCE

India ranks **38th out of 139 economies**, up from 39th in 2024. India has risen dramatically from **81st in 2015** to 38th in 2025 — a jump of 43 positions in a decade.

Key Strengths (India's Best Pillar Ranks)

INDICATOR	INDIA'S GLOBAL RANK
ICT services exports	1st
Late-stage venture capital deals	4th
Intangible asset intensity	8th
Unicorn valuation	11th
Science & engineering graduates	Top 20
Domestic market scale	Top 5

Historical Trend

YEAR	RANK	COUNTRIES
2015	81	141
2017	60	127
2019	52	129
2020	48	131
2021	46	132
2022	40	132
2023	40	132
2024	39	133
2025	38	139

Innovation Overperformer Status

India has been classified as an **innovation overperformer** for **15 consecutive years** (2011-2025) — meaning it consistently produces more innovation output than expected for its level of economic development. Only Vietnam shares this distinction.

Regional / BRICS Comparison

COUNTRY	GII RANK (2025)	INCOME GROUP
China	10	Upper-middle
India	38	Lower-middle
Brazil	~49	Upper-middle
South Africa	~59	Upper-middle
Russia	~55	Upper-middle

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF LATEST EDITION

- **Switzerland** tops the GII for the **15th consecutive year** with a score of 66.0, followed by Sweden (2nd), United States (3rd), Republic of Korea (4th), and Singapore (5th)
- **China entered the top 10 for the first time**, reaching 10th place — a remarkable rise from 35th in 2013

- Republic of Korea (4th) reached its **highest rank ever**
- Global innovation investment growth has **slowed** compared to the post-pandemic surge of 2021-2022
- The **top 100 global innovation clusters** include Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai from India
- AI, clean energy, and biotechnology are identified as the three key technology frontiers driving future innovation

UPSC RELEVANCE

India's GII rank, WIPO HQ (Geneva), 7 pillars of GII, innovation overperformer concept, top performers, India's top indicators (ICT exports rank 1) **Mains GS-3:** *India's innovation ecosystem — Start-up India, Atal Innovation Mission, National Research Foundation, Make in India, Digital India, R&D spending as % of GDP (currently ~0.7%, needs to reach 2%)* **Interview:** *"India ranks 1st in ICT services exports but only 38th overall in innovation — what bottlenecks prevent India from breaking into the top 20?"*

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