ABSTRACT

India is an upcoming superpower of the world. The most important logic behind this is the position of India in the power index ranking. The finalized ranking of GFP index relies on over 50 factors to determine a given nation’s power index score. India stood at fourth position among 131 countries all over the world. India is standing only behind USA, Russia, and China. Countries like UK, Japan, and Germany are behind India. To analyze India’s position, the chapter goes through finding the factors behind the calculation of this index. The few components are total populations, available manpower fit for service, and those reaching military age annually. India could pull up its ranking in this index with the help of its population strength. But with respect to HDI, it reveals that India is standing at 131st position out of 188 nations. It means, India’s rank is improved in GFP power index due to its population, whose improvement ranking is very poor. It seems to be a paradoxical situation. Through this chapter, the authors try to explain this paradox.

INTRODUCTION

Military power begins with the people and equipment used to conduct war: the weapons, tanks, ships, airplanes, and supporting tools such as communication systems that make it possible either for one group to impose its will on another or to prevent such an outcome from happening. Another key element is the military’s capacity to conduct operations: how many of the right tools—people, tanks, planes, or ships—it has. One might have the right tools and know how to use them effectively but not have enough to win. Therefore, it is very complicated to calculate Military power index. One of the most used indexes of military power is Global Firepower Index.
The finalized Global Firepower ranking relies on over 50 factors to determine a given nation’s Power-Index (‘PwrIndx’) score. The formula allows smaller, though more technologically-advanced, nations to compete with larger, lesser-developed ones. Modifiers (in the form of bonuses and penalties) are added to further refine the list. Some items to observe in regards to the finalized ranking:

- Ranking does not simply rely on the total number of weapons available to any one country but rather focuses on *weapon diversity* within the number totals to provide a better balance of firepower available (i.e. fielding 100 minesweepers does not equal the strategic and tactical value of fielding 10 aircraft carriers).
- Nuclear stockpiles are not taken into account but recognized / suspected nuclear powers receive a bonus.
- Geographical factors, logistical flexibility, natural resources and local industry influence the final ranking.
- Available manpower is a key consideration; nations with large populations tend to rank higher.
- Land-locked nations are not penalized for lack of a navy; naval powers are penalized for lack of diversity in available assets.
- NATO allies receive a slight bonus due to the theoretical sharing of resources.
- Current political / military leadership is not taken into account.

For 2017 there are a total of 131 countries included in the Global Fire Power database. Following are the factors taken into consideration to calculate GFP Index:

1. **Manpower**: Going beyond military equipment totals and perceived fighting strength is the actual manpower that drives a given military force. Wars of attrition traditionally favor those with more manpower to a given effort. The major components of this are
   a. Total Populations
   b. Available Manpower
   c. Fit for Service
   d. Reaching Military Age Annually
   e. Active Military Manpower
   f. Active Reserve Military Manpower

2. **Land Systems/ Army Strength**: Tank value includes Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) and light tanks (a few remain in service) as well as those vehicles considered “tank destroyers”. There is no distinction made between all-wheel and track-and-wheel designs. Armored Fighting Vehicle (AFV) value includes Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) as well as Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs). The components which are included here,
   a. Tanks (MBT / Light)
   b. Armored Fighting Vehicles
   c. Self-Propelled Guns
   d. Towed Artillery Pieces
   e. Rocket Projectors (MLRS)