

## Prelim Bits 22-03-2022 | Daily UPSC Current Affairs

### Finlandization

*Recently, as the Russia invoked the threat of Ukraine joining NATO as a pretext for the invasion, the term "Finlandization" of Ukraine has become popular.*

“After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainian President acknowledged that his country will not be part of the US-led NATO in the foreseeable future.”

- ‘Finlandization’ is the process whereby a country is induced to favour, or refrain from opposing, the interests of a more powerful country, despite not being politically allied to it.
- This term was originally used with reference to the influence of the former Soviet Union on its neighbour Finland.
- It refers to the **policy of strict neutrality** between Moscow and the West that Finland followed during the decades of the Cold War.
- The principle of neutrality was rooted in the Agreement of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance (or YYA Treaty) that Finland signed with the USSR in 1948.
- Among other things, Moscow guaranteed it wouldn't invade Finland.
- Later, the term was formally coined by the German political scientist **Richard Lowenthal** in 1961 in the wake of the Berlin crisis.
- He used it to warn about the Soviet Union's efforts to gain influence in Europe by the same oppressive methods they used on Finland.

### Reference

1. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/everyday-explainers/explained-ukraine-finlandisati-on-war-with-russia-7830261/>
2. <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-finlandization-macron-zelenskiy-helsinki/31697728.html>
3. <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/finland-and-finlandization>

# World Happiness Report 2022

Recently, the latest edition of the United Nations' World Happiness Report for the year 2022 was released.

- This report is issued annually by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- This report is a measurement of subjective well-being of 150 countries (146 in 2022).
- It relies on three main well-being indicators (life evaluations, positive emotions, and negative emotions), levels of GDP, life expectancy etc.
- Happiness rankings are based on life evaluations as the more stable measure of the quality of people's lives.
- It assigns a score on a scale of 0-10, based on an average of data over a three-year-period.
- **Findings** - This year (2022) marks the tenth anniversary of the World Happiness Report.
- For the fifth straight year, the World Happiness Report 2022 has found **Finland** to be the happiest country in the world.
- From the other end, **Afghanistan** was ranked as the unhappiest nation, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Botswana, respectively.
- **India**, meanwhile, saw a marginal improvement in its ranking, jumping three spots to 136, from 139 a year ago.
- **Russia and Ukraine**, currently at war with each other, have been ranked 80 and 98 respectively.
- The 2022 rankings, however, were compiled much before Russia launched invasion of its neighbour.



World Happiness Report



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
SOLUTIONS NETWORK  
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Happiest nation	Finland
Unhappiest nation	Afghanistan
Ranked 136	India

## Reference

1. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/world-happiness-report-finland-tops-for-5th-straight-year-afghanistan-bottom-101647604627827.html>
2. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/world-happiness-report-2022-india-among-10-nations-with-largest-drop-11647706353354.html>

## Ol Chiki

For first time, the Indian Constitution has been translated in Santali, written in the Ol Chiki script.

- Also known as Ol Cemet', Ol script and Ol ciki Script, the Ol Chiki script is used for writing Santali.
- **Pandit Raghunath Murmu** (Guru Gomke) is the inventor of Ol Chiki script.

- In the novel **Bidu Chandan**, he described how god Bidu, and goddess Chandan who appear on Earth as humans had naturally invented the Ol Chiki script to communicate with each other using written Santali.
- One of the interesting feature of the Ol Chiki script is that it makes use of signs and symbols long familiar to the Santals.

## Santali

- Santali is a language with its own special characteristics, and has a literature which dates back to the beginning of the 15th century.
- Santali belongs to the Munda group languages of the Austro-Asiatic family.
- According to the 2011 Census of India, Santali is spoken by over 70 lakh people across the country.
- In 2003, the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act added Santhali (along with the Bodo, Dogri and Maithili languages) to Schedule VIII (Official Languages of India) to the Constitution of India.
- This addition meant that the Indian government was obligated
  1. To undertake the development of the Santali language and
  2. To allow students appearing for school-level examinations and entrance examinations for public service jobs to use the language.
- In 2005, India's Sahitya Akademi started handing out awards every year for outstanding literary works in Santali, a move that helped preserve and give more visibility to the community's literature.

## Santhals

- According to the 2011 Census of India, Santhal community is the third-largest tribe in India.
- They are concentrated in 7 states - Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.
- But their geographic distribution is not limited to India - the community is also spread across Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

## Reference

1. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/indian-constitution-translation-ol-chiki-7823156/>
2. <https://wesanthals.tripod.com/id45.html>

## GI Tag for Narasinghapettai Nagaswarm

*Narasinghapettai Nagaswarm has got the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag under 'musical instruments of class 15'.*

- Narasinghapettai Nagaswarm is Tamil Nadu's traditional wind instrument, made by traditional village artisans of Kumbakonam.

- The artisans based in Narasinganpetti village are making them through specialised processing skills. The technique and skill of making these instruments were inherited from their forefathers.
- The nagaswaram now used by artists throughout is called pari naggeswaram and is longer than Thimiri.
- **Making** - A major portion of Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram is made from the traditional wood 'acha' (Hardwickia binata), a type of ebony.
- Artisans of the nagaswaram choose the wood wisely, ensuring it is 200 years old, and which does not absorb moisture.
- The top portion has a metal staple into which a small metallic cylinder is inserted to hold the mouthpiece made of reed.
- The reeds are made from the leaves of a locally grown plant called '**naanai**' (a variety of bamboo).
- Artisans use drilling machines, besides carpentry tools, to make the nagaswarams that are played widely in functions like weddings and temple festivals.

## Reference

1. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/tamil-nadus-narasinghapettai-nagaswaram-gets-gi-tag-1093312.html>
2. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/tamil-nadu-gi-tag-for-handmade-narasinghapettai-nagaswaram/articleshow/90342793.cms>
3. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2022/mar/21/classical-wind-music-instrument-narasinghapettai-nagaswaram-gets-gi-tag-2432388.html>

## Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

*India calls on nations to abide by Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention at the UNSC meet.*

- Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) was the first multi-lateral treaty categorically banning biological and toxin weapons.
- It is a disarmament treaty that effectively bans the development, stockpile, production, or transfer of biological agents and toxins of "types and quantities" that are not protective or peaceful.
- BTWC has 183 members (including India).

## Reference

1. <https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-at-unsco-backs-convention-prohibiting-biological-weapons-122031800882.html>
2. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/india-united-nations-security-council-biological-weapons-treaty-ukraine-russia-war-1926864-2022-03-18>