

VOLUME 31, ISSUES 3 & 4, JULY - DECEMBER, 2024

ISSN 0972-5563

---

# Journal of Peace Studies

---

ISSN 0972-5563

Journal of Peace Studies

VOLUME 31, ISSUES 3 & 4, JULY - DECEMBER, 2024



---

PUBLISHED BY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE STUDIES

---

# Journal of Peace Studies

---

C	O	N	T	E	N	T	S
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

From the Editors' Desk		1
<b>ARTICLES</b>		
Vedanta and Tawhid: Convergences in the Conception of Godhead	<i>Adil Rasheed</i>	3
The Power of Words: Analysing the Role of Communication in Contemporary Diplomatic Practice and International Relations	<i>Ali Mohammed Al-Qarni</i>	29
Subaltern Realities as Critical Methodology: Re-Imagining Kurdish (Statehood) from the lens of Non-Western IR	<i>Premanand Mishra</i>	58
The Curious Politics of Islam in Pakistan: An Agent of Subversion?	<i>Ashok Behuria</i>	82
<b>ESSAY</b>		
Banal Nationalism in Everyday life: The Intersection of Cultural, Ethnic, Linguistic and National Identity in India	<i>Akankshya Ray</i>	95
<b>OPINION</b>		
Fall of Bashar Al-Assad: What it Means for the Region and India	<i>Mohmad Waseem Malla</i>	107
India's Evolving Indo-Pacific Strategy: Navigating Geopolitical Shifts and Strengthening Strategic Autonomy	<i>Imran Khurshid</i>	126
The Micromanagement of Politics in Pakistan	<i>Ashish Shukla</i>	134
<b>BOOK REVIEW</b>		
Saudi Arabia and Iran: Friends or Foes? By <i>Banafsheh Keynoush</i>	<i>Mohmad Waseem Malla</i>	140
Anger Management: The Troubled Diplomatic Relationship between India and Pakistan by Ajay Bisaria	<i>Safoora Yousuf</i>	145

---

# Journal of Peace Studies

---



**FOUNDING EDITOR**  
LATE PROF. RIYAZ PUNJABI

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
T. K. OOMMEN  
RENÉ WADLOW  
G BALACHANDRAN

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

NOOR A. BABA  
AJAY DARSHAN BEHERA  
DIPTI RANJAN PATTNAIK

**GUEST EDITOR (HONY)**  
SALEEM KIDWAI

**CONSULTING EDITOR (HONY)**  
SMRUTI S. PATTANAİK

**ASST. EDITORS**  
PRATEEK JOSHI  
MOHMAD WASEEM MALLA

**DESIGN**  
BRINDA DATTA

**PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY**  
SHEIKH KHALID JEHANGIR

International Centre for Peace Studies

**Printed at:**  
A.M. Offsetters  
Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi  
PIN- 110 003, TEL: 2463 2395

Office Address:  
157/9, Block 4, Second Floor,  
Kishangarh, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-  
1110070  
Regd. Address:  
C-11 Jangpura Extension  
New Delhi - 110 014  
Tel: (91-11) 49989230, +91-9810317972  
<http://www.icpsnet.org>  
Emails: cpsndjps@gmail.com;  
jps@icpsnet.org

## SUBSCRIPTION

### In India

This Copy	
(Two Issues):	Rs. 600.00
Annual	
(Individual)	Rs. 1200.00
(Institutional)	Rs. 1800.00

### Overseas (Air Mail)

This Copy:	US\$ 15.00
	UK£ 9.00
Annual:	US\$ 60.00

## From the Editors' Desk

The 2024 Global Peace Index (GPI), published by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), revealed a mixed landscape of global peacefulness, showcasing both advancements and setbacks. The GPI employs 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators sourced from reputable entities to assess peace across three key areas: the level of societal safety and security, the prevalence of ongoing domestic and international conflicts, and the extent of militarization.

