

## 1. Performance Grading Index 2.0

Topic: Reports and Indices



**In News:** Ministry of Education has released a report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the year 2021-22.

### More on the Topic

- To have a more updated base with quality indicators, to align with new initiatives of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, to **monitor indicators relating to Goal 4 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, and to **replace existing indicators which have achieved the optimal target**, the PGI – State structure for 2021-22 has been revised and renamed as PGI 2.0.
- The new PGI structure covers **73 indicators and focused more on qualitative assessment** besides including digital initiatives and teacher education.
- The grades/level obtained by States/UTs in the previous edition of the PGIs are thus not comparable to the grades/levels obtained by States/UTs in this new edition.
- In PGI 2.0, data for many of the indicators have been sourced from **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)**, **National Achievement Survey (NAS)**, **PM POSHAN portal**, **PRABAND portal** and **Vidyanjali Portal**.

### More about Performance Grading Index 2.0:

- The PGI 2.0 structure comprises 1000 points across 73 indicators grouped into 2 categories viz., **Outcomes, Governance Management (GM)**.



- These categories are further divided into **6 domains, viz., Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E), Governance Process (GP) & Teachers Education and Training (TE&T).**
- PGI 2.0 for 2021-22 classified the States/UTs into ten grades viz., **the highest achievable Grade is Daksh**, which is for State/UT scoring more than 940 points out of a total of 1000 points. **The lowest grade is Akanshi-3** which is for a score up to 460.

**Significance of Performance Grading Index 2.0:**

- Indicators of PGI 2.0 have been aligned to policy initiatives and interventions introduced post-implementation of **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for proper tracking of the progress.**
- The PGI 2.0 is expected to **help States and UTs to pinpoint the gaps** and accordingly **prioritize areas for intervention** to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level.

**Source: PIB**

---

# 1. Coastal Regulation Zone

## COAST CUTTER

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CRZ I** | Ecologically sensitive areas like sanctuaries, reserve forests, mangroves, coral reefs, turtle-nesting grounds, which could be inundated due to rise in sea level

---


**CRZ II** | Areas which have already been developed up to the shoreline within municipal or corpn limits

---

**CRZ III A** | CRZ III areas with a population of more than 2,161 per sqkm. Here, 50m from high tide will be no-development zone (NDZ)

---

**CRZ III B** | Other CRZ III areas with less population. Here area up to 200m from the HTL on the landward side will be earmarked as NDZ




**BACKGROUND**

➤ Under Environment Protection Act, 1986 a notification was issued in February 1991 for regulation of activities in coastal area by the ministry of environment and forests


---

➤ Coastal land up to 500m from the high tide line (HTL) and area of 100m along banks of estuaries, backwater, creeks and rivers which are subject to tidal fluctuations are called coastal regulation zone (CRZ)


**BOOST FOR TOURISM**

➤ With the freeze on constructions along the coastal zone more or less lifted, the tourism sector will be the biggest beneficiary 


---

➤ Toilets, changing rooms, drinking water facility and temporary shacks can be constructed even on beaches 


---

➤ Existing residential buildings can be converted into homestays without increasing the plinth area 

---

➤ CRZ will not be a bar for public utilities like roads even if it passes through mangrove forests 

---

➤ Introduction of CRZ-III into A and B clauses will address state's main concern of issuing permission to dwelling units as well 

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**



**In News:** The government has extended the validity of coastal regulation zone clearance to 10 years.

**More on the Topic:**

- CRZ clearance – approval for projects that fall in the vicinity of coastlines was valid for seven years which could be **extended for a maximum of three years through an application by the project proponent (any industry/infrastructure project)**, with a recommendation for an extension by the **State Coastal Zone Management Authority**.
- But now CRZ clearances are being harmonised with environmental clearances, which will be granted for 10 years.
- In a notification issued in July 2023, the Union environment ministry also made **CRZ clearance transferrable to another project proponent** and made provisions for the CRZ clearance granted for a specific project **to be split amongst two or more project proponents**.

