

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

By Divya Gera, Vrinda Sharma and Saumya Gupta

INTRODUCTION

The Global Peace Index (GPI) is a quantification of the absence of violence or the fear of violence to assess a nation's level of peace.

The Global Peace Index uses 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure the state of peace using three thematic domains:

- **The level of Societal Safety and Security**

It evaluates the level of harmony or discord within a nation using ten indicators. These indicators include topics like the level of perceived criminality in society, impact of terrorism, and political instability.

- **The extent of Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict**

This investigates the extent to which countries are involved in internal and external conflicts, as well as their role and duration of involvement in conflicts. This is based on six indicators, such as the number and duration of internal conflicts, number of deaths from external organised conflicts, and relationships with neighbouring countries.

- **The degree of Militarisation**

Militarisation refers to a country's military build-up and access to weapons. This is determined by using seven indicators, such as military expenditure as a percentage of GDP, number of armed services personnel per 100,000 people, and nuclear and heavy weapons capabilities.

ORGANISATION CALCULATING THE GPI

The data is collated by **INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE** – a think tank which develops metrics to analyse peace and to quantify its economic value.

It does this by developing global and national indices of 'peacefulness', analysing country level risk, and calculating the economic cost of violence, and the positive benefits of peace.

CALCULATION

The methodology of the GPI was developed through a three-tiered structure in order to ensure the independence and integrity of the Index. The choice of indicators and their weightings is overseen and continuously reviewed by the international panel of independent experts, in collaboration with IEP and the Economist Intelligence Unit, which collates and calculates the Index.

The GPI is composed of 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators from highly respected sources that measure both internal and external factors. All of the indicators are banded on a scale of 1-5 and qualitative indicators are scored by the Economist Intelligence Unit's extensive team of country analysts.

The indicators are divided into three key thematic categories:

- 6 measures of ongoing conflict such as number of conflicts fought and number of deaths from organised conflict.
- 10 measures of societal safety and security such as number of displaced people, potential for terrorist acts, number of homicides, number of jailed population.
- 7 measures of militarisation such as military expenditure, number of armed service personnel, ease of access to small arms and light weapons.

Individual indicators were then weighted according to the expert panel's judgment of their importance. The scores were then tabulated into two weighted sub-indices: internal peace, weighted at 60% of a country's final score, and external peace, weighted at 40% of a country's final score .

SIGNIFICANCE & INTERPRETATIONS

The closer the score is to '1', the more peaceful the country is, with scores closer to '5' indicating relatively less peace.

The aim of the GPI database is to facilitate deeper study of the concept of positive peace, or those attitudes, institutions, and structures that drive peacefulness in society. The GPI also examines relationships between peace and reliable international measures, including democracy and transparency, education and material well-being.

The eight pillars of positive peace are well-functioning government, sound business environment, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbours, free flow of information, high levels of human capital, low levels of corruption, and equitable distribution of resources. Well-functioning government, low levels of corruption, acceptance of the rights of others, and good relations with neighbours are more important in countries suffering from high levels of violence. Free flow of information and sound business environment become more important when a country is approaching the global average level of peacefulness, also described as the Mid-Peace level. Low levels of corruption is the only Pillar that is strongly

significant across all three levels of peacefulness. This suggests it is an important transformational factor at all stages of a nation's development.