The GPI report said that while certain regions experienced improvements, others encountered rising violence and instability. It identified 56 ongoing conflicts, the highest since the Second World War, with a decline in the resolution of these conflicts, whether through military means or peace treaties. Additionally, conflicts are increasingly getting internationalised in scope, with 92 nations involved in disputes outside their own borders, which complicates the negotiation processes necessary for achieving enduring peace.

Such trend of internationalisation is fuelled by heightened competition among major powers and the emergence of middle-tier powers that are becoming more engaged in their respective regions. There has been an improvement in peacefulness in 56 countries and deterioration in 96 countries, out of the 163 countries GPI takes up for study. Thus, the possibility of a major conflict at global level is much higher than in recent decades. Interestingly, all this is happening despite that fact that level of militarisation has witnessed an overall decline across 108 states! Another conclusion GPI has arrived at is that global military capability has increased by ten per cent since 2014, despite a decline in military personnel.

The economic impact of violence on the global economy in 2023, in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, was \$19.1 trillion. This is 13.5 per cent of the world's economic activity (gross world product) or \$2,380 per person. Many countries have experienced enormous falls in GDP as a result of violent conflict.

The ongoing conflict in Gaza has significantly influenced global levels of peace. Israel and Palestine are experiencing the most substantial declines in peacefulness, ranking first and fourth, respectively. Europe continues to be recognized as the most peaceful region worldwide, housing eight of the ten most peaceful nations. It has consistently held this status since the GPI's inception. Conversely, the

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region remains the least peaceful area in the world.

Regional conflicts, exemplified by the Gaza conflict and the Ukraine war, underscore the profound human toll they have taken and the intricate nature of contemporary warfare. Since the onset of hostilities in Gaza in October 2023, the death toll has surpassed 61,709 individuals, including 17,881 children. Added to that, approximately 14,222 individuals are still believed to be trapped beneath debris or in areas that are difficult to access. Following Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, the death toll in Ukraine has exceeded 45,100 soldiers, mostly Ukrainians, with around 390,000 injured. These figures are alarming and emphasize the critical necessity for peace and humanitarian assistance in both regions.

The UNHCR report brought out in mid-2024 revealed that the total of individuals displaced due to conflict and persecution approached approximately 123 million. Significant conflicts in areas such as Sudan, Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have resulted in extensive displacement and severe humanitarian emergencies. The Armed Conflict Survey 2024 brought out by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) also said that the global outlook for peace remained bleak and the world was witnessing an unparalleled surge in conflicts, which seemed to be becoming more difficult to resolve due to the heightened participation of both internal and external stakeholders, a complicated set of underlying factors, and intensifying geopolitical strains. Citing the assessment provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (UNOCHA) in the Global Humanitarian Overview report, the IISS analysis says that over 290 million people are in need of assistance in 2024.

The world today requires more sensitive and sagacious leadership to diagnose the conflicts persisting in different corners of the world and bring together resources and intellectual capital to generate impulses for creative change and address the root causes of the conflict. Such efforts have the potential to bring lasting peace and save human lives from being lost to unreasoned violence that often threatens to spread across borders, thereby destabilising entire regions. It is through wise and empathetic leadership that humankind can transcend the cycle of violence and work towards a future defined by harmony and peaceful co-existence. ■

---

## **Note for readers and subscribers**

*We are happy to inform you that from January 2009 we have introduced the system of peer review of articles to ensure quality of publications and improve the scholarly value of our journal. We have a renowned group of scholars and academicians associated with our Centre and they are helping us in this process. We are grateful to them for their kind support and cooperation.*

*We would request our readers and subscribers to take note of these changes and we would, as ever, encourage them to send in research articles for publication to us. The manuscripts of research papers submitted for publication should be neatly typed in double space and the length of the papers should be ideally between 3,000-5000 words including the references. They should contain an abstract and a short introduction of the author. The authors should use Chicago Manual Style for their references. The articles can be sent to us in an electronic format, preferably Ms Word. For detailed guidelines they may send their queries to us in the following address.*

## **Journal of Peace Studies Research Section**

**Emails: [cpsndjps@gmail.com](mailto:cpsndjps@gmail.com), [jps@icpsnet.org](mailto:jps@icpsnet.org)**