

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- India in Innovation Rank 2018
- E-Books
- IIC

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“Changes call for innovation, and innovation leads to progress.”

- Li Keqiang

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India Further Climbs up Innovation Rank in 2018

Innovation is considered to be a growth parameter of a country. In order to capture the multidimensional facets of innovation and for providing tools to help the countries to re-design their policies to promote long term output growth, improved productivity and job growth, Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organization- a specialized agency of the United Nations, carry out a very rigorous exercise of ranking the countries on the basis of innovativeness. It ranks nations based on 80 indicators, ranging from intellectual property filing rates to R&D, human capital, growth rate of GDP per person, productivity growth, political stability, online creativity, mobile application creation, computer software spending, education spending, scientific and technical publications and ease of starting a business, etc. As a result, a Global Innovation Index (GII) has been published annually since 2007.

GII Ranking

Recognizing the key role of innovation as a driver of economic growth and prosperity, the GII ranking has become very significant by way of comparing the economies on the basis of the level of their innovation. GII framework mainly relies on two sub-indices: the innovation input sub-index and the innovation output sub-index. Each of these sub-indices is built around five input pillars and two output pillars. The input pillars capture elements of the national economy that enable innovative activities in the country. The input pillars include institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, market sophistication, and business sophistication. The output pillars capture actual evidence of innovation outputs which include knowledge, technology outputs and creative outputs. Each pillar is divided into sub-pillars and each sub-pillar is composed of individual indicators. The GII 2018 had total 80 individual indicators. The overall GII score is the simple average of the input and output sub-indices. In order to calculate the input sub-index and output sub-index, simple averages of input pillar scores and output pillar scores are computed.

India Consistently Climbs Up in Rankings

In India, the Global Innovation Index-2018 was launched on 8th August, 2018. The event was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) along with the

World Intellectual Property Organization with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. The theme of Global Innovation Index 2018 was “Emerging the served with Innovation”, whereas the theme for 2017 was ‘Innovation feeding the World’. In a survey of innovation capacity among 126 countries representing 90.8% of the world’s population and 96.3% of global GDP, India climbed to 57th most innovative nation globally in 2018. As per the GII-2018, while India improved its rank from 60 in 2017 to 57 in 2018, Switzerland, the Netherland, Sweden, the UK and Singapore occupied top five ranks. It is important to mention that India has consistently moved up on global ranking from 81 in 2015 to 57 this year. It ranked at 66th position in 2016. In addition to it, India has maintained its top place in Central and South Asia regions also. In fact, it has climbed up the list third year in a row.

It is important to mention that India has improved its rankings in five pillars including institutions, infrastructure, business sophistication, knowledge and technology outputs, and creative outputs. The indicators which have helped India to improve its ranking include India’s human capital, the growth rate of GDP per worker, exports of information and communication technology and services, productivity growth, and creative goods exports, etc. However, there are certain indicators where India has not fared well such as the ease of starting a business, political stability and safety, the overall education and environmental performance. The areas covering these indicators need to be given special consideration to come up in the top ranking pattern. An analysis of the GII report and the significant improvement at the sub pillar and indicator level, clearly shows that India has great potential to improve at different indicator’s level.

Significance of GII Ranking for India

According to Shri Ratan P. Watal, Principal Advisor, NITI Aayog, the Government and Industry must synergize their efforts to promote R&D and innovation in the country. At the time of launching of GII-2018 report, he further said that GII-2018 report provided an opportunity to look at examples of similar economies from across the world and understand how they effected change in their countries. In this context, he underlined the need to-

- Transform India’s Innovation Ecosystem and formulate a New Innovation Policy to attract R&D investment in cutting edge technologies and build appropriate infrastructure and institutions.
- Tap global hotspots of Innovation in latest technologies like AI, Blockchain, and Robotics, etc.
- Connect Tinkering labs in schools with start-ups, business and high end educational institutions.
- Target efficient, productive and outcome driven R&D in the Government Sector.

Let us join hands with the Government to make India a hub of innovation in the world. There is a need to create a culture of innovation and develop an innovation ecosystem in the country. We hope India will soon find a place among the top leaders of innovation. However, special efforts need to be made to foster the culture of innovation by way of identifying the grassroots innovators and sharing their innovations, thus creating a culture of Innovation. NITI Aayog along with the GII has developed a road map to bring India among the top 10 countries of the world in innovation ranking. We all should synergize our efforts to achieve this goal.

