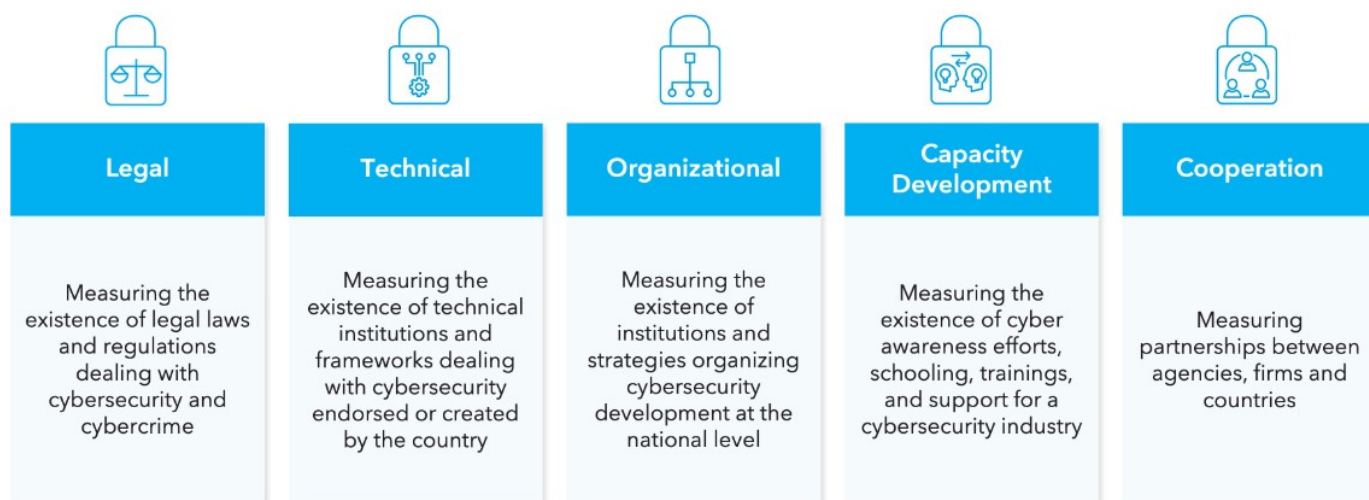


UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 21-09-2024

Global Cybersecurity Index 2024

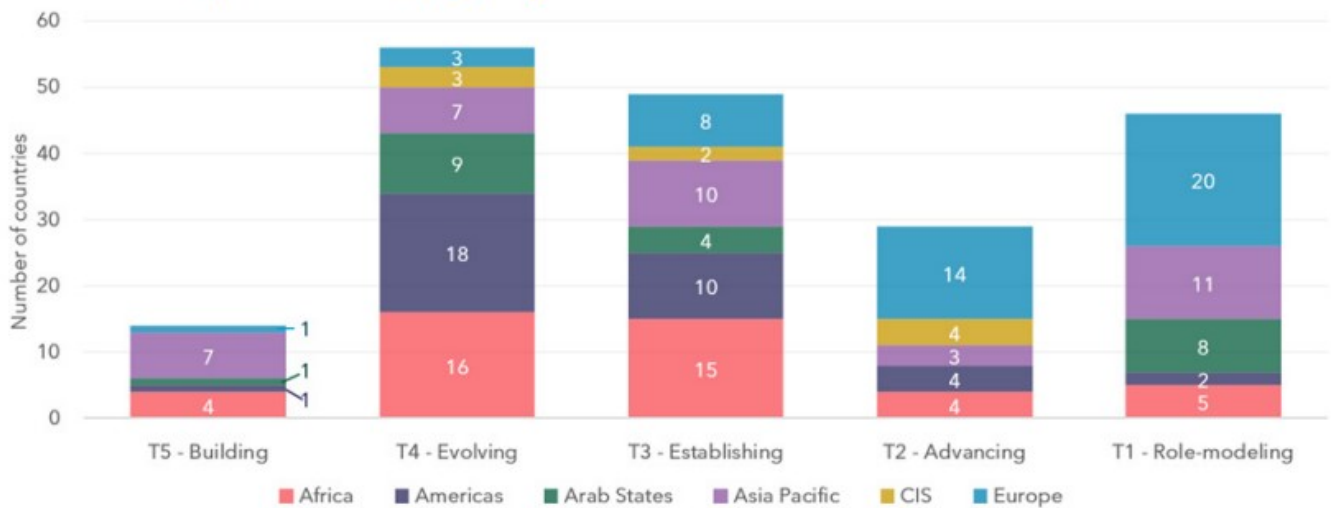
India has achieved Tier 1 status in Global Cybersecurity Index 2024

- **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI)** - It measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at a global level to raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of the issue.
- **Publisher** - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **Pillars of GCI** - It assesses national efforts based on five pillars.
 - Legal
 - Technical
 - Organizational
 - Capacity Development
 - Cooperation.



- **Evaluation** - It is based on 83 questions, covering 20 indicators, 64 sub-indicators, and 28 micro-indicators.