**About Coastal Regulation Zone:**

- By the Environment Protection Act of 1986, **the Environment Ministry created the Coastal Regulation Zone rules (CRZ rules) in February 1991**.
- The notification of the rules was issued in 2011. In 2018, the government released the **Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2018 to lift building limitations, speed up the clearance procedure, and boost tourism in coastal areas**.
- According to the CRZ regulations, the land between the low tide line (LTL) and the high tide line (HTL), as well as the coastal areas of creeks, seas, bays, rivers, and backwaters that are subject to tides up to 500 metres from the high tide line (HTL), are designated as coastal regulatory zones (CRZ).

**What are CRZ norms?**

- The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms in India are regulations and guidelines established by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- These norms aim **to protect and manage the coastal areas of India**, ensuring sustainable development while preserving the fragile coastal ecosystem.
- The norms restrict certain kinds of activities — like large constructions, setting up of new industries, storage or disposal of hazardous material, mining, reclamation and bunding — within a certain distance from the coastline.

**Source: IE**

---



### 3. Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons



OPCW

**Topic: Science and Technology**

**In News:** The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has confirmed that the last chemical weapon from the stockpiles declared by all States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was verified as destroyed.

#### **More on the Topic:**

- The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which **entered into force on 29 April 1997**.
- The OPCW, with its **193 member states**, has its seat in **The Hague, Netherlands**; it oversees the global endeavour for the permanent and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons.





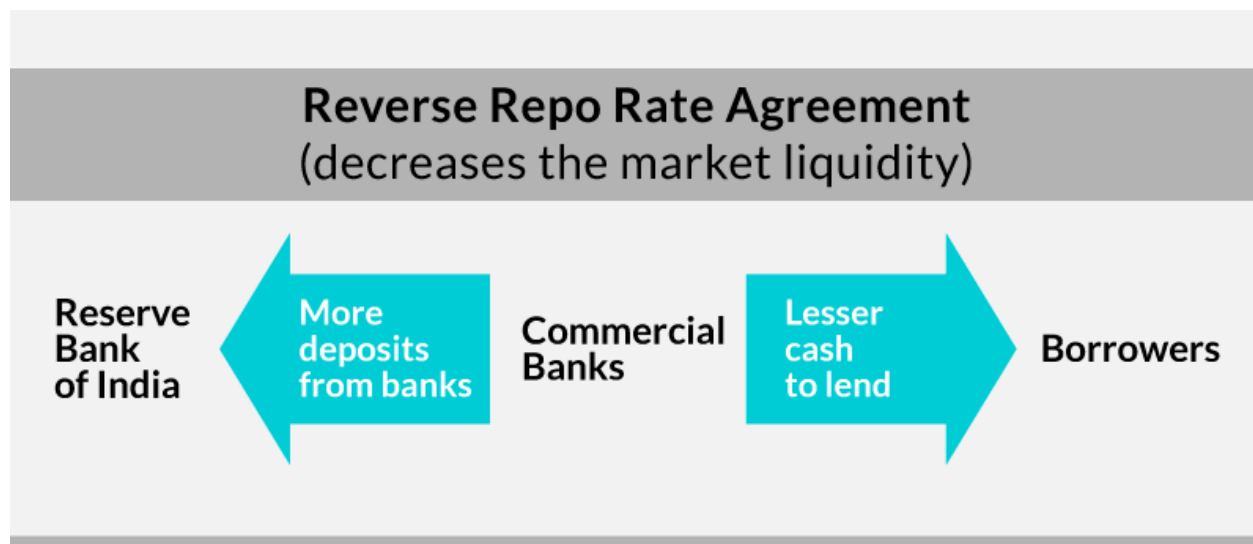
- The organisation promotes and verifies adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention, which prohibits the use of chemical weapons and requires their destruction.
- Verification consists both of evaluation of declarations by member states and onsite inspections.
- The organisation was **awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize**.

