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23 March 2024

National & International News

World Happiness Report



Context:

- 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.

Key points:

- 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.

Age, Education, and Gender: Factors Affecting Happiness

- **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.

Happiness Across Age Groups: Global Insights

- 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).

AH-64E Apache attack helicopters

Context:

- In a significant boost to its combat capabilities, the **Indian Army Aviation Corps** inaugurated its first unit of **AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters** at Jodhpur Air Base.



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IAF'S NEW COMBAT MUSCLE APACHE AH-64E

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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
Vertical rate of climb
Maximum rate of climb

6.838Kg
More than 2000ft per min
More than 2,800ft per min

Source: Boeing, news reports

- 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), has manufactured 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).



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- 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 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).**

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