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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2023

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Global Innovation Index 2023". This topic has relevance in the "Economy" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is the Global Innovation Index 2023?

What is WIPO?

For Mains:

GS3: Economy

Why in the news?

According to the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), India has maintained its 40th rank out of 132 economies.

About Global Innovation Index 2023

The Global Innovation Index 2023 assesses the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 economies and keeps track of the most recent global innovation trends.

Key Takeaways of the Report:

- The report identifies **Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Singapore** as the global leaders in innovation.
- At the same time, China, Turkey, **India**, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, and the Islamic Republic of Iran are recognised as middle-income economies that have **made significant progress in innovation over the last decade**.
- The report also reveals that innovation investments showed mixed performance in 2022 amid various challenges and a downturn in innovation finance.
- Furthermore, the report indicates that technological progress is widespread, with few setbacks. Technology adoption is on the rise, but its socioeconomic impact remains weak.
- The report presents a global top 100 science and technology cluster ranking, highlighting that the **world's five most significant clusters are all in East Asia**.
- **Tokyo-Yokohama is the largest cluster globally, while Cambridge is the most science and technology-intensive cluster.**

India's Performance

- India has been on a rising trajectory over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), **moving from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.**

- In the report, WIPO noted that, apart from India, only four other middle-income economies are among the top 40, namely, China (12th), Malaysia (36th), Bulgaria (38th), and Turkey (39th).
- The GII listed **India** among the 21 economies that have **consistently outperformed** for a 13th consecutive year **in innovation relative to their level of development**.
- Besides infrastructure, India was the top performer in all other criteria within the Central and South Asian region.

Driving Factors behind India's Rise

- The consistent improvement in the GII ranking is attributed to the **immense knowledge capital, the vibrant start-up ecosystem, and the work done by public and private research organisations**.
- All government departments, including the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Biotechnology, the Department of Space, and the Department of Atomic Energy, have played a pivotal role in enriching the National Innovation Ecosystem.
- Most importantly, the **Atal Innovation Mission** has played a significant role in expanding the innovation ecosystem.

World Intellectual Property Organization

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) created to promote and protect intellectual property (IP) worldwide.
- WIPO cooperates with countries and international organizations to achieve its goals.
- **Headquarters:** WIPO is based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Activities:**
 - WIPO hosts forums to discuss and shape international IP rules and policies.
 - They also provide global services for IP registration and protection in different countries.
 - WIPO helps resolve transboundary IP disputes, promotes uniform standards and infrastructure for IP systems, and serves as a reference database on IP matters.
- **Funding:** WIPO differs from most UN organizations as it relies heavily on fees related to its global services, with 95% of its budget being self-funded.
- **Treaties:** WIPO administers 26 international treaties that cover a wide range of intellectual property issues.

Sources: India retains 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023

Q1. With reference to the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings, consider the following statements:

1. India has improved its ranking consistently over the past several years.
2. China, Malaysia, Bulgaria, India, and Turkey are the only middle-income economies ranking among the top 40.
3. India performs well in all criteria within the Central and South Asian region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only

(d) None

Answer: (a)

Q2. Consider the following:

1. The Global Innovation Index 2023 captures the innovation ecosystem performance of 193 economies worldwide.
2. Switzerland, Sweden, and Canada are identified as the global leaders in innovation.
3. The report highlights that the world's five most significant science and technology clusters are all located in North America.
4. The Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings are published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

How many of the abovementioned statements are correct ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

Answer: (a)

Q3. Discuss the factors contributing to India's rise in the Global Innovation Index and examine the role of government initiatives in fostering innovation in the country.

Gaurav Nikumbh

MEASLES

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the Topic details "Measles". This Topic has relevance in the Science and Technology section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is Measles?

For Mains:

GS 3: Science and Technology

Global Measles Outbreak and Causes?

Solutions to Combat Measles?

Why in the news:

The recent surge in measles cases and associated fatalities in the capital can be attributed to a combination of factors, including the underreporting of cases and the impact of COVID-19 lockdown measures over the past few years.

What is Measles?

- Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. It spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or breathes.
- Measles can lead to severe illness, complications, and fatalities. While it can affect anyone, it is most common in children.

- The virus initially infects the respiratory tract and then spreads throughout the body. Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, and a characteristic rash all over the body.
- Measles is associated with secondary infections such as pneumonia and diarrhoea.

Global Measles Outbreak and Causes:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified a worldwide measles outbreak.
- Lack of vaccination is recognized as the primary cause of this outbreak.
- In 2021, nearly 40 million children missed a measles vaccine dose due to COVID-19-related challenges.
- A significant decline in vaccination rates in recent years has left many children vulnerable to the virus.

Solutions to Combat Measles:

- **Increased Vaccination Coverage**
 - A crucial solution is to ensure proper vaccination coverage for at-risk populations.
 - Boosting vaccination rates is essential to control the spread of measles.
- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**
 - The additional dose of Measles and Rubella vaccine is vital for UIP purposes.
 - This special dose plays a critical role in achieving widespread immunization.
- **Vitamin A Supplements**
 - Administering two doses of vitamin A supplements, given 24 hours apart, is essential for individuals with measles.
 - This helps restore low vitamin A levels, even in well-nourished children, preventing eye damage, blindness, and reducing measles-related deaths.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/from-6-to-543-what-is-behind-surge-in-reported-measles-cases-in-capital-8960959/>

Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding measles:

1. A bacterial infection causes measles.
2. Vitamin A supplements are recommended as a treatment for measles.
3. Measles can lead to secondary infections like pneumonia and diarrhoea.

How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER: B

Q.2 What is the primary mode of transmission of the measles?

- (a) Measles primarily spreads through contaminated food and water.
- (b) Measles primarily spreads through respiratory droplets from an infected person
- (c) Measles primarily spreads through direct skin-to-skin contact.
- (d) Measles primarily spreads through insect vectors

ANSWER: B

Q.3 Discuss the significance of a robust and inclusive vaccination program in public health. Provide insights into the challenges of implementing vaccination programs and suggest strategies to overcome them.

Rishabh



Yojna IAS
योजना है तो सफलता है