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Introduction

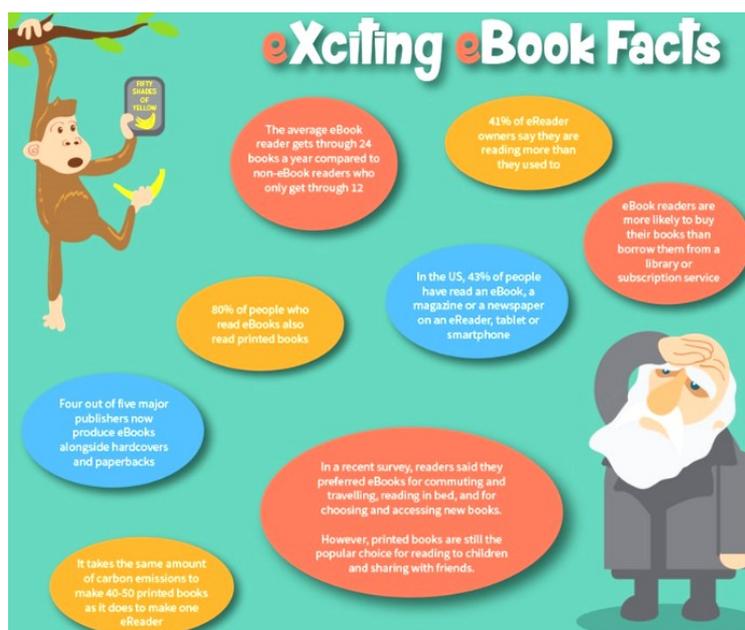
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References:

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Brainstorming session on “Swacch Bharat: Innovative Initiatives at IGNOU” organised by InnovationClub@IGNOU

Recently the Ministry of Human Resource Development announced the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA) to systematically rank education institutions and universities primarily on innovation related indicators. One of the categories of indicators is the innovative solutions/ approaches developed and deployed in the institution. Six areas are considered under this category, namely, energy conservation, waste management, water management, knowledge management, enhancing security, and enhancing creativity in students.

Taking this into consideration, to achieve the goal of making IGNOU as “*Swachh* IGNOU”, the InnovationClub@IGNOU organised a brainstorming session on the topic “*Swacch* Bharat: Innovative Initiatives at IGNOU” on 26th October, 2018. The discussion focused on the various issues pertaining to the areas of energy conservation, waste management and water management. Many ideas were generated in the discussion, which could be implemented by the University. It was recommended that the university should make efforts on *swacchata* at the policy level. The members felt that the *swachhata* workers in the university needed to be specially empowered with the necessary health and hygiene awareness along with the knowledge skills of cleaning. Short term educational training programmes on sensitization and awareness on *swacchata* for all levels of staff at IGNOU need to be offered. Projects on *swacchata* could be taken up on energy efficiency and waste and water management. It was suggested that the university should establish mechanisms of collaboration and networking with NGOs, government agencies and funding agencies. It was strongly recommended that the IGNOU students should be involved in all these efforts of the university.



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IGNOU establishes Institute's Innovation Council (IIC)

The Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has recently established the MHRD's Innovation Cell (MIC) to systematically foster the culture of innovation within all Higher Education Institutes. The primary mandate of MIC is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by supporting them to work on new ideas. The MIC has envisioned the creation of the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) across select Higher Education Institutes. A network of the IICs will be established to systematically promote innovation in the institutions.

The IIC at IGNOU was established on 15th October, 2018. The council has 19 members with Dr. O. P. Sharma, Director, NCIDE as the President and Dr. Moumita Das, Assistant Director, NCIDE as the Convener. The other members are from an incubation centre, lead investor, industry and the students of IGNOU.

The activities of the IIC include workshops, exhibitions, seminars, boot camps for entrepreneurship development, innovation competition, technical expos, hackathons etc. The best innovative projects in the end of the will be selected and funded by the MIC.

The IICs will be formally launched by the Hon'ble Minister Shri. Prakash Javdekar, Ministry of HRD on 21st November, 2018.

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The National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) was established in December 2005. It is a facility for promoting, supporting, re-engineering and disseminating innovations in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system. The NCIDE is a ground for nurturing bright and inquisitive minds whose ideas and explorations are expected to revolutionise the ODL system to suit the needs of Gennext. The Centre's goal is to develop a culture of continued search for new and innovative solutions to offer seamless education for all, achieve cost efficiency in its operations and provide borderless access to quality education and training.

We look forward to receiving your suggestions for this e-newsletter. We also welcome your contributions for the future issues. Please send us your emails at:

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