

## **Science and Technology**

### **Strong 6.1-magnitude earthquake**

- In Indonesia, a strong 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the Indonesian island of Mentawai, meanwhile no tsunami warning was issued.

### **Earthquake strikes Afghanistan, Pakistan, parts of North India**

- A 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan, Pakistan and parts of North India. The Indian Meteorological Department said the epicentre of the quake was Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan.

### **Use of Space Technology for Border Management**

- Union Government has formed a Task Force for identifying areas for use of space technology in improving border management headed by Joint Secretary (Border Management) with members from Border Guarding Forces (BGFs) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The Task Force consulted all stake holders including BGFs, ISRO, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) before finalising the report.

### **IIT Madras identifies unique pathways of eye cancer**

- Based on computational modelling, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have identified the biochemical pathways that eye cancer (retinoblastoma) preferentially chooses for growth and survival.
- The pathways chosen are very different from the ones that normal, healthy cells choose.

### **Publication on various initiatives taken towards combating and adapting to climate change**

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released a publication today in New Delhi on climate actions in India titled “India – Spearheading Climate Solutions”.
- This publication “India – Spearheading Climate Solutions” mentions the key actions India has taken under various sectors towards combating and adapting to climate change.

## **Discovery**

### **Wayanad sanctuary yields a new spider**

- A new species of spider has been discovered from the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, a major biodiversity hotspot in the State.

- The new species, *Cocalus lacinia*, spotted in the Kurichiad forest range of the sanctuary, is taxonomically related to an Australian species, described by arachnologist Fred Wanless in 1981.

### **Scientists discover massive mountains under Earth's crust**

- Scientists have discovered massive mountains in the Earth's mantle. They found the topography on a layer located 660 km below the surface.

## **Space Science**

### **GSAT-31 successfully launched**

- India's communication satellite GSAT-31 has been launched successfully from French Guiana. The Ariane-5 rocket lifted off with it from Kourou Launch and placed it in the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
- It is to replace the ageing INSAT-4CR satellite. GSAT-31 is India's fortieth communication satellite.

### **Israel to launch its first moon mission**

- Israelis to launch its first moon mission this week, sending an unmanned spacecraft to collect data to be shared with NASA. 585-kilogram Beresheet (Genesis) spacecraft is to lift off atop a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- So far only Russia, the United States and China have sent their spacecraft to the moon. The Chinese spacecraft made the first ever soft landing on the far side of the moon on January.

## **App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free**

### **'NTA Students App'**

- National Testing Agency (NTA) has launched a 'mobile app' through which students can practice or take mock tests on their own computers or smart phones.

### **DD Arunprabha**

- PM launches DD Arunprabha – a dedicated 24x7 Satellite channel for Arunachal Pradesh. PM lays foundation stone of Film and Television Institute (FTI) and several other projects at Arunachal Pradesh.

**‘PwD App’**

- To enable Divyangs for new registration, change in address and others details for the upcoming General Elections launched.

**e-AUSHADHI portal**

- Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik launched the e-AUSHADHI portal, for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters at New Delhi.

**LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System**

- Inland Waterways Authority of India launches a new portal **LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System** for real-time information on available depth on stretches of National Waterways.
- The information will help better planning for movement of vessels.

**Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences and Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal**

- The Home Minister also launched two portals - Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences and Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal. A separate Women Safety Division has been established in the Home Ministry and many existing laws have been amended.

**Tele Law Dashboard & Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono) Mobile Application**

- The Tele Law Dashboard is an online platform to connect beneficiary with the panel lawyer through video conference, telephone and chat, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono) Mobile Application will facilitate registration of a lawyer volunteering to provide pro bono legal services.

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