

November'17 Second Week GK Digest

Long-Range Cruise Missile 'Nirbhay' Test-Fired

- This indigenously designed and developed long-range subsonic cruise missile '**Nirbhay**,' which can carry warheads of up to **300 kg**, from a test range at Chandipur along the Odisha coast.
- The **fifth experimental test** of the **homegrown missile** system was carried out by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Chennai now in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network for Contribution in Music

- About **64 cities** from **44 countries** have joined UNESCO's Creative Cities this year, said Director-General, Irina Bokova.
- The Seven fields of creativity highlighted by the Network now has a total of **180 cities** in **72 countries**.
- **Chennai** has been recognized for **Music** in the UNESCO's Creative Cities Network. Jaipur and Varanasi were already featured in the Network.

IPPB Bank to become operational in 650 districts by April 2018

- India Post Payments Bank will become operational in all **650 districts** of the country by April next year.
- These banks will be linked to **1.55 lakh rural post offices** and carry out banking services.

China launches two BeiDou-3 navigation satellites

- China successfully launched two BeiDou-3 satellites named **BeiDou-3 M1** and **BeiDou-3 M2** into space on board of single carrier rocket **Long March-3B** from **Xichang Satellite Launch Center** in the southwestern province of Sichuan.

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- These two satellites and carrier rocket were developed by China Academy of Space Technology and China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, respectively.

Telangana set to get 24x7 power supply to boost agriculture sector

- Telangana set to provide **24x7 power supply** in order to boost farm sector.
- The state government decided to take this initiative by supplying 'quality' and 'uninterrupted' power on an experimental basis in the entire state to the agricultural sector.
- They have invested about **Rs. 12,000 Crore** to strengthen the distribution and supply systems. About **23 lakh pumpsets** are in use in the State farm sector.

Mary Kom Named Women's Youth World Championships Ambassador

- Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze medalist **MC Mary Kom** named as the **ambassador** of the upcoming **AIBA Women's Youth World Championships**.
- The event, which is being hosted in Guwahati, Assam is scheduled to be held **from November 19 to 26**.

India pledges additional \$100 million towards UN partnership fund

- India pledged an additional **100 million US Dollar** towards the UN partnership fund, significantly scaling up its support to sustainable development projects across the developing world.

'Paradise Papers' to Be Monitored Through Reconstituted Multi Agency Group

- Revelations made in the media under the name 'Paradise Papers' [based upon expose done by the International Consortium of

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Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)] indicate that out of 180 countries represented in the data of offshore entities held by persons of different nationalities.

- **India ranks 19th** in terms of a number of names.

India End Commonwealth Shooting Championship at Top with 20 Medals

- The Indian shooting contingent finished the **Commonwealth Shooting Championship 2017** with the best tally of **20 medals**.
- Indian shooters won a total of **6 gold, 7 silver, and 7 bronze** medals in the competition.

India 2nd Technology and Innovation Support Centre to come up soon in Chennai

- **Union Government of India** inked an agreement with Chennai's **Anna University** in order to establish India's second **Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC)**.
- The main objective of the TISC is to stimulate a dynamic, vibrant and balanced Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) system in India to foster creativity and innovation, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development by establishing a network of TISCs in India.

Bengaluru Beats San Francisco in Confidence to Go Digital

- India's Silicon Valley - **Bengaluru** is the **best host** among **45 cities worldwide**, according to a report from the **Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)**.
- **San Francisco** came in **second** followed by two other Indian cities, Mumbai and New Delhi while Tokyo, Yokohama, and Berlin brought up the rear.

Hong Kong is World's Top City for International Visits

- **Hong Kong** remains the **world's most visited city** by **International travelers** in spite of strained relations with neighboring China.
- In a report on the top 100 city destinations that highlights the growth in Asian tourism market research firm Euromonitor International approved 25.7 million arrivals are expected in Hong Kong in 2017.

India soon to get mini version of Niagara Falls in Bengaluru

- Indians can soon get their '**mini**' version of **Niagara Falls** in **Bengaluru**. Bengaluru's iconic **Lalbagh Botanical Gardens** will soon sport a mini Niagara Falls and it is expected to be ready by **January**.
- The artificial waterfall will have water falling down from a **height of 25 feet** and a **width of 120 feet**.

India Re-elected Member of UNESCO Executive Board

- India **re-elected** as the **member of the UNESCO's executive board**, its top decision-making body.
- The election was held at the **39th session** of the **General Conference of the UNESCO** in **Paris, France**.

Union Cabinet approves Creation of National Testing Agency to conduct entrance exams for higher educational institutions

- The Union Cabinet approved the creation of the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** as an **autonomous and self-sustaining testing organization** to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions, including NEET, JEE-Main.

GST rate on 178 items which are used daily, reduced from 28 percent tax to 18 percent or less

- At the **23rd GST council meeting** in **Guwahati**, the GST Council decided to **drop 178 items** used by common man and middle class **from the highest tax slab of 28% to 18% or less.**
- Detergents, chocolates, beauty products, marble, flooring, toiletries have been moved from 28% to 18%.
- The new rates will be applicable from **November 15, 2017.**

India became the first country to partner with Facebook on disaster response

- **India** is the first country to **partner** with social networking site **Facebook** on **disaster response**, **Union minister Kiren Rijiju** announced at the inaugural meeting of the 'India Disaster Response Summit', organized jointly by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook.
- The programme will be piloted in **two disaster-prone states - Assam and Uttarakhand.**

UNHCR to get Mother Teresa Award 2017 for social justice

- The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** has been named as the recipient of the **Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017** as an acknowledgement of its exceptional work worldwide.

Home loan limit for Central Government employees raised to Rs.25 Lakh from earlier Rs.7.5 lakh

- The government has raised the maximum amount that a Central government employee can borrow from the government for **house-building to Rs. 25 lakh from the earlier Rs. 7.5 lakh.**
- The interest rate on the loan amount shall be at a **uniform rate of 8.5% at simple interest**, in place of the earlier four slabs of interest rates ranging from 6% to 9.5%.

Dubai police officers set a Guinness World Record by pulling 3 lakh kg plane

- Dubai police officers set a **Guinness World Record by pulling the world's largest passenger airliner Airbus A380 for a distance of 100 metres.**

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