




23 March 2024

National and International News

<p>World Happiness Report</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the World Happiness Report 2024, Finland ranked first for the seventh consecutive year, followed by Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and Israel in the top five. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India ranked 126th, while China, Nepal, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh secured 60th, 93rd, 108th, 118th, 128th, and 129th spots, respectively. The World Happiness Report considers six variables: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and corruption. <p>Age, Education, and Gender: Factors Affecting Happiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older people in India were found to have higher life satisfaction than younger individuals. However, women reported lower life satisfaction than men, with the gender gap widening with age. Education and caste played crucial roles, as older individuals with secondary or higher education and those from higher social castes experienced higher life satisfaction compared to those without formal education or from scheduled castes and tribes. <p>Happiness Across Age Groups: Global Insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report found that Lithuania, Israel, Serbia, Iceland, and Denmark were the top five countries for happiness in young people (aged 30 and below), while Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland led the rankings for happiness in older individuals (aged 60 and above).
<p>AH-64E Apache attack helicopters</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a significant boost to its combat capabilities, the Indian Army Aviation Corps inaugurated its



IAF'S NEW COMBAT MUSCLE
APACHE AH-64E TOI

IAF inducts 8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters on Sept 3, 2019

Manufactured by Boeing; used by US Army and international defence forces

To replace old Russia-made Mi-35 attack helicopters

THE APACHE ADVANTAGE

Two high-performance turboshaft engines for maximum cruise speed of 284km/hr

World's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter

Advanced laser, infrared & target acquisition designation to attack targets

Laser guided precision Hellfire missiles, 70mm rockets, 30mm automatic cannon

Wing Span: **17.15 ft**

Height: **15.24ft**

SPECIFICATIONS

Primary mission gross weight	6,838Kg
Vertical rate of climb	More than 2000ft per min
Maximum rate of climb	More than 2,800ft per min

Source: Boeing, news reports

first unit of AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters at Jodhpur Air Base.

- The **AH-64E Apache Guardian**, known as the **world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter**, is set to **enhance the aerial prowess of the Indian Army**.

Key points:

- Manufactured by **Boeing in the United States**, the AH-64E Apache Guardian has been acquired by several countries, including **India, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, UAE, and the UK**.
- In February 2020, India inked a deal with Boeing for six AH-64E helicopters for the Army, with an additional six contracted later.
- **Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL)**, a joint venture between **Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL)**, manufactures fuselages for the **AH-64 Apache** at its **Hyderabad facility since 2018**.
- TBAL aims to become the sole producer of AH-64 fuselages globally, sourcing **90% of parts from Indian suppliers**.

Significance:

- The AH-64E Apache boasts an **open systems architecture for seamless integration of advanced communications, navigation, sensor, and weapon systems**.
- Its enhanced thrust, lift capabilities, joint digital interoperability, improved survivability, and cognitive decision-aiding features make it a formidable asset in combat scenarios.

Basmati Rice



Context:

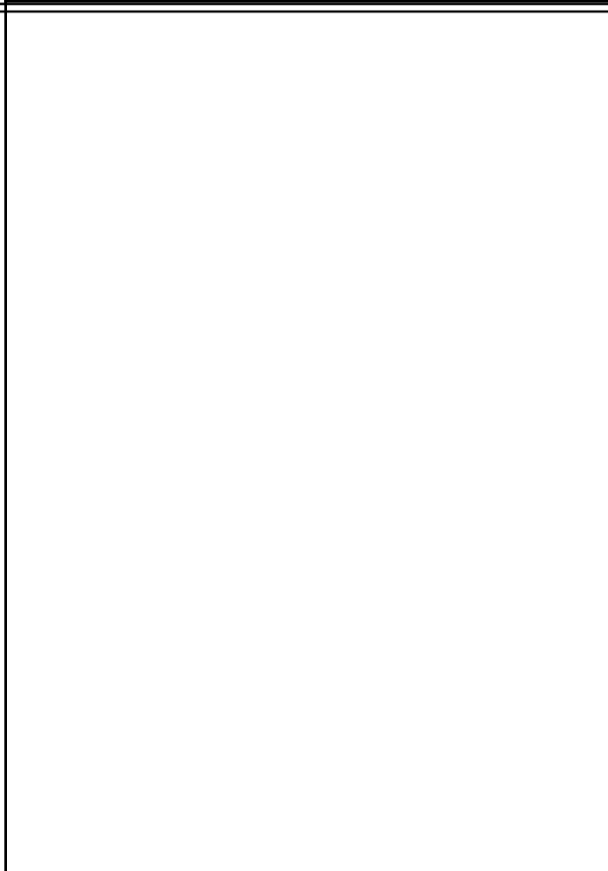
India's 'protected' basmati varieties have been renamed and cultivated in Pakistan, leading to a demand for legal action by IARI.

Key points:

- Basmati is a long, slender-grained aromatic rice grown in the Indian subcontinent.
- It is mainly cultivated in **India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal**.
- The term '**basmati**' comes from the Hindi word **bāsmatī**, meaning '**fragrant**.'
- As of 2019, India dominated the international basmati rice trade, accounting for **65%**.



