Performance Grading Index

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Why is in news? Ministry of Education releases report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the year 2021-22.

The Indian Education System is one of the largest in the world with about 14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and nearly 26.5 crore students from varied socio-economic backgrounds.

The Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs including key levers that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement.

The **Department of School Education & Literacy**, Ministry of Education, devised Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and UTs which **assesses the performance of school education system at the State/UT level** by creating an index for comprehensive analysis.

The prime objective of PGI is to **promote evidence-based policy making and highlight course correction** to ensure quality education for all.

The PGI - States/UTs was **first released for the year 2017-18** and so far, has been released up to the **year 2020-21**.

The PGI is structured in **two categories**, namely, **Outcomes, and Governance** & **Management** and comprises 70 indicators

These categories are further divided into **5 domains**, viz., Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E) and Governance Process (GP).

Over the period, many of the indicators in PGI – States/UTs have been outlived and become redundant.

Also, the structure of PGI – States/UTs has been heavily tilted towards the indicators related to Governance Processes rather than the quality indicators. Therefore, the PGI – State structure for 2021-22 has been **revised and renamed as PGI 2.0**.

In PGI 2.0, the data source for many of the indicators has been the data from UDISE+ and the grades have been aligned with the PGI - District to have uniformity and better comparability.

Reasons behind launching PGI 2.0:

To have 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 optimal target.

Indicators in PGI 2.0:

The new PGI structure covers **73 indicators**, focused more on qualitative assessment besides including digital initiatives and teacher education.

The grades/level obtained by States/UTs in previous edition of the PGIs are thus not comparable as with the grades/levels obtained by States/UTs in this new edition.

<u>**New Structure**</u>:

The PGI 2.0 structure comprises of 1000 points across 73 indicators grouped into **2 categories**, **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., **highest achievable Grade is Daksh**, which is for State/UT scoring more than 940 points out of total of 1000 points. The **lowest grade is Akanshi-3** which is for score up to 460.

<u>**Significance**</u>:

The ultimate aim of PGI 2.0 is to propel States & UTs towards undertaking multi-pronged interventions that will bring about the much-desired optimal education outcomes covering all dimensions.

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.

<u>**Findings of PGI 2021-22**</u>:

Apart from **Punjab and Chandigarh**, the top performing states and union territories are **Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu**. All of these states were put into the 641 – 700 point category.

Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram emerged as the **worst-performing states** in the PGI report. All three states were put in the 401 - 460 point category.

Delhi was the only state or union territory to get into the highest category for any domain. Delhi was in the top category (941 - 1000) for both access and equity.