

1. Global Innovation Index – Indices & Reports

Global Innovation Index 2025 – Top 10 countries, and where India ranks in comparison to China and the United States. The World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Global Innovation Index 2025 ranks Switzerland at the top of 139 economies. India has steadily climbed to the 38th position, securing the top spot among lower-middle-income countries and in its region.

Global Innovation Landscape & Top Performers

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has released its annual Global Innovation Index (GII) for 2025, providing a comprehensive assessment of the innovation performance of 139 economies. Switzerland continues its long-standing reign at the top. A notable development is China's entry into the top 10 for the first time, driven by its global leadership in Knowledge and Technology Outputs.

Rank	Economy
1	Switzerland
2	Sweden
3	USA
4	South Korea
5	Singapore
6	United Kingdom
7	Finland
8	Netherlands
9	Denmark
10	China

Global Trend – Slowdown in R&D Growth

The GI-2025 report highlights a concerning global trend of slowing investment in Research & Development (R&D).

1. R&D growth fell significantly to 2.9% in 2024.
2. It is projected to decline further to 2.3% in 2025.
3. This is a sharp drop from the 4.4% growth seen in the previous year and marks the lowest growth rate since the 2010 financial crisis, signaling potential headwinds for future innovation.

India's Innovation Performance

India has demonstrated a consistent upward trajectory in the GI rankings, solidifying its position as a regional and income-group leader.

1. Overall Rank – India stands at 38th place, a steady climb from its rank of 48th in 2020.
2. Leadership Position –
 1. 1st among all lower-middle-income economies.
 2. 1st in the Central and Southern Asia region.

Breakdown of India's Strengths and Weaknesses –

1. Key Strengths –
 1. Knowledge & Technology Outputs (Ranked 22nd) – This reflects India's robust and export-oriented ICT services sector, a large talent pool, and increasing digital adoption across the economy.
 2. Market Sophistication (Ranked 38th) – This indicates a vibrant entrepreneurial market environment and a rapidly expanding startup ecosystem.
2. Areas for Improvement –
 1. Business Sophistication (Ranked 64th) – Suggests a need to improve linkages between industry and academia and enhance corporate R&D.

2. Infrastructure (Ranked 61st) – Points to gaps in physical, digital, and energy infrastructure that are crucial for a thriving innovation ecosystem.
3. Institutions (Ranked 58th) – Indicates that regulatory quality, rule of law, and the ease of doing business require further strengthening.

Top Innovators by Region & Income Group

The GII provides a detailed breakdown of innovation leaders across different geographical and economic categories.

Top Innovators by Region

Region	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
Europe	CH Switzerland	SE Sweden	GB UK
Northern America	US United States	CA Canada	-
South East Asia, East Asia, Oceania	KR Republic of Korea	SG Singapore	CN China
Central and Southern Asia	IN India	IR Iran	UZ Uzbekistan
Northern Africa and Western Asia	IL Israel	AE UAE	TR Türkiye
Latin America & Caribbean	CL Chile	BR Brazil	MX Mexico
Sub-Saharan Africa	ZA South Africa	BW Botswana	SN Senegal

Top Innovators by Income Group

Income Group	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
High-income	CH Switzerland	SE Sweden	US United States
Upper middle-income	CN China	MY Malaysia	TR Türkiye
Lower middle-income	IN India	VN Vietnam	PH Philippines
Low-income	RW Rwanda	TG Togo	UG Uganda

Understanding the Global Innovation Index (GII)

What it is – The GII is a leading annual publication by WIPO that ranks economies based on their innovation capabilities and measurable results.

Methodology – It employs a comprehensive framework, evaluating 139 economies on the basis of over 80 indicators. These indicators are grouped into innovation inputs (what enables innovation) and innovation outputs (the results of innovation).

Pillars of Evaluation – The index assesses economies across key pillars such as Institutions, Infrastructure, Research and Development (R&D), Market Sophistication, Business Sophistication, Knowledge & Technology Output, and Creative Output.

Significance – The GII serves as a critical benchmarking tool for policymakers, business leaders, investors, and academics worldwide. It helps identify strengths and weaknesses, guiding the formulation of effective policies to foster innovation-led economic growth.

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