

Long-Range Hypersonic Missile

In a “historic” feat, India successfully tested a long-range hypersonic missile on November 17, 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The trial was **conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island** off the coast of **Odisha**.
- ❖ This hypersonic missile is designed to carry various payloads for ranges greater than **1,500 km for the Armed Forces**.
- ❖ This missile has been indigenously developed by the laboratories of **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile complex, Hyderabad** along with various other **DRDO laboratories and Industry Partners**.

What are Hypersonic Missiles?

- ❖ Hypersonic weapons can fly at **speeds more than five times the speed of sound, or Mach 5**.
- ❖ There are **two types of hypersonic weapons**: Hypersonic glide vehicles (HGV) and Hypersonic Cruise Missiles (HCM).
- ❖ Like regular ballistic missiles, HGVs are launched from a rocket. After this, the glide vehicle separates from the rocket and “glides” at the speed of at least Mach 5 toward a target.

Lala Lajpat Rai

The nation is remembering Lala Lajpat Rai, popularly known as Punjab Kesari, on his 96th death anniversary on 17th November.

About Lala Lajpat Rai

- ❖ Born on **January 28, 1865, in Punjab**, he played an important role in India's struggle for independence against British rule.
- ❖ Lala Lajpat Rai is popularly known as **Punjab Kesari, or the Lion of Punjab**, for his protests against British rule and contribution to nation-building.
- ❖ Along with Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal, he was part of the group of Congress leaders known as hardliners for their national agenda. The trio, famous as **Lal-Bal-Pal**, championed the cause of the Swadeshi movement.
- ❖ Rai led protests **against the Simon Commission** that was instituted to study potential constitutional reform. He was severely beaten up by British police during the protest and succumbed to his injuries a few days later, on November 17, 1928.



Balasaheb Thackeray

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the veteran leader of Maratha politics, Balasaheb Thackeray on his death anniversary on 17th November.

Key Points

- ❖ **Balasaheb Thackeray was born on January 23, 1926**, in Pune.
- ❖ He had begun his professional career as a cartoonist with the **English-language daily 'The Free Press Journal'**.



- ❖ He later quit his professional job and **founded the Shiv Sena in 1966** to advocate for the interests of the people of Maharashtra, particularly in Mumbai's political and professional landscape.
- ❖ Thackeray was also the founder of the **Marathi-language newspaper 'Saamana'**.
- ❖ Despite his significant influence in politics, he did not hold any official positions during his political career.

GSAT 20

Elon Musk's SpaceX will launch India's heavy communication satellite GSAT-20 from Cape Canaveral in the US on Nov 19.

Key Points

- ❖ ISRO's GSAT-20 is also called **GSAT N-2**.
- ❖ The satellite is expected to remain in **operation for 14 years**. It will provide vital services across India, including **internet connectivity for remote areas**.
- ❖ GSAT-20 is one of India's heaviest communication satellites, **it weighs 4,700 Kgs**.
- ❖ The GSAT-20 is too heavy for India's own rocket LVM-3, popularly known as 'Bahubali' to carry, so SpaceX was chosen for the launch.

India had till now relied on **French launch service provider Arianespace** for such **heavy satellite launches**, however, the company does not have any operational rockets at present and the only reliable option India had was to go with SpaceX. SpaceX's heavy-lifter Falcon-9 rocket can launch payloads of 8,300 kg or 8.3 tonnes to geostationary transfer orbit.

Y-Break

The Ayush Ministry's Yoga at Work (Y-Break) has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for its outstanding performance on the iGOT Karmayogi Bharat Platform.

Key Points

- ❖ The award was presented by the **Minister of State for the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Dr. Jitendra Singh**.
- ❖ The Ayush Ministry said that the **Y-Break course emerged as the top-performing course on the iGOT platform, with around 8 lakh 70 thousand government officials successfully completing it**.
- ❖ The Y-Break protocol is a **five-minute yoga regimen**, including yogic practices such as Tadasana, Urdhva Hastottanasana, Prasarita Padottanasana, and Nadisodhana Pranayama.
- ❖ It is tailored to boost immunity, reduce stress, and improve overall mental and physical health, even within the constraints of a busy schedule.

Global Energy Efficiency Alliance

The UAE has unveiled an ambitious initiative to establish the 'Global Energy Efficiency Alliance' during COP29, hosted in Azerbaijan.

Key Points

- ❖ This move aims to **double global energy efficiency rates by 2030** and contribute to significant emission reductions.
- ❖ The initiative builds on the '**UAE Consensus**' from COP28, a commitment that brought together countries, organizations, and corporations to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable resource management.
- ❖ The alliance is designed to support the reduction of carbon emissions and the sustainable use of natural resources through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and standardization efforts.
- ❖ It **aims to encourage strategic public-private partnerships and bolster investments in energy efficiency initiatives.**
- ❖ The alliance will focus on compiling and disseminating best practices, with a particular emphasis on assisting African nations.
- ❖ This support will extend to developing financing options and technological solutions vital for the continent's progress in energy sustainability.



Person In News- Appointments

Filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker

He has **been appointed as the chairperson of the International Jury for the 2024 International Film Festival of India (IFFI).**

Gowariker, known for films such as 'Jodhaa Akbar', 'Lagaan', and 'Swades'.

The **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**, founded in 1952, is an annual film festival currently held in Goa, on the western coast of India.



Person In News- Sports

Sania Mirza and former cricketer Harbhajan Singh

Six time Grand slam champion and former women's doubles number one, **Sania Mirza and former cricketer Harbhajan Singh** have been named as Dubai Sports Ambassadors.



Awards/Titles

Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger

- ❖ Prime Minister of India has been conferred with the '**Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger**'




- Award (GCON) by Nigeria.**
- ❖ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is the **first foreign leader to be conferred with this award since 1969.**
- ❖ **Queen Elizabeth** is the only foreign dignitary who has been awarded GCON in 1969.

- ❖ The award has been conferred by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu.
- ❖ This will be the **17th such international award** being conferred to PM Modi by a country.

Important Days/Dates


November 16

National Press Day

- ❖ November 16 is celebrated as National Press Day in India.
- 
- NATIONAL PRESS DAY
NOV 16
- ❖ It was on this day in **1966** that the **Press Council of India** began its operations as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not unduly influenced or threatened.
 - ❖ The **theme for this year's event** is **"Changing Nature of the Press"**, reflecting the evolving dynamics of the media landscape.

November 18-24

World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW)

- ❖ World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) is an **annual global campaign** observed from **18-24 November**.
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- WORLD AMR AWARENESS WEEK
18-24 NOVEMBER

- ❖ The theme for the World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) 2024 is **"Educate. Advocate. Act now."**

Miscellaneous

- ❖ The **2024 G20 Leaders' Summit** is being held **November 18 and 19** at the **Museum of Modern Art (MAM)** in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. Brazil succeeded India in assuming the presidency of the Group of 20 nations.
 - After the summit **Brazil will pass the baton to South Africa**, which will host the 20th edition of the international meet next year (2025).
- ❖ India has sent the first consignment of about 425 metric tons of food grains and other edible items to **Suriname for its Social Welfare Programme**. India enjoys close, warm and friendly relations with Suriname, reinforced by cultural and people-to-people contacts bridged by the Indian Diaspora's arrival dating back to one and a half-century.



- ❖ Several high-level visits have been exchanged since establishment of diplomatic relations **between India and Suriname in 1976** with Indian Embassy opened in Paramaribo in 1977 and Surinamese Embassy in New Delhi in 2000.

