

7. India Innovation Index 2019

Prelims: Indices & Reports

Mains: GS-II- Government policies and Interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and Implementation.

Why in News?

- ▶ NITI Aayog with Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner released the India Innovation Index (III) 2019.

About India Innovation Index 2019:

- ▶ Recognizing the role of innovation as a key driver of growth and prosperity for India, NITI Aayog with Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner has released the India Innovation Index 2019.
- ▶ The study is an outcome of extensive research and analysis, which looks holistically at the innovation landscape of India by examining the innovation capabilities and performance of Indian states and union territories.
- ▶ The aim is to create a holistic tool which can be used by policymakers across the country to identify the challenges to be addressed and strengths to build on when designing the economic growth policies for their regions.
- ▶ The index attempts to create an extensive framework for the continual evaluation of the innovation environment of 29 states and seven union territories in India and intends to perform the following three functions-
 1. Ranking of states and UTs based on their index scores,
 2. Recognizing opportunities and challenges, and
 3. Assisting in tailoring governmental policies to foster innovation.
- ▶ The India Innovation Index 2019 is calculated as the average of the scores of its two dimensions - Enablers and Performance.
- ▶ The Enablers are the factors that underpin innovative capacities, grouped in five pillars:
 1. Human Capital
 2. Investment
 3. Knowledge Workers
 4. Business Environment, and
 5. Safety and Legal Environment.

- ▶▶ The Performance dimension captures benefits that a nation derives from the inputs, divided in two pillars: (6) Knowledge Output and (7) Knowledge Diffusion.

Key Findings:

- ▶▶ Karnataka is the most innovative major state in India.
- ▶▶ Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh form the remaining top ten major states respectively.
- ▶▶ The top ten major states are majorly concentrated in southern and western India.
- ▶▶ Sikkim and Delhi take the top spots among the north- eastern & hill states, and union territories/city states/small states respectively.
- ▶▶ Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh are the most efficient states in translating inputs into output.
- ▶▶ The index shows that the innovation ecosystem of the country is strong in south and western parts of India. In fact, three of the top five major states are from southern India. Delhi and Haryana seem to be an exception to this rule and seem to be doing well on the Index. Thus, there seems to be a west-south and north-east divide across the country.
- ▶▶ The states have been bifurcated into three categories: major states, north-east and hill states, and union territories / city states / small states. Karnataka is the leader in the overall rankings in the category of major states.
- ▶▶ Karnataka's number one position in the overall ranking is partly attributed to its top rank in the Performance dimension. It is also among the top performers in Infrastructure, Knowledge Workers, Knowledge Output and Business Environment.
- ▶▶ Among the category of major states, Maharashtra performs the best in the dimension of Enablers. This implies that it has the best enabling environment for innovation, even though the state comes in at the third position in the overall innovation index.

Way Forward:

- ▶▶ The broad level learnings and some policy imperatives at the national level include increasing the spending on research and development, improving the capability of top rung educational institutions in the country to produce greater innovation outputs.
- ▶▶ There is also a need for greater coordination and collaboration between the industry and educational institutions for enhancing innovation capability.
- ▶▶ A collaborative platform consisting of all the stakeholders of innovation - innovators, researchers, and investors from the industry should be developed.

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- ▶▶ This will help in strengthening the industry-academia linkages and will ease the process of technology transfer by providing a platform for innovators to showcase their inventions.
 - ▶▶ At the state level, broad level key learning includes forming policies at the state level that seek to improve the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem.
 - ▶▶ Cluster development programs are also an area in need of greater coordination and can benefit from a more open collaborative approach.
 - ▶▶ Also, the industrial policies at the state level should focus more on innovation. At present only a few policies exist for innovation even in the most innovative states and union territories.

