

## Prelim Bits 23-03-2024 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### World Happiness Report 2024

The World Happiness Report 2024 was released on March 20 to mark the UN's International Day of Happiness.

- **Aim** - To measure, quantify, and compare happiness levels around the world.
- **Brought by** - A partnership of Gallup, the Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the WHR's Editorial Board.
- **First published in** - 2012.
- **Procedure** - The *Gallup World Poll* surveys around 1,000 respondents in nearly every country on a variety of issues on a scale of 0-10.
- The World Happiness Report then averages the score from life evaluations per country over a 3 year period (2021-2023) and ranks from highest to lowest.
- **Indicators** - The ranking is based on individuals' own assessment of their life satisfaction, alongside factors like GDP per capita, social support, and life expectancy.
- **Key findings of 2024 Report**- Ranks 143 nations and for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, the report gives separate rankings by age group, in many cases varying widely from the overall rankings.
  - **Lithuania** tops the list for children and young people under 30.
  - **Denmark** is the world's happiest nation for those 60 and older.
- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time since the report was published, the **United States (23<sup>rd</sup>) and Germany (24<sup>th</sup>)** did not find a place among the list of 20 happiest nations.
- The latest report discovered that **younger generations generally report higher levels of happiness** compared to older age groups across most regions worldwide.

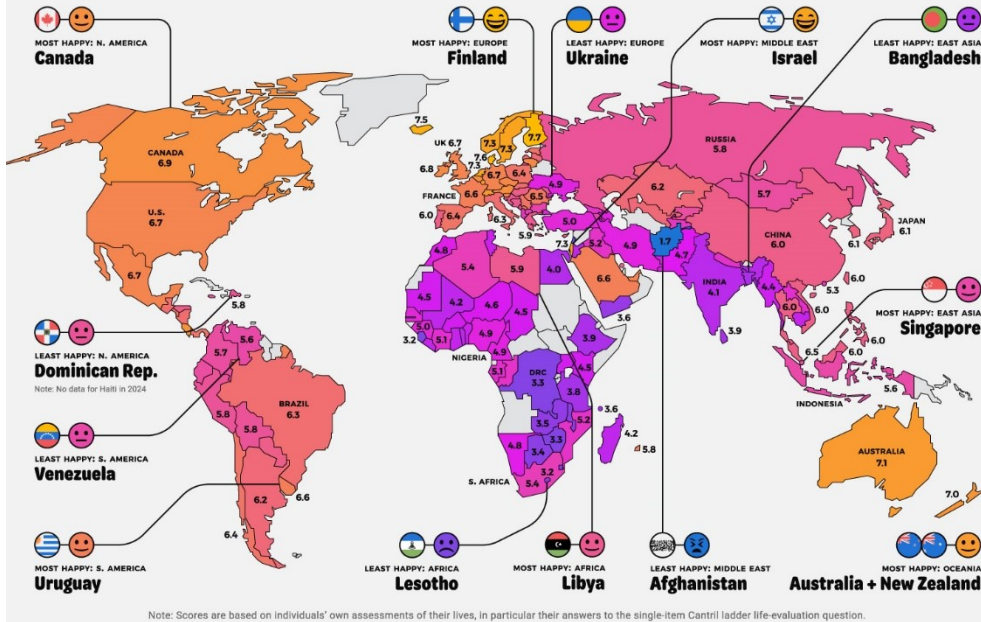
MAPPING GLOBAL

# Happiness Levels

IN 2024

The Gallup World Poll asks respondents in each country to rate their current life on a scale from 0–10, ranking from highest to lowest.

## THE MOST & LEAST HAPPY COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD



Source: World Happiness Report 2024

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Most Happy Countries	Least Happy Countries
Finland (for the 7 <sup>th</sup> year in a row )	Afghanistan
Denmark	Lebanon
Iceland	Lesotho
India's Case	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India is ranked <b>126<sup>th</sup></b>, behind countries such as Libya, Iraq, Palestine and Niger.</li> <li>The young in India are the happiest while those in lower middle rung are the least happy.</li> <li>Older men, those in the higher age groups, currently married, and those who were educated, report higher life satisfaction compared to their respective peers.</li> </ul>	

## References

- [Hindustan Times | World Happiness Report](#)
- [VisualCapitalist | Image](#)

## Pushpak

Pushpak, an SUV-sized winged rocket released from an Indian Airforce Chinook helicopter successfully landed through RLV LEX-02 experiment recently.

- Pushpak is a Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV).
- **Developed by** - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- This is ISRO's 2<sup>nd</sup> series of RLV landing experiment.

*RLV-LEX -01 Experiment is the first test with RLV-TD (HEX1) involved the vehicle landing on a runway over the Bay of Bengal.*

### **RLV-LEX-02 Experiment**

- It demonstrated the autonomous landing capability of RLV from off-nominal initial conditions at release from a helicopter.
- Pushpak, was lifted by an Indian Airforce Chinook helicopter and was released from 4.5 km altitude.
- After release at a distance of 4 km from the runway, Pushpak autonomously approached the runway along with cross-range corrections.
- It landed precisely on the runway and came to a halt using its brake parachute, landing gear brakes and nose wheel steering system.

