

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन । मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते संगोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX

Global Innovation Index 2018 has placed India at the 57th position among 130 countries. **GII is jointly released by Cornell University, INSEAD and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).** GII ranks 126 economies based on 80 indicators.

The GII 2018 marks the 11th edition of the GII, and the beginning of its second decade providing data and insights gathered from tracking innovation across the globe.

This year's edition is dedicated to the theme of Energizing the World with Innovation. It analyses the energy innovation landscape of the next decade and identifies possible breakthroughs in fields such as energy production, storage, distribution, and consumption.

It also looks at how breakthrough innovation occurs at the grassroots level and describes how small-scale renewable systems are on the rise.

This year, India has moved up 3 places as compared to 60th rank in GII 2017 and emerged as top-ranked economy in Central and South Asia. It has consistently moving up on global ranking from 81st in 2015 to 57th this year.

India is a top performer in the lower middle income group, where it is ranked at fifth position. It is the most innovative country in its region of central and southern Asia.

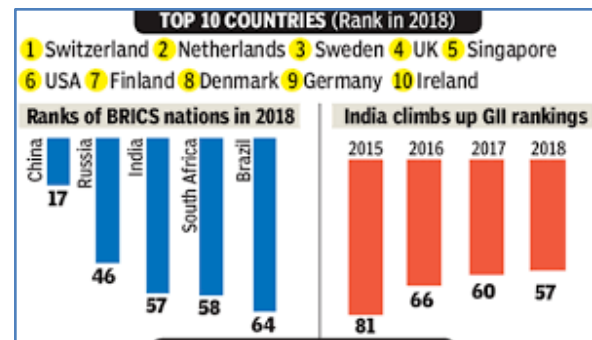
In the indicators that capture the quality of innovation inputs and outputs, India is ranked second after China in the lower and upper middle income group combined.

However, India has fared badly on indicators such as ease of starting business, political stability and safety, overall education and environmental performance.

Switzerland is at the top. Since 2011, Switzerland has been ranked at the top every year.

This year, Netherlands follows at second place and Sweden at third. The US drops down to sixth from fourth last year.

Four of the top five innovation clusters are in Asia, based on patents and publishing. San Francisco is the only innovation cluster outside Asia among the top five.



Tokyo is at the top, and two of the top five clusters are in China.

China, at 17, broke into the world's top 20 most-innovative economies.

On a new indicator – mobile-app creation – Cyprus, Finland and Lithuania emerged as global leaders in development of mobile apps relative to GDP.

FAILURE TO EDUCATE GIRLS COULD COST WORLD \$30 TRILLION A YEAR: WORLD BANK REPORT

More than 130 million girls are out of school globally, the World Bank said

About 132 million girls worldwide aged 6 to 17 do not attend school, while fewer than two-thirds of those in low-income nations finish primary school, and only a third finish lower secondary school

Failing to let girls finish their education could cost the world as much as \$30 trillion in lost earnings and productivity annually

Positive impacts of completing secondary school education for girls

- Women who have completed secondary education are more likely to work and earn on average nearly twice as much as those with no schooling
- Women who have completed secondary education are at lesser risk of suffering

violence at the hands of their partners and have children who are less likely to be malnourished and themselves are more likely to go to school

- There will be a reduction in child marriage
- Lower fertility rates in countries with high population growth
- Reduced child mortality and malnutrition

RBI FLAGS STATES' FISCAL STRESS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has pointed to the fiscal stress that States are facing due to several factors including farm loan waivers

In a report 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2017-18 and 2018-19,' the central bank noted that States' consolidated gross fiscal deficit (GFD) overshoot the budget estimates in 2017-18 due to shortfalls in own tax revenues and higher revenue expenditure

Since the combined GFP to GDP was at 6.4% as compared with the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Committee's (FRBM) medium-term target of 5%, there is a risk that private investment gets crowded out of the finite pool of financial resources

Risks are also likely to emanate from possible higher pre-election expenditure in more than 10 States and implementation of the balance pay commission awards

With States continuing announcements and roll-out of farm loan waivers, the budgeted GFD could be at risk, and additional borrowing requirement could produce a concomitant impact on the already elevated borrowing yields

Effect of farm loan waivers

1. These have a dampening impact on rural credit institutions
2. Waivers impact credit discipline
3. They vitiate credit culture and disincentivise borrowers to repay loans, thus engendering moral hazard

INDIA HAS 5TH LARGEST AREA UNDER GM CROPS

As per International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA)'s latest 'Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/ GM Crops in 2017' report, **India has the world's fifth largest cultivated area under genetically modified (GM) crops.**

Unlike other big growers, India's entire GM crop area is under a single crop — cotton — incorporating genes from the *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt soil bacterium coding for resistance against heliothis bollworm insect pests.

The country with the highest area under transgenic crops, at 75 mh, is the United States. It includes soyabean, maize (corn), cotton, alfalfa, canola, sugar-beet, potato, apples, squash and papaya.

The report shows farmers across the world have planted 189.8 mh under transgenic crops last year. This is as against 1.7 mh in 1996, the year when they were grown commercially for the first time. Total planted area grew particularly during the first decade of this century, while slowing down in the last five years.

The report has estimated the highest share in the world's total 189.8 mh GM crop area for 2017 to be of soyabean (94.1 mh), followed by maize (59.7 mh), cotton (24.1 mh), canola (10.2 mh), alfalfa (1.2 mh) and sugar-beet (0.50 mh).

GM crops in India:

In India, the GM crops that are under regulatory consideration — apart from the already commercialized Bt/insect-resistant cotton — include glyphosate-tolerant cotton and biotech hybrid mustard.

Both the Bollgard II-Roundup Ready Flex (BGII-RRF) cotton event of Monsanto (incorporating Bt as well as glyphosate-tolerant genes) and transgenic mustard developed by Delhi University's Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (harbouring three alien genes that enable higher yields through hybridisation) have undergone all the mandated bio-safety research and open field trials.
