



UN World Happiness Report- 2019

The **Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations** released the **World Happiness Report on March 20**, which was designated as the **World Happiness Day by the UN General Assembly in 2012**.

- This is UN's **seventh annual World Happiness Report**, which ranks the world's 156 countries on **"how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be"**.
- The focus of report was- **"Happiness and Community: how happiness has been changing over the past dozen years, and how information technology, governance and social norms influence communities"**
- The report ranks countries on **six key variables** that support well-being:
 - Income,
 - Freedom to make life choices,
 - Trust,
 - Healthy life expectancy,
 - Social support and
 - Generosity.
- The happiness study ranks the countries of the world on the basis of **questions from the Gallup World Poll**. The results are then correlated with other factors, including GDP and social security.

Findings

- The overall world happiness has **fallen over the past few years**, which has mostly been fuelled by a sustained drop in India, which came in **140th place this year (2019)** compared with **133rd in 2018**.
 - There has been an **increase in negative emotions, including worry, sadness and anger**.
- India featured in the five countries that had the **largest drop since 2008** in the index, along with Yemen, Syria, Botswana and Venezuela.
- The list is **topped by Finland for the second year in a row** followed by **Denmark, Norway, Iceland and the Netherlands**.
- Among India's neighbouring countries, **Pakistan is ranked 67th, Bangladesh 125th, Bhutan 95th, Sri Lanka 130th and China is placed at 93rd**.
- People in war-torn **South Sudan are the most unhappy** with their lives, followed by **Central African Republic (155), Afghanistan (154), Tanzania (153) and Rwanda (152)**.

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (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**.