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- Pakistan accounted for the remaining **35%**.

Geographical Indication in India:

- Basmati rice production in India is geographically indicated in several states.
- These states include Uttarakhand, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Western Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, and Jammu and Kashmir.

IARI:

- The **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), also known as the Pusa Institute**, is India's national institute for agricultural research, education, and extension.
- It was established in **1905 in Pusa, Bihar** by the Government of India with financial assistance from American philanthropist Henry Phipps, Jr.. After an earthquake in 1934, the institute moved to New Delhi in 1936.
- The **IARI conducts basic and strategic research to understand processes and develop technologies for conservation agriculture, precision farming, and soil testing.**
- The IARI also provides national leadership in agricultural research, technology assessment, and transfer.

IMT Trilateral Exercise 2024



Context:

- **INS Tir and INS Sujata** are set to join the **second edition of the India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise**, a joint maritime exercise scheduled from **21-29 Mar 24**.
- The first edition of the IMT TRILAT exercise, held in Oct 22, saw **INS Tarkash participating with the Tanzanian and Mozambique Navies**.

Key points:

- The exercise's current edition is **divided into two phases**.
- The **harbour phase, scheduled from 21-24 Mar 24**, will see **Naval ships Tir and Sujata** engaging with the respective Navies at the ports of Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Maputo (Mozambique).
- This phase will start with a **Planning Conference, followed by joint harbour training activities such as Damage Control, Fire Fighting, Visit Board Search and Seizure procedures, Medical Lectures, Casualty Evacuation, and Diving operations**.
- The **sea phase is scheduled from 24-27 Mar 24**, focusing on countering asymmetric threats, Visit



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Board Search and Seizure procedures, boat handling, manoeuvres, and firing exercises.

- A joint EEZ surveillance is also planned during the sea phase. The exercise will conclude with a joint debrief scheduled at Nacala (Mozambique).

Kerala Regional News

Martyrs' Day



Context:

- In India, March 23rd is commemorated as **Martyrs' Day**, also known as Shaheed Diwas.
- This day specifically honors the sacrifices of **three legendary freedom fighters: Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru.**

About:

- These three revolutionaries were hanged by the **British Raj** in 1931 for their role in resisting **British rule.**
- Martyrs' Day serves as a **day to remember all those who fought and died for India's freedom.**
- It's a time to express gratitude for their sacrifices and reflect on the importance of freedom.

Note:

- **January 30th** is also celebrated as Martyr's day.
- It commemorates the **assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the "Father of the Nation," in 1948.**

World Optometry Day



Context:

- The students of **Ahalia School of Optometry and Research Centre** kicked off the **World Optometry Week** celebrations at **Indira Gandhi Stadium.**

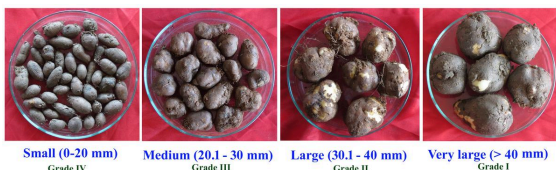
About:

- **World Optometry Day** is observed annually on **March 23rd**
- It celebrates **optometrists** and their vital role in **global eye health.**
- This year, the week leading up to the day, **March 17th-23rd**, is designated as **World Optometry Week**
- The theme is "**Advancing Optometry's Commitment to Global Eye Care.**"



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Patent for size-based Chinese potato grader developed by CTCRI



Context:

- Scientists at the ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) in India have received a patent for their invention: a power-operated machine that grades Chinese potatoes (koorka) based on size.
- This innovation is credited to a team led by T. Krishnakumar, a scientist at the institute.

About:

- The grader, which cuts down labour and cost significantly, works on the principle of rotating motion of the unit through a prime mover.
- It sorts the tubers into four different size classes; small (below 20 mm diameter), medium (20.1-30 mm), large (30.1-40 mm) and very large (above 40 mm)

World Meteorological Day



Context:

- World Meteorological Day is celebrated on March 23rd every year.
- It marks the anniversary of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950.
- The day highlights the importance of weather and climate information for society's safety and well-being.

Theme:

- This year's theme is "At the Frontline of Climate Action."
- It emphasizes the crucial role of weather observation, forecasting, and climate science in understanding and addressing climate change.

World Down Syndrome Day



Context:

- World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated annually on March 21st
- It is a day to raise awareness about Down syndrome and celebrate the contributions of people with Down syndrome.
- The date, 3/21, reflects the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome.
- This day was officially recognized by the United Nations in 2012.



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About:

- Down's syndrome is a **genetic disorder** caused when **abnormal cell division** results in **extra genetic material from chromosome 21 (trisomy 21)**.
- This extra copy **changes how a baby's body and brain develop**.
- It can cause **both mental and physical challenges during their lifetime**.

Theme:

- This year's **theme is 'End The Stereotypes'**.

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