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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 1st 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 1st time since the report was published, the ***United States (23rd) and Germany (24th)*** 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.

Most Happy Countries	Least Happy Countries
Finland (for the 7th year in a row)	Afghanistan
Denmark	Lebanon
Iceland	Lesotho
India's Case	
• India is ranked ***126th***, behind countries such as Libya, Iraq, Palestine and Niger. • The young in India are the happiest while those in lower middle rung are the least happy. • Older men, those in the higher age groups, currently married, and those who were educated, report higher life satisfaction compared to their respective peers.	

References

1. Hindustan Times | World Happiness Report
2. 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 2nd 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 1st 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

