



TOPIC OF THE WEEK

JUN'18 (15 to 21)

Topic: Global Peace Index 2018

Measuring peace in a complex world: the 2018 Global Peace Index shows the world is less peaceful today than at any time in the last decade.

India fetched 136th rank among 163 countries on the 2018 Global Peace Index that was released on June 7, 2018 by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), an Australian think tank. Iceland managed to retain its position as the most peaceful country in the world.

About Global Peace Index (GPI)

GPI was launched in 2007 as a measure of world peace. It is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). The Index is composed of 23 indicators, ranging from a nation's level of military expenditure to its relations with neighbouring countries and the percentage of prison population in 163 countries. The IEP is a Sydney-based international and independent think tank dedicated to shift the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human well-being and progress.

Key Highlights of the Global Peace Index 2018

- Global level of peace has deteriorated by 0.27 percent in the last year.
- A total of 71 countries have shown improvement in their rankings on the index, while, 92 countries have shown deterioration in their rankings on the index.
- Amid continuing social and political turmoil, the world continues to spend resources on creating violence, but very little on peace.
- **Iceland** fetched 1st rank on the index, a position it has held since 2008, followed by **New Zealand** and **Austria** at 2nd and 3rd position.
- **Syria** remains the least peaceful country in the world, a position it has held for the past five years. **Afghanistan**, **South Sudan**, **Iraq** and **Somalia** round up the list of five least peaceful countries.
- Four most peaceful regions are Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific, and South America; however, all these regions recorded deteriorations.

- The countries that displayed the most significant growth in heavy weapons capabilities over the last 30 years are located in unstable regions facing high tensions with neighbouring countries. These include **Egypt, India, Iran, Pakistan, South Korea and Syria.**

India's GPI:

- India's GPI rank was 137th out of 163 countries in 2017, when the year 2016 was assessed. In 2018, India's rank moved up to 136, when the year 2017 is assessed.
- This is largely attributed to reduction in level of violent crime, driven by increased law enforcement.
- Meanwhile, unrest in Kashmir raised tensions between India and Pakistan, with the number of deaths from external conflict increasing in both countries.
- Considered to be a spiritual country it is sad to see the position of India year after year in the global peace index.

Significance:

The economic impact of violence on the global economy in 2017 was \$14.76 trillion in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. This figure is equivalent to 12.4% of the world's economic activity (gross world product) or \$1,988 for every person.

The economic impact of violence has increased by 2% during 2017. This is due to a rise in the economic impact of conflict and increases in internal security spending with the largest increases being in China, Russia and South Africa.

The 2018 Global Peace Index uniquely reveals that peacefulness has a considerable impact on macroeconomic performance. In the last 70 years, per capita growth has been three times higher in highly peaceful countries when compared to countries with low levels of peace.

Peacefulness is also correlated with strong performance on a number of macroeconomic variables. Interest rates

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are lower and more stable in highly peaceful countries, as is the rate of inflation.

Foreign direct investment is more than twice as high in highly peaceful countries. In total, if the least peaceful countries had grown at the same rate as highly peaceful countries, the global economy would be almost 14 trillion dollars larger.

Low Levels of Corruption, Acceptance of the Rights of Others and Well-Functioning Government are the key Pillars of peace. Improvements in Positive Peace are linked to strong domestic currencies. A 1% increase in Positive Peace is associated with a 0.9% appreciation of the domestic currency.

Conclusion:

Today's world has not only failed to become more peaceful, it is drawing closer to war. People have repeatedly proved that they do not know the way to peace. When we take a cold, hard, realistic view of conditions and trends, they do point inevitably to a fast-approaching world crisis of combined nuclear war,

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starvation, crime and violence, uncontrollable disease epidemics, and the extinction of human life on this planet. But with some people working with the vision of a future, peaceful world, there is still hope.

Suggested Reading:

- ✓ <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2018/06/Global-Peace-Index-2018-2.pdf>
- ✓ <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/indias-rank-marginally-improves-in-peace-index/article24098321.ece>
- ✓ <https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/global-peace-index-2018-iceland-tops-india-ranks-136th-1528456805-1>
- ✓ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-peace-index-2018>