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NATIONAL NEWS

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- Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Naik inaugurated the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) Igniter Complex at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) in Pune today.
- HEMRL is a premier laboratory of DRDO and primarily engages in developing Rocket and Gun Propellants, Pyrotechnic Devices, High Explosive Systems and synthesis of high energy molecules.

PM Modi inaugurates India International Science Festival 2019 in Kolkata

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 5th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 through video conferencing in Kolkata.
- The four-day science festival, being organized from November 5-8, aims to build a strategy for inclusive advancement of Science and Technology.
- Highlighting India's contribution in the field of Science and technology, Prime Minister said that unprecedented work is being done for higher education and innovation.
- Prime Minister urged the scientists to be far more proactive in recognizing and responding to their broader social responsibilities with an aim to improve the quality of life of under-served communities.

M Venkaiah Naidu releases monograph of 'Musical Excellence of Mridangam' in Chennai

- Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu released a monograph, ‘Musical Excellence of Mridangam’, a rare fusion of art and science of an ancient South Indian instrument on the CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) campus.
- The book, an outcome of research and development on standardisation of fabrication, tonal characterisation and new innovations in design of the percussion instrument, was authored by mridangam maestro and Padma Vibhushan awardee Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman and former scientists T. Ramasami (former Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology) and M.D. Naresh.

Dr Harsh Vardhan addresses India’s first global Mega Science Exhibition ‘Vigyan Samagam’ in Kolkata

- Bringing the world’s major Mega Science projects together, India’s first-ever global Mega-Science exhibition, ‘Vigyan Samagam’, was inaugurated at the Science City in Kolkata.
- The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Minister of Science & Technology and

Minister of Earth Sciences, Government of India, Dr Harsh Vardhan, addressed the gathering through video conference.

IIT-Madras develops affordable standing wheelchair

- Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, in collaboration with Phoenix Medical Systems, launched the country's first indigenously-designed standing wheelchair.
- The assistive device helps the wheelchair-bound move from a sitting to standing position, and vice-versa, independently.
- The wheelchair was launched at IIT Madras Research Park in the presence of Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, researchers, industry and testing partners, students and faculty.

Odisha government signs pact with Tata Strive, Tech Mahindra for skill upgradation

- The Odisha state government signed agreements with Tata Strive and Tech Mahindra to add new dimensions in skilling and employability of the youth.
- The agreement between Directorate of Technical Education and Training and Tata Strive is aimed at imparting life skills to the students of all 49 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the state.

GRSE delivers fast patrol vessel, 'Annie Besant' to Indian Coast Guard

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) delivered 'Annie Besant', second in the series of five fast patrol vessels (FPV) to the Indian Coast Guard.
- The protocol of delivery and acceptance was signed between GRSE chairman & managing director Rear Admiral V K Saxena and Commanding Officer of the vessel, Commandant (JG) Sunny Deo at the Kolkata-based state-run defence shipyard.

Tech Mahindra acquires New York-based BORN Group for $95 million

- IT services firm Tech Mahindra Ltd (Tech M) has acquired BORN Group, a New York-based digital content and production agency, for $95 million in an all-cash deal.
- BORN's services include consulting, content creation, maintenance and hosting services, digital and social marketing, among others. It has clients such as Google, Tata, Red Bull and TAG Heuer.
- BORN has offices in New York City, London, Hong Kong, Singapore and India and employs over 1,100 people.

MSTC ties up with Allahabad Bank to develop e-auction platform

- MSTC has signed an agreement with Allahabad Bank for the development of a dedicated e-Auction platform directly linked with the Indian Banking Association's portal (https://ibapi.net) for sale of non-performing assets (NPAs) through the SARFAESI (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest) Act.

BANKING

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches Instant Digital Savings and Instant Fixed Deposit Account

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches Digital Savings Account along with Fixed Deposit and Privilege Savings Account to offer distinctive banking and digital services to its customers.
- Instant Savings Account will allow customers to instantly open and operate a savings account through mobile phones or a computer with just two documents – Aadhaar Card and Pan Card.
- Customers can download Ujjivan Bank mobile app which is now available in 9 languages namely English, Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, Punjabi, Marathi, Odia and Gujarati and start transacting immediately after opening the account.

Health ATM' installed at Lucknow Railway Station for instant checkup

- A 'Health ATM' has been installed at Lucknow Railway Station where passengers can get upto 16 health checkups done at a charge of Rs 50-100.
- "Under 'Fit India Movement' programme has been launched in collaboration with Indian Railways." "Such machines are being gradually installed at all railways stations across India, it's the 1st in UP.
- Around 16 health tests can be done at a nominal charge of Rs 50-100. Passengers get a hard and soft copy of their reports instantly.

IMPORTANT DAY

International day for preventing environmental exploitation during armed conflict

- The International Day for preventing environmental exploitation during war and armed conflict was observed on November 6, 2019. The day aims to ensure that the environment is not destroyed during incidents of armed confrontations.
- The environment has often remained a silent victim of wars and armed conflicts, as war casualties are usually counted in terms of the dead or wounded or the destruction caused to livelihoods and cities.
- However, the most common target during the conflicts has been the environment, as forests have been cut down, water wells polluted, crops burned, soil poisoned and animals killed.