

CORPORATE OFFICE

Delhi Office

706 Ground Floor Dr. Mukherjee
Nagar Near Batra Cinema Delhi -
110009

Noida Office

Basement C-32 Noida Sector-2
Uttar Pradesh 201301

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 8 - July 2023

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX (GPI)

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Global Peace Index (GPI)". The topic "Global Peace Index (GPI)" has relevance in the "Current events of International importance, International Relations" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is Global Peace Index? Who publishes it?

For Mains:

GS: International Relations

Why in the news?

The Global Peace Index (GPI) has published its annual list of the most peaceful countries in the world.

What is the Global Peace Index (GPI)?

- **The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** has released the 17th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI), which assesses and ranks 163 independent states and territories based on their levels of peacefulness.
- This report offers the most extensive analysis based on data to date regarding trends in peace, the economic significance it holds, and strategies for fostering peaceful societies.
- The Global Peace Index (GPI) encompasses 163 countries, representing 99.7 percent of the global population. It relies on 23 indicators of both qualitative and quantitative nature from reputable sources.
- The index evaluates the level of peace within three distinct domains.
 - **Societal safety and security**
 - **Ongoing domestic and international conflict**
 - **Militarisation**

Global Peace Index (GPI) 2023

The world has become less peaceful, according to the 2023 Global Peace Index. The average global peacefulness score decreased by 0.42 percent, the thirteenth deterioration in fifteen years. In 2022, 84 countries improved in peacefulness, while 79 deteriorated.

Ranking of Various States

- According to the 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI), **Iceland retains its position as the most peaceful country globally**, a title it has held since 2008.

- Joining Iceland at the top of the rankings are **Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, and Austria.**
- On the other end of the spectrum, **Afghanistan maintains its position as the least peaceful country for the eighth consecutive year.**
- Afghanistan is followed by **Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

India's Ranking

In the rankings, **India has moved up two spots to reach 126th place compared to its previous position.** The report highlights that India has witnessed a 3.5 percent improvement in overall peacefulness in the past year.

- This improvement can be attributed to advancements in curbing violent crime, enhancing relations with neighboring countries, and reducing political instability.
- According to the Global Peace Index (GPI), the indicator measuring relations with neighboring countries improved due to a decrease in cross-border violence and ceasefire violations with Pakistan and China in 2022.
- Additionally, the easing of geopolitical tensions with China, resulting from a reduction in border incidents, and a decrease in social unrest have contributed to an improvement in the political instability indicator in India.

South Asia's Regional Rankings

Overall Rank	Regional Rank	Country
17	1	Bhutan
79	2	Nepal
88	3	Bangladesh
107	4	Sri Lanka
126	5	India
146	6	Pakistan
163	7	Afghanistan

Major indices put out by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP):

- **Global Peace Index**
- **Global Terrorism Index**
- **Safety Perceptions Index**
- **Ecological Threat Report**
- **Positive Peace Report**
- **UNESCO Framework for Enabling Intercultural Dialogue**

Sources:

GPI-2023

Indian Express

Q1. With reference Global Peace Index, consider the following statements:

1. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) publishes this annual report which assesses and ranks states based on their levels of peacefulness.
2. India's ranking has drastically moved down in the index in this year's report.
3. Overall, India ranks at the bottom in the South Asian region,

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None

Answer: (d)

Q2. Consider the following Indices/ Reports:

1. Global Terrorism Index
2. Safety Perceptions Index
3. Rule of Law Index
4. Quality-of-Life Index

How many of the Indices/ Reports given above are published by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

Answer: (b)

Q3. Discuss the implications of India's neighborhood on India's peace and prosperity, and analyze the strategies India can adopt to ensure regional stability.

Gaurav Nikumbh

STATE MINISTER'S DISMISSAL

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "State Minister's Dismissal". The topic "State Minister's Dismissal" has relevance in the Governance section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

Constitutional Provisions?

Historical Context?

For Mains:

GS 2 : Governance

Judicial Clarifications?

Concerns Related to Dismissal of Ministers?

Way Forward?

Why in the news?

Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi had, based on the advice of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, hurriedly backtracked on his decision to “dismiss” arrested Minister V. Senthil Balaji.

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 164:** According to Article 164 of the Indian Constitution, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor without any advice. However, the appointment of individual Ministers is made only on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Governor cannot exercise discretion in appointing Ministers but can dismiss them based on the Chief Minister’s advice.

Historical Context:

- **Reference to the Government of India Act, 1935:** Under the Government of India Act, 1935, which governed the colonial rule, the Governor had absolute discretion to choose and dismiss Ministers. After India gained independence, the Governor’s role transformed into that of a constitutional head, acting on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.

Judicial Clarifications:

- **Shamsher Singh and Anr vs State Of Punjab (1974):** The Supreme Court declared that the President and Governor, who hold executive powers under the Constitution, should exercise their formal constitutional powers only with the advice of their Ministers, except in exceptional situations.
- **Nabam Rebia vs Deputy Speaker (2015):** The Supreme Court ruled that Governors cannot cause the downfall of elected governments. It reaffirmed the previous ruling in Shamsher Singh and emphasized that the Governor’s discretionary powers are limited to the provisions of Article 163(1), which states the Governor’s need for aid and advice from the Council of Ministers, led by the Chief Minister.

Concerns Related to Dismissal of Ministers:

- **Constitutional Misadventure:** Dismissing a Minister without the Chief Minister’s recommendation is seen as a constitutional misadventure, as it goes against the principle that the Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
- **Setting Wrong Precedent:** The dismissal of a Minister without the Chief Minister’s recommendation may set a precedent and potentially destabilize State governments, jeopardizing the federal system of governance.
- **Collapse of Constitutional System:** Allowing Governors to dismiss Ministers without the knowledge and recommendation of the Chief Minister could lead to the collapse of the constitutional system, undermining the authority of the democratically elected State Legislature.

Way Forward:

- **Uphold Constitutional Principles:** It is essential to adhere to the constitutional provisions that require the Governor to act on the aid and advice of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers.
- **Judicial Clarity:** The judiciary should continue to provide clarifications and reinforce the limited discretionary powers of the Governor, as highlighted in previous landmark judgments.

- **Legislative Action:** The legislature should consider enacting clear guidelines and regulations that govern the exercise of the Governor's powers to dismiss Ministers, ensuring accountability and transparency.
- **Preserving Federal Structure:** Protecting the federal system of governance is crucial, and any action that has the potential to destabilize State governments should be avoided.
- **Respect for Democracy:** The democratic process and the authority of the elected State Legislature should be respected, allowing for the smooth functioning of the parliamentary democracy in India.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/amit-shah-advised-tn-governor-to-see-ags-opinion-on-senthilbalajis-dismissal/article67026020.ece>

Q.1 According to the Indian Constitution, which of the following statements accurately describes the powers of the Governor regarding the dismissal of Ministers?

1. The Governor can dismiss a Minister only on the advice of the Chief Minister.
2. The Governor can dismiss a Minister without any recommendations
3. The Governor's powers to dismiss Ministers are governed by the President's advice.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Q.2 Which of the following judicial rulings clarified the limitations on the Governor's powers to dismiss Ministers in India?

- (a) Kesavananda Bharati vs. State of Kerala
- (b) Indira Gandhi vs. Raj Narain
- (c) Shamsher Singh vs. State of Punjab
- (d) S.R. Bommai vs. Union of India

Answer: (c)

Q.3 Discuss the significance of the Governor's powers in the dismissal of Ministers in the Indian political system, highlighting the constitutional provisions

Rishabh