



Global Cybersecurity Index: ITU

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Why in News

Recently, **India has ranked tenth (10th) in Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020 by ITU (International Telecommunication Union)** by moving up 37 places.

The affirmation came just ahead of the sixth anniversary of **Digital India on 1st July**.

Key Points

- **Top Ranking:**
 - The **US topped (1st)**, followed by the UK (United Kingdom) and Saudi Arabia tied on the **second position together**.
 - Estonia was **ranked third (3rd)** in the index.
- **Results for India:**
 - India **scored a total of 97.5 points from a possible maximum of 100 points**, to make it to the **tenth position worldwide** in the GCI 2020.
 - India **secured the fourth position in the Asia Pacific region**.
 - India is **emerging as a global IT superpower**, asserting its digital sovereignty with firm measures to safeguard data privacy and online rights of citizens.
 - The result shows **substantial overall improvement and strengthening under all parameters of the cybersecurity domain**.
- **Basis of Assessment:**
 - On the basis of performance on **five parameters of cybersecurity**, which are, Legal measures, technical measures, organisational measures, capacity development, and cooperation.
 - The performance is then **aggregated into an overall score**.

- **International Telecommunication Union:**

- It is the **United Nations specialized agency** for information and communication technologies – ICTs.
- **Founded in 1865** to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks. It is **Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**.
- It **allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits**, develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strives to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.
- Recently, **India got elected as a member of ITU Council for another 4-year term** - from 2019 to 2022. India has remained a regular member since 1952.

- **Challenges to Cyber Security in India:**

- Deploying multiple cybersecurity tools **reinforces a fragmented and complex security environment** that is prone to risks arising from human error.
- Cybersecurity challenges **companies face as they shift the majority of their employees to a remote working** arrangement in a really short period of time.
- India **lacks indigenization in hardware as well as software cybersecurity** tools. This makes India's cyberspace vulnerable to cyberattacks motivated by state and non-state actors.

India doesn't have an 'active cyber defense' like the EU's **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** or the US' Clarifying Lawful Overseas Use of Data (CLOUD) Act.

- **Efforts to Improve Cyber Security in India:**

- **National Cyber Security Strategy 2020:** It is being formulated to improve cyber awareness and cybersecurity through more stringent audits.
- **Draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018** (based on the recommendation of Justice BN Srikrishna Committee) to secure citizens' data.
- The scheme to set up **I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre)** was approved in October 2018, to deal with all types of cybercrimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- **National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** functions as the nodal agency for coordination of all cyber security efforts, emergency responses, and crisis management.
- Protection and resilience of critical information infrastructure with the set up of **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)**.

- **International Mechanisms:**

- **Budapest Convention on Cybercrime:** It is an international treaty that seeks to address Internet and computer crime by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations. It came into force on 1st July 2004. **India is not a signatory to this convention.**
- **Internet Governance Forum (IGF):** It brings together all stakeholders i.e. government, private sector and civil society on the Internet governance debate.

Source: IE