

## World Happiness Report 2022

Recently, the 10th edition of the World Happiness Report 2022 was released by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The report placed a total of 146 countries on its list. For the fifth year in a row, Finland has been ranked highest in the 2022 World Happiness Report. Afghanistan is the unhappiest country in the world, coming in at number 146.

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, which has been published since 2012, is founded on two main principles:

- Identifying key elements that determine well-being and life evaluation across countries.
- Happiness or life evaluation measured through opinion surveys.

Each variable is measured annually and given a populated-weighted average score on a scale from 0 to 10, which is then tracked over time and further compared with other nations.

The report typically awards rankings to 150 nations based on a number of variables, including

- Real social support,
- GDP per capita,
- Freedom of choice in one's life,
- Healthy life expectancy,
- Perceptions of corruption and
- Generosity.

#### Sustainable Development Solutions Network

- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), established in 2012, mobilises scientific and technology knowledge from around the world to advance real-world problem resolution for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index & Dashboards Global Report, published annually since 2016, is a collaboration between the SDSN and the Bertelsmann Stiftung.
- It was established under the direction of the UN Secretary-General.

### World Happiness Report 2022

The 2022 World Happiness Report was released on March 18, 2022. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the World Happiness Report. The report uses global survey data to report on how people

evaluate their own lives, besides economic and social parameters. The rankings are based on average data from the years 2019 to 2021. This year, the report ranked 146 countries. Countries that were in the top 10 last year moved up and down this year.

The Top 10 Countries in 2022 are given below:

Top 10 Countries on World Happiness Index	
Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Switzerland
5	Netherlands
6	Luxembourg
7	Sweden
8	Norway
9	Israel
10	New Zealand

## Performance Of Countries

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- **Top Performers:**
  - Three countries from the Scandinavian region were awarded the top three spots in the World Happiness Report.
  - Finland has been named the world's happiest country five times in a row, followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.
  - While the United States managed to secure the 16th spot among western nations, Britain came in at 17th and France at 20th.
- **Worst Performers:**
  - Only Afghanistan under the Taliban performed worse than India among the South Asian countries.
  - Afghanistan came at 146th rank, which was preceded by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, and Botswana, respectively.

- Nepal (84), Bangladesh (94), Pakistan (121) and Sri Lanka (127) managed to get better ranks in the list than India.
- **India's Performance:**
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  - India moved up three ranks from 139th in the 2021 report to 136th in the 2022 edition.
  - According to the Happiness Report, India was one of the nations where people's assessments of their quality of life declined by more than one full point on a scale of 0 to 10 over the previous ten years.
  - Numerous factors contribute to the persistent unhappiness of the nation, including
    - Rapid urbanization and congestion in cities
    - Declining incomes and unemployment
    - Unfavourable perceptions about corruption in the country
    - Rising costs of healthcare
    - Women's safety
    - Environmental pollution
    - Poor mental well-being

## Why are the connections between happiness, government and the law important?

- Experiences from several nations confirm that the countries with higher GDP and higher per capita income are not necessarily the happiest countries and there exists a link between the state of happiness and rule of law.
- Public policy is now widely acknowledged to aim at making people happier. A new narrative that explores the relationships between law, government, and happiness has gained momentum as a result of this discourse.

## Significance Of The Happiness Report

- The WHRs have consistently shown that people generally have:
  - Poor perception about governance and law and order, despite high-income levels.
  - A low score of subjective well-being.
  - Poor mental health.
- Over time, happiness has emerged as a crucial indicator to monitor for both nations and corporations.
- Finding the main factors influencing well-being is the report's objective.

This knowledge is expected to assist nations in formulating strategies targeted at creating happier societies.