Source: Hindu

---

## 4. Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR)

Topic: Economy



**In News:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said it will conduct an overnight variable rate reverse repo auction for a notified amount.

**More on the Topic:**

- A reverse repo is a **fixed or variable interest rate at which banks lend to RBI**.
- The Variable Repo Rate (VRR) auction is usually undertaken **to withdraw excess liquidity from the system**. It is done **to tackle inflation**.
- The rate at which RBI issues loans to commercial banks when there is a shortage of funds is the repo rate.

Source: Indian Express



RV Educational Institutions<sup>®</sup>  
RV Training Academy  
(Sardar Vallabh Bhai Academy)

---

## 5. Geocoding

No 18, B.B.M.P Building  
Kanakapura road ,  
Tata Silk Farm, Jayanagar,  
Bengaluru, Karnataka-560028

+91 89710 43904

rvta@rvei.edu.in

*Go, change the world*



### Topic: Science and Technology

**In News:** The GST Network (GSTN) has made the geocoding functionality live for all states and union territories.

#### More on the Topic:

- Geocoding, which converts an address or description of a location into geographic coordinates, has been introduced **to ensure the accuracy of address details in GSTN records** and streamline the address location and verification process.
- The main aim is to **combat fake registrations and fraudulent tax credits**.

#### About GSTN:

- The GST Network(GSTN) is a **non-profit organization**. It has been established to manage the **entire IT system of the GST portal**.
- This portal is used by the government to track every financial transaction and it also provides taxpayers with all services from registration to filing taxes and maintaining all tax details.





- The government (Central and State) holds 49% equity in GSTN while **private players hold the remaining 51% equity in the GSTN.**

Source: Business Standard

---

## 6. Global Peace Index (GPI)

Topic: Reports and Indices



**In News:** The 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) recently released its annual ranking of the most peaceful countries in the world.

### More on the Topic:

- Published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the 17th edition of the GPI ranked 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness.
- The GPI covers 163 countries comprising 99.7 per cent of the world's population, using 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators from highly respected sources.

### It measures the state of peace across three domains:

- Societal Safety and Security
- Ongoing domestic and international conflict
- Militarisation

### Highlights from the report:

- The average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.42 per cent.

- “This is **the thirteenth deterioration in peacefulness in the last fifteen years**, with 84 countries improving and 79 deteriorating in peacefulness in 2022.”
- **Iceland is the most peaceful country in the world** – a title it has held since 2008.
- It is accompanied at the top by Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, and Austria.
- Conversely, **Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world** for the eighth consecutive year.
- India has occupied the **126th spot in the rankings**, two higher than its previous position.
- The report stated that **India experienced an improvement of 3.5 per cent in overall peacefulness** over the past year, owing to improvements in violent crime, neighbouring country's relations, and political instability.
- Neighbouring countries like Bhutan (17), Maldives (23), etc. performed better than India.

Source: Business Standard

## 7. Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation



**Topic: International Relations**



**In News:** Gavi, the vaccine alliance will be providing 18 million doses of malaria vaccine to African countries.

**More on the Topic:**

- Malaria is one of the leading causes of death in the African continent and these vaccines will play a critical role in saving lives.
- GAVI, officially Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public – private global health partnership to increase access to immunization in poor countries.
- Partner organisations of GAVI include WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Source: Business Standard**

---

## 8. Ubinas Volcano

**Topic: Geography**



**In News:** Peru has declared an emergency status in the area around the Ubinas volcano in the region of Moqueguathe.

**More on the Topic:**

- Ubinas is a **stratovolcano located in the Central Volcanic Zone of the Andes.**
- It is one of the **most active volcanoes in Peru.**
- The Ubinas volcano is **part of a group of seven volcanoes in southern Peru** located within a volcanic zone that extends from **southern Peru to northern Chile.**

**Source: Business Standard**

---