Tier performance, by region



- **Performance of India** - India's Scored 98.49 out of 100 in GCI 2024 .
- **Tier 1 Status** - India joins the ranks of 'role-modelling' countries, demonstrating a strong commitment to cybersecurity practices across the globe.

India

GCI 5th Edition Country Profile

India Score
Asia Pacific Region Average Score



Country Score

out of maximum 20 points per pillar

Legal Measures	Technical Measures	Organization Measures	Capacity Development	Cooperation Measures
20	20	18.49	20	20

Areas of Relative Strength

Legal Measures
Technical Measures
Capacity Development Measures
Cooperation Measures

Area of Potential Growth

Organizational Measures

Tier Performance

T1: Role-modelling



- **Nodal Department for India** - Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.

Cyber Security Initiatives of India

- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team(CERT-In)** - It has been designated as the national agency for responding to cyber security incidents.
- **Sectoral Computer Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs)** - They provide sector-specific technical support and incident reporting, further strengthening India's cybersecurity capabilities.
- Sectoral Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) have been setup for Power , Thermal, Hydro, Transmission, Distribution, Grid Operation and Renewable Energy sectors.
- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)**- It has been established to ensure protection of critical information infrastructure in the country including power sector.

Reference

[PIB | Global Cybersecurity Index 2024](#)

Third Advance Estimates of Horticultural Crops for 2023-24

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has released the Third Advance Estimates of 2023-24 of Area and Production of various Horticultural Crops.

- **Horticulture production 2023-24** - It is estimated to be about 353.19 million Tonnes, decrease of about 22.94 Lakh Tonnes (0.65%) over 2022-23 (Final Estimates).
- Production of Fruits, Honey, Flowers, Plantation Crops, Spices and Aromatics & Medicinal Plants were increased.

Total Horticulture	2022-23	2023-24 (2nd Adv. Est.)	2023-24 (3rd Adv. Est.)
Area (in Million Ha)	28.44	28.63	28.98
Production (in Million Tonne)	355.48	352.23	353.19

- **Production of Fruits** - It is expected to increase by 2.29 % over 2022-23 i.e. to 112.73 million Tonne.
- **Major contributors** - Production of mango, banana, lime/lemon, grapes, custard apple have increased.
- Production of apple, sweet orange, mandarin, guava, litchi, pomegranate, pineapple are expected to decrease as compared to 2022-23.
- **Production of Vegetables** - It is envisaged to be around 205.80 million Tonnes.
- Increase is expected in production of tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, tapioca, bottle gourd, pumpkin, carrot, cucumber, bitter gourd, parwal.
- Decrease in production is envisaged in potato, onion, brinjal, elephant foot yam, capsicum, and other vegetables.
- **Production of Onion** - It is expected to be at 242.44 Lakh Tonne in 2023-24.
- **Potato production** - It is expected to around 570.49 Lakh Tonne in 2023-24.
- It is, mainly due to decrease in production reported in Bihar and West Bengal.

- **Production of Tomato** - It is expected to be 213.20 Lakh Tonne in 2023-24 compared to around 204.25 Lakh Tonne last year, an increase by 4.38.

Reference

[PIB | Third Advance Estimates of 2023-24 Horticultural Crops](#)

Rare Dung Beetle Species

Recently, a new dung beetle species has been identified from elephant waste in a bamboo-dominated secondary forest near Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary in Meghalaya.

- **Dung Beetles** - They are beetles that feed on faeces.
- **Scientific name** - *Onitis bordati*

Onitis bordati stands out due to its unique context, as it was located in elephant faeces, in contrast to the discoveries of other species in Assam and Karnataka, which were associated with cattle waste.



- **Range** - Previously, it was found only in Vietnam and Thailand.

Dung Beetle Species was previously unknown in the Indian subcontinent. The discovery marks the 1st documented occurrence of the species in India, expanding its known range.

- **Features** - Some can bury dung under the soil upto 250 times their weight in a single night to lay their eggs and extract micronutrients.
- The species belonging to the **genus *Onitis* are tunnellers**.
- Males of most species possess unique forelegs that are elongated, slender, and curved, often featuring teeth or spines.
- **Ecological functions** - They also roll dung to their burrows over considerable distances, which aids in soil fertility.
- It helps in seed dispersal, nutrient recycling, pest regulation, and plant growth enhancement.
- **Threats** - Habitat loss and climate change

- **Conservation** - Engaging local communities in protecting the rich biodiversity found in regions like Assam and Meghalaya
- **Significance of its discovery** - It underscores the significance of preserving the natural habitats of northeastern India.
- With this discovery, the number of Onitis species in the subcontinent has increased to 20, and the total for the Oriental region has reached 26.

Quick Facts

- **The Oriental region** - It is a *biogeographic region* that includes India, mainland and much of insular Southeast Asia.
- It is also known as the Indian or Sino-Indian region.
- **Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary** - It is located in Meghalaya, and is rich in biodiversity of flora and fauna.
- It hosts various wildlife, including the rare Clouded Leopard, majestic Elephants, the formidable Himalayan Black Bear, and Great Slaty Woodpecker that resides in the area.

Reference

[The Hindu| Dung Beetle Specie](#)

