



World Happiness Report 2021

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Why in News

The **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** for the **United Nations** released the **World Happiness Report 2021**, a day before the **International Happiness Day**.

This year it focuses on the effects of **Covid-19** and how people all over the world have fared.

International Happiness Day

- **About:**

- It is **celebrated every year on 20th March** to highlight the importance of happiness in the diurnal lives of people.
- The **United Nations started to celebrate the International Day of Happiness in 2013** but a **resolution for the same was passed in July, 2012**.

This resolution was **first initiated by Bhutan** which emphasised on the importance of national happiness over national income since the early 1970s, thereby adopting the **Gross National Happiness (GNH)** over **Gross National Product (GNP)**.

- **Gross National Happiness:** The phrase ‘gross national happiness’ was first **coined by the 4th King of Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, in 1972**.

The concept **implies that sustainable development should take a holistic approach** towards notions of progress and give equal importance to non-economic aspects of wellbeing.

- **GNP** is the total value of all finished goods and services produced by a country's citizens in a given financial year, irrespective of their location.

- **Theme of 2021:** “Happiness For All, Forever”.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The World Happiness Report **ranks 149 countries** by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.
 - The rankings are based on polling (Gallup World Poll) which looks at six variables:
 - **Gross Domestic Product** Per Capita (Purchasing Power Parity).
 - Social Support.
 - Healthy life expectancy at birth.
 - Freedom to make life choices.
 - Generosity.
 - Perceptions of corruption.
 - Respondents are asked to rate their own current lives on a **0-10 scale**.
- **Top Performers:**
 - **Finland has been ranked as the happiest country** in the world for the **fourth consecutive year**.
 - Followed by Iceland, Denmark, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and Norway.
- **Worst Performers:**
 - **Afghanistan (149)** is the **most unhappy** country.
 - Followed by Zimbabwe (148), Rwanda (147), Botswana (146) and Lesotho (145).
- **India's Neighbours:**
 - **Pakistan-105.**
 - **Bangladesh-101.**
 - **China-84.**
- **India:**
 - India has been ranked **139, out of 149 countries** evaluated.
 - In 2020, India was ranked **144 out of 156 countries** surveyed.

Sustainable Development Network Solution

- The SDSN, **launched in 2012**, mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **Paris Climate Agreement**.
- It was established under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General.
- The **SDSN and the Bertelsmann Stiftung** have been publishing the **annual SDG Index & Dashboards Global Report** since 2016.

Source:HT