

Prelim Bits 08-11-2017

Nirbhay Missile

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- DRDO has successfully tested Nirbhay Cruise Missile recently from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

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- Nirbhay cruise missile is the India's first long range sub-sonic cruise missile.

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- It has an operational range of 1000 km (long range).

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- It is capable of carrying warheads of up to 300kg at a speed of 0.6 to 0.7 Mach (sub-sonic)

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- It is a two-stage missile powered by Solid rocket motor booster.

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- It is guided by a highly advanced indigenously developed inertial navigation system.

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- **Sub-sonic** - Any speed lower than the speed of sound. Mach number greater than 1 is called as super-sonic.

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- **Cruise Missile** - It is a guided missile that flies major portion of its flight within atmosphere at approx. constant speed.

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- **Ballistic Missile** - It is a missile that follows a ballistic trajectory and guided only relatively during brief periods and spends most of their flight out of the atmosphere.

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SHe-box Portal

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- SHe-box (Sexual Harassment electronic box) is an online platform launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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- The platform is to enable women employees to file complaints related to sexual harassment at the workplace.
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- It enables both public and private sector employees to lodge their complaints.
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- It ensures the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013.
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- Under the act, it is compulsory for any organisation with 10 or more employees to set up an internal complaints committee (ICC) for addressing complaints of sexual harassment.
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- The complaints filed in the portal will be forwarded to ICC and also paves way for monitoring the progress of the complaint.
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New Species in Andaman

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- Edible wild banana species has been discovered in Andaman Island, the second such species on the island in two years.
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- In 2014, *Musa indandamanensis*, wild banana species was discovered in a remote tropical rain forest on the Little Andaman Island.
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- The latest discovery, *Musa paramjitiana* found in North Andaman Island.
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- The plant grows to a height of nine metres and bears an edible, sweet-and-sour tasting fruit with numerous bulb-shaped seeds.
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- Its conservation status has been declared as '**Critically Endangered**'.
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New Species in Western Ghats

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- A new species of ant was found in the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Western Ghats region.
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- It belongs to *Tyrannomyrmex*, a rare tropical genus of ants that is distributed in the Indomalayan bio-region.
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- Its Bio region extends from southern India and Sri Lanka to Southeast Asia.
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- It is named as *Tyrannomyrmex alii* as a tribute to country's "Ant Man" eminent myrmecologist Musthak Ali.
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Kathak

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- The birth anniversary of **Sitara Devi**, Kathak queen and often hailed as the 'Empress of dance (NrityaSamragini)' is observed today.
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- Kathak is an ancient Indian classical dance and started as oral tradition by kathakars or storytellers based on episodes from epics, myths and legends.
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- Later it evolved in to a simple form of expressional dance through rhythmic foot movements, hand gestures, facial expressions and eye work.
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- Bhakti movement contributed to a whole new range of lyrics and musical form with Radha-Krishna theme and works of Mirabai, Surdas.
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- Three specific forms of kathak are three gharanas (schools) namely, the Jaipur gharana, the Benarasgharana and the Lucknow gharana.
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- The gharanas mostly differ in emphasis given to footwork versus acting.
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- The nineteenth century saw the golden age of Kathak under the patronage of Wajid Ali Shah, the last Nawab of Oudh.
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- Being the only classical dance of India having links with Muslim culture, it represents a unique synthesis of Hindu and Muslim genius in art.
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- It is the only form of classical dance wedded to Hindustani music.
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Kambala

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- It is an annual buffalo race conducted in Coastal belt of Karnataka.
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- It is a traditional bull sport similar to Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu.
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- The 'track' used for Kambala is a slushy paddy field.
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- It is conducted in both competitive and non-competitive manner.
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- The Kambala season generally starts in November and lasts till March in the following year.
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- Supreme Court in 2014 had banned Kambala based on a petition filed by various animal rights organisations.
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- Following the massive protest against the ban, Karnataka government passed "The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance 2017" to legalize the bull sport.
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- Recently, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have challenged the ordinance but SC refuses to stay ordinance.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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