

## UPSC Preparation

# World Happiness Report 2021

India has ranked 139 in the World Happiness Rankings 2021 published in the 9th World Happiness Report. It has been released in March 2021. India's rank in 2020 was 144.

Sustainable Development Solutions Network to the [United Nations \(UN\)](#) publishes the World Happiness Report. The latest edition of the report was published on 20th March 2021 which also celebrated World Happiness Day.

- India's rank of happiness (average life evaluations) based on 2020 score – 92
- India's overall rank 2018-2020 – 139

This article will provide you with important facts about the report for the [IAS Exam](#).

### What is the World Happiness Report?

It is the report that ranks countries on the basis of how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be. It is different from the [Human Development Report \(HDR\)](#) which focuses on three dimensions – healthy life, knowledge and standard of living.

The World Happiness Report 2021 has ranked 140 countries.

World Happiness Report ranks countries taking into consideration six variables:

1. GDP Per Capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
2. Social Support
3. Healthy life expectancy at birth
4. Freedom to make life choices
5. Generosity
6. Perceptions of corruption

Source: <https://happiness-report.s3.amazonaws.com/2021/WHR+21.pdf>

### Key Findings of the World Happiness Report 2021

It uses Gallup World Poll data among others to bring out its findings regarding world happiness.

The facts presented in the official reports are briefed down below:

1. Despite COVID pandemic crisis, there has been no major change in the rankings of the countries compared to the previous data.
2. Unemployment during the pandemic is associated with a 12% decline in life satisfaction and a 9% increase in negative affect.
3. Finland remains the happiest country in the world. It is the fourth time, Finland found its name at the top.
4. The top 10 countries based on the 2020 score are:
  - Finland
  - Denmark
  - Switzerland
  - Iceland

- Netherlands
  - Norway
  - Sweden
  - Luxembourg
  - New Zealand
  - Austria
5. Rank of India's neighbours in World Happiness Rankings 2021:
    - Sri Lanka – 32
    - Nepal – 87
    - Bhutan – Rank not mentioned in the official report
    - China – 84
    - Afghanistan – 149 (At the bottom)
    - Pakistan – 105
    - Bangladesh – 101
    - Myanmar – 126
    - Maldives – 89
  6. The countries at the bottom of the rankings are (Bottom 3):
    - Rwanda – 147
    - Zimbabwe – 148
    - Afghanistan – 149
  7. The United States ranked 19th in the world happiness rankings 2021.

## Key Findings of the World Happiness Report 2020

The World Happiness Report 2020 had for the first time ranked the cities by their subjective well-being and measured how the social, urban and natural environments combine to affect happiness. The report used 2017-2019 data. The key findings of the UN'S World Happiness Report as mentioned in the official report, are given below:

1. **Finland is the happiest country** in the world as per the World Happiness Report 2020. It has topped the world happiness rankings the third time in the row.
2. The other **four countries in the top 5** world happiness rankings are:
  - Denmark
  - Switzerland (Jumped from 6th to 3rd position)
  - Iceland
  - Norway (Fell from 3rd to 5th position)
3. **Afghanistan, South Sudan and Zimbabwe are at the bottom** in the World Happiness Report 2020.
4. **India ranks 144** in the World Happiness Report 2020.
5. In the **top 10**, most of the spots belong to **nordic states**.
6. **Helsinki is the happiest city** in the world. The other top four happiest cities are:
  - Aarhus (Denmark)
  - Wellington (New Zealand)
  - Zurich (Switzerland)

- Copenhagen (Denmark)
7. The bottom ten cities ranked in world happiness rankings include Delhi at 180. (186 cities have been ranked).
  8. **Kabul in Afghanistan is ranked as the unhappiest city** in the world happiness rankings.
  9. **Luxembourg ranked in top 10** (Rank – 9) against its earlier rank of 14 in World Happiness Report 2019.
  10. **The US is ranked 18th** in the world happiness rankings 2020 (In 2019, its rank was 19; and 11 in the first world happiness report)
  11. **Sadness, worry and anger are the drivers of unhappiness** with the rise in unhappiness majorly due to the first two.
  12. Top 5 countries that showed significant changes in their happiness levels between 2008-2020 are:
    - Benin
    - Togo
    - Hungary
    - Bulgaria
    - Philippines
  13. In East, South and Southeast Asia, most countries had significant changes.
  14. India is ranked among the bottom 20 countries that showed an insignificant change in happiness or a downward trend in happiness. (The five largest drops since 2008-2012 were in Venezuela, Afghanistan, Lesotho, Zambia, and India.)