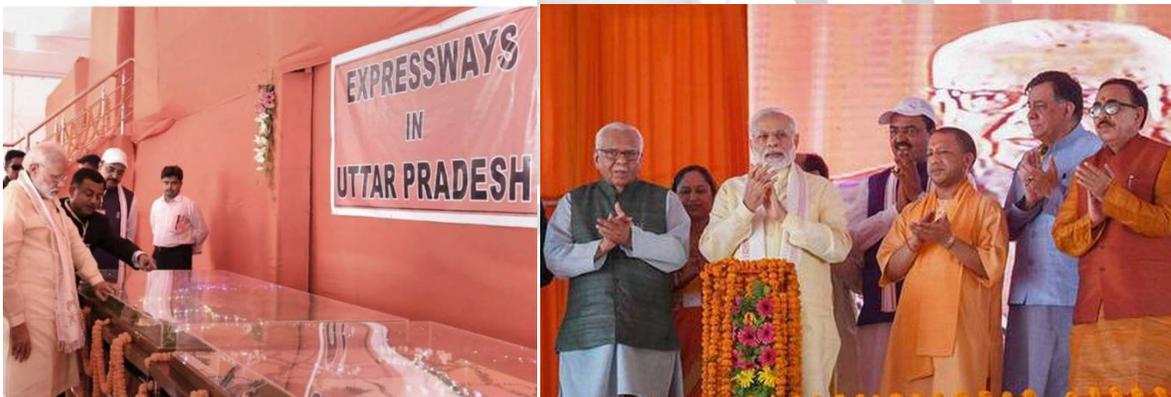


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 17, 2021

NATIONAL

- **PM Narendra Modi – inaugurates India’s longest e-way, the 341-km-long Purvanchal Expressway in UP’s Sultanpur on November 16**



- ✓ The expressway begins from Chandsarai on the outskirts of Lucknow and ends at Hadairia on NH-31 in Ghazipur district - 18 km east of the UP-Bihar border
 - ✓ The Purvanchal Expressway was constructed at Rs 22,497 crore within a period of three years
 - ✓ It passes through nine Uttar Pradesh districts - Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur.
 - ✓ The key feature of the Expressway is the 3.2 km long airstrip to enable landing and take-off of Indian Air Force fighter planes in case of emergency.
 - ✓ The event at Sultanpur ended with an air show by Mirage, Jaguar, Sukhoi & AN-32
-
- **The government - announced the reopening of the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara corridor from November 17 to benefit Sikh pilgrims**
 - ✓ The opening comes ahead of Gurupurab, the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, on November 19.



- ✓ Home minister Amit Shah announced the decision in a twitter message.
- ✓ The Kartarpur corridor was closed down in March 2020, barely four months after it was inaugurated, in view of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- ✓ BJP MPs had met PM Modi to request reopening of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor on November 14
- ✓ On November 18, Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi will lead his entire cabinet to pay obeisance at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India – resumes vaccine exports to four nations - Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Iran**
- ✓ The Centre stopped vaccine exports due to rising Covid-19 cases, as the second wave hit India in April-May.
- ✓ The government relaxed the restrictions only after India had administered close to a billion doses of vaccines.
- ✓ India resumed its exports to the Covax facility with the first lot of doses landing in African countries.
- ✓ Once shipments begin, Serum Institute of India would supply around 30 million doses per month to Covax.
- ✓ India now has a long list of vaccines — Covavax, Corbevax, ZyCovD, Gennova's mRNA vaccine — at various stages of regulatory approval.
- ✓ The first 50 million doses of SII-produced Covavax will be shipped to Indonesia this week, even though the vaccine is yet to be approved by India's DCGI, the WHO or US FDA.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On November 15, Russia - tested a direct-ascent anti-satellite (DA-ASAT) missile test that destroyed one of its older satellites.**

- ✓ The satellite broke up and created thousands of pieces of debris in low-Earth orbit that may endanger the International Space Station (ISS) and may pose a hazard to space activities for years.
- ✓ However, Russia's defence ministry said the debris from the test had not posed a threat to the ISS
- ✓ The target was a non-operational spacecraft, Tselina-D, that had been in orbit since 1982.
- ✓ Anti-satellite weapons, commonly referred to as ASATs, are any weapon that can temporarily damage or permanently destroy an orbiting satellite
- ✓ These are usually launched from the ground or from the wings of an airplane and destroy satellites by running into them at high speeds.
- ✓ The U.S., Russia, China and India are the only countries that have demonstrated the ability to attack satellites in orbit that support services like GPS, communications and weather forecasting.
- ✓ Russia's First ever direct ascent anti-satellite missile called PL-19 Nudol, was test-fired on November 18, 2015
- ✓ Its most recent test was in November 2021, which destroyed Kosmos 1408.

SPORTS

- **On November 16, the International Cricket Council - awarded the hosting rights of the T20 World Cup in 2024 to West Indies and USA.**

T20 WORLD CUP

2024 | US & West Indies

2026 | India & Sri Lanka

2028 | Australia & New Zealand

2030 | England, Ireland & Scotland

ODI WORLD CUP

2027 | SA , Zimbabwe & Namibia

2031 | India & Bangladesh

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

2025 | Pakistan

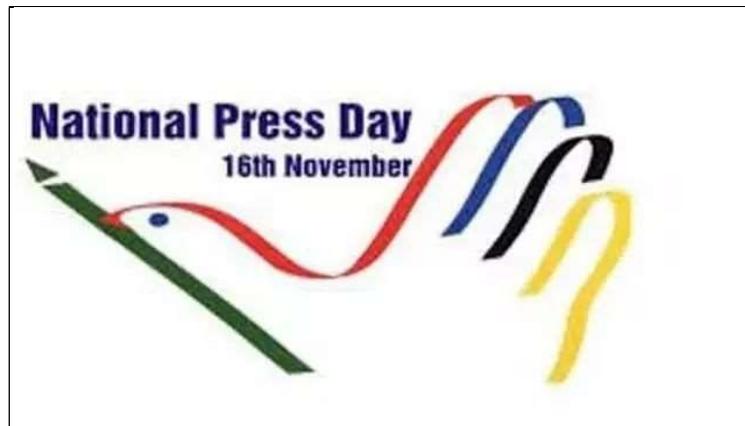
2029 | India

- ✓ Namibia will also get to play co-host with South Africa and Zimbabwe for the 2027 ODI World Cup.
- ✓ Pakistan will get to host an ICC event after 29 years with the Champion Trophy 2025.
- ✓ The BCCI has managed to acquire rights of three events — 2026 T20 World Cup (with Sri Lanka), 2029 Champions Trophy and 2031 ODI World Cup (with Bangladesh).

- ✓ In another development, Saurav Ganguly has been elected as the chairman of the ICC's technical committee after Anil Kumble completed nine years in the post.
- ✓ Ganguly has been elevated from being the observer in the committee.
- ✓ The technical committee oversees the playing conditions and regulations of the game.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ National Press Day - November 16



- ✓ The day marks the presence of an independent and responsible press in India.
- ✓ It commemorates the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966 as a moral watchdog for an effective functioning of Press media.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - 'Who is Not Afraid of Media?'
- ✓ In 1956, the First Press Commission planned to create a Press Council for protecting freedom of the press in India.
- ✓ On 4th July 1966, the Press Council was established in India under the Press Council Act of 1978 and it came into effect from 16 November 1966.
- ✓ Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad is the present chairman of the Press Council of India.
- ✓ He has been appointed for a second term.
- ✓ He succeeded Justice Markandey Katju (2011- 2014) to become the chairman of the council.