### **Reusable Launch Vehicle - Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD)**

- It is a series of tests in developing essential technologies for a fully reusable launch vehicle to enable low-cost access to space.
- The configuration of RLV-TD is similar to that of an aircraft.
- It has been configured to act as a flying test bed to evaluate various technologies.
- It will become the first stage of India's reusable two stage orbital launch vehicle.
- **Objectives of RLV-TD**
  - Hypersonic aero thermodynamic characterisation of wing body
  - Evaluation of autonomous Navigation, Guidance and Control (NGC) schemes
  - Integrated flight management
  - Thermal Protection System Evaluation

### **References**

1. [NDTV | Pushpak](#)
2. [The Indian Express | Pushpak RLV landing experiment](#)
3. [Business Standard | Pushpak](#)

### **Kashmir's Hangul (Cervus hanglu hangul)**

*Despite conservation efforts, Kashmir's hangul deer risk is facing extinction.*

- **About** - It is also known as the Kashmir stag or Kashmiri red stag which is highly shy and sensitive animal.
- It is the only Asiatic survivor or sub-species of the European red deer.
- **State animal** - It is the ***State animal of Jammu and Kashmir.***



- **Habitat** - It lives in dense riverine forests, high valleys and mountains of the Kashmir valley and northern Chamba in Himachal Pradesh.
- **Distribution** -It is endemic to the hills of Kashmir and restricted to the ***Dachigam National Park***.
- **Conservation Status**
  - IUCN - Critically endangered
  - CITES - Appendix I
- **Threats** - Habitat loss, poaching.

### **Dachigam National Park**

- Dachigam National Park is located in ***Jammu and Kashmir***.
- It is in the ***Zabarwan Range*** of the western Himalayas and was established in 1981.
- A protected area since 1910, it was declared as a national park in 1981.
- Other inhabitants at Dachigam are Musk deer, Brown Bear, Leopards, Jungle Cats, Himalayan black bear, and a few species of wild goat like the markhor and ibex.

### **References**

1. [Scroll | Kashmir's Hangul](#)
2. [Wildlife Sos | Kashmiri Stag](#)
3. [Azim Premji University | Kashmiri Hangul](#)

### **Netravati Waterfront Promenade Project**

*National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has recently initiated action on the Netravati Waterfront Promenade Development Project in Mangaluru,*

Karnataka.

- Promenade project includes
  - Setting up a biodiversity park and
  - Creation of a bird-watching area near the netravati railway bridge,
  - Building a pathway and laying a cycle track from the bridge to bolar sea face.
- The project is implemented by ***Mangaluru Smart City Limited (MSCL)***, a special-purpose vehicle created under the Union Government's Smart City Mission.
- **Issue-** National Environmental Conservation Foundation (NECF) in Karnataka had raised concerns regarding the project's impact on the lives of common people in the area.
- NGT has taken suo motu cognisance and directed the formation of a joint committee to submit a detailed report on the project.
- The Project has been in controversy due to alleged violations of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms and environmental regulations.
- Furthermore, there is no environmental impact assessment (EIA) report prepared for this project.
- **Netravati River** - The Netravati River, also known as the Bantwal River originates in the ***Bangrabalige valley of Yelaneeru Ghat*** in Karnataka.
- It joins the ***Kumaradhara River*** before emptying into the Arabian Sea.
- The Netravati is considered one of India's holy rivers and flows through the famous ***pilgrimage site of Dharmasthala***.

## References

1. [Down to Earth | Netravati Waterfront Promenade Development Project](#)
2. [News Karnataka | Netravati Waterfront Promenade Development Project](#)

## Nomination Procedure

*Filing of nominations for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Lok Sabha polls began recently.*

- **Nomination Process** - The process of nomination starts with the release of the notification for the Lok Sabha elections.
- Under this process, the candidates register their names with the Election Commission and claim that they are the right contenders to get public votes in the Lok Sabha election field.
- After examining all the certificates submitted by the candidates, the Election Commission decides their candidature for the Lok Sabha elections.

- Only after their candidature is finalised, the candidates can enter the election field and spread their campaign and seek votes in their favour.
- **Eligibility** - Any Indian citizen whose name is in the voter list can make nomination for the Lok Sabha seat.
- When a candidate is nominated by a political party, it is said that the candidates has got a ticket from the party.
- **Independent candidates** - Independent candidates file their nominations with their symbols, Election Commission examines their application for the symbol and allocates the party symbol after that.
- **Submission authority** - The nomination form can be submitted to the ***District Election Officer*** along with the prescribed amount as security deposit and submit an affidavit.
- **Document submission** - The nominators have to submit their passport size photo, Aadhar card, PAN card, domicile, caste certificate.
- **Property details** - The candidate has to give the details of their movable and immovable properties, income, expenditure, and loans of their wife and dependent children.
- **Cases against the candidate** - If any criminal case is going on against the candidate, or a court case is registered or if punishment has been given in any case, they also have to inform the Election Commission about that.
- **Withdrawal process** - The candidate can withdraw their name after a few days of nomination.

## References

1. [The Hindu | Filing of nominations for loksabha](#)
2. [The Indian Express | Loksabha nominations](#)
3. [Zee Business | Lok Sabha Elections 2024](#)