



Sandhu-Rojon appointed UN deputy representative for W Africa

- ❖ UN Secretary General António Guterres has appointed senior UN official Ruby Sandhu-Rojon as his new Deputy Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel. Sandhu-Rojon succeeds Hirout Guebre Sellassie, who completed her assignment this month. Sandhu-Rojon brings to the position extensive experience with the United Nations, including in leadership positions with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and strong strategic planning, coordination, and programmatic skills.

Preethi Srinivasan receives Kalpana Chawla award

- ❖ Preethi Srinivasan, the former State under-19 cricket captain, who braved a crippling accident to support those suffering from spinal cord injuries like her, was on Tuesday presented with the 'Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise' award by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami during the 71st Independence Day celebrations at Fort St. George in Chennai.

Sankara Rao to be IFCI Chief Executive

- ❖ IFCI Ltd, a government company, is set to have a new Managing Director & CEO in E Sankara Rao, who is currently Chief General Manager at India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL). The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has given its nod for the Department of Financial Services (DFS) proposal to appoint Emandi Sankara Rao as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of IFCI Ltd, official sources said. A formal order from DFS is expected soon. Rao's appointment will be valid for three years. Rao is also currently a director and chief executive officer at IIFCL Asset Management Company Ltd.

India's first museum on Partition of the Indian subcontinent will open in Amritsar Punjab

- ❖ India's first museum on Partition of the Indian subcontinent will open this week in Amritsar Punjab, as India and Pakistan celebrate 70 years as independent nations. The museum will include photographs, newspaper clippings, donated personal items, and screens showing video interviews with survivors. It will also have 'The Gallery of Hope', where visitors can scribble messages of love and peace. Tickets are priced low at Rs10 for Indians and Rs.150 for foreigners.

India moves to revive TAPI gas pipeline

- