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News: Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024

- Recently, India has achieved a major milestone in cybersecurity by securing Tier 1 status in the 5th edition of Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024, published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Global Cyber security Index (GCI)

- Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) is released by **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** since 2015.
- The GCI **utilises a multi-stakeholder approach and leverages the capacity and expertise of different organisations.**
- Countries are ranked 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.
- The GCI aims to **improve the quality of the survey, foster international cooperation, promote knowledge exchange and raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of cybersecurity.**

5- Tier Analysis

- Countries are categorised into five tiers based on their cybersecurity efforts, with Tier 1 representing the highest level.
- Tier 1 – Role-modelling (score of 95–100)
- Tier 2 – Advancing (score of 85–95)
- Tier 3 – Establishing (score of 55–85)
- Tier 4 – Evolving (score of 20–55)
- Tier 5 – Building (score of 0–20).

Highlights of GCI 2024

- The GCI 2024 evaluated 194 countries and highlighted threats such as ransomware attacks, breaches in critical industries, system outages, and privacy violations.
- **Global:** Since 2021, countries have increasingly prioritised cybersecurity, raising the global average score to 65.7/100.
- GCI 2024 placed 46 countries in Tier 1, compared to 30 in the previous edition.
- Most countries (105) are ranked in Tiers 3 and 4, reflecting progress in expanding digital services but also highlighting the need for stronger cybersecurity measures in their digital transformation strategies.

India's Performance in GCI 2024

- India ranks in Tier 1 with countries like the US, Japan and Australia.
- India scored 98.49/100, an improvement from 97.5 in the 2020 edition due to its robust legal framework like the Information Technology Act (2000), the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023).