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REPORTS & INDICES

Global Peace Index 2025 — GPI

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SUBJECTS COVERED

IR SECURITY & DEFENCE

CURATED & WRITTEN BY



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ISSUING BODY
Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
FREQUENCY
Annual
INDIA'S RANK
115 / 163
TOP PERFORMER
+1 Iceland
KEY FINDINGS

- India ranked 115th with a score of 2.229, improving 0.58% in peacefulness
- India improved from 116th (2024) and 126th (2023)
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country since 2008
- Global peace declined 0.36% — biggest decline since World War II era
- 74 countries improved, 87 countries declined in peacefulness
- 5.4% deterioration in global peace over the past 17 years

ABOUT THE INDEX

The **Global Peace Index (GPI)** is published annually by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**, an independent think tank headquartered in Sydney, Australia, founded by Steve Killelea in 2007. The GPI is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness, ranking 163 independent states and territories — covering 99.7% of the world's population.

Methodology

The GPI measures peacefulness across **three domains** using **23 qualitative and quantitative indicators**:

DOMAIN	WEIGHT	INDICATORS INCLUDE
Ongoing Domestic & International Conflict	40%	Internal conflicts, deaths from conflict, intensity of conflict
Societal Safety & Security	40%	Homicide rate, incarceration rate, terrorism impact, political instability
Militarisation	20%	Military expenditure (% GDP), armed forces per capita, weapons imports/exports

Score range: 1 (most peaceful) to 5 (least peaceful).

INDIA'S PERFORMANCE

India ranks **115th out of 163 countries** with a score of **2.229**, showing a **0.58% improvement** in peacefulness. India moved up from 116th (2024) and 126th (2023), reflecting a steady upward trend.

Domain-wise Performance

India performs poorly on the Societal Safety & Security domain due to high crime rates and political instability indicators, but scores relatively better on Militarisation given its defence spending as a proportion of GDP.

Historical Trend

YEAR	RANK	SCORE
2020	135	2.530
2021	135	2.553
2022	135	2.570
2023	126	2.310
2024	116	2.242
2025	115	2.229

Regional / BRICS Comparison

COUNTRY	GPI RANK (2025)	SCORE	TREND
China	~80	~1.90	Stable
Brazil	~107	~2.10	Slight decline
South Africa	~118	~2.30	Stable
India	115	2.229	Improving
Russia	~158	~3.30	Declining

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF LATEST EDITION

- **Iceland** retains its position as the most peaceful country in the world, a title it has held since 2008, followed by Ireland, New Zealand, and Austria
- Global peace declined by **0.36%** in 2025, the largest single-year decline recorded, driven by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Israel-Palestine situation, and rising military spending
- The **economic impact of violence** on the global economy has reached unprecedented levels
- **74 countries improved** their peacefulness scores, while **87 countries declined**
- Over the past 17 years, there has been a cumulative **5.4% deterioration** in global peace levels
- The growing **peace inequality** between the most and least peaceful countries is a key concern of the 2025 report
- The least peaceful countries include Russia, Ukraine, Sudan, DRC, Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, South Sudan, Israel, and North Korea

UPSC RELEVANCE

GPI issuing body (IEP), India's rank, most/least peaceful countries, three domains of measurement, number of indicators (23) **Mains GS-2:** India's neighbourhood policy, conflict resolution mechanisms, role of international organisations in peacekeeping **Mains GS-3:** Internal security challenges — Left Wing Extremism, border disputes, terrorism impact on peace ranking **Interview:** "India has improved its GPI ranking from 126 to 115 in two years — what factors contributed, and what challenges remain for further improvement?"

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