



Global Cybersecurity Index: ITU

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](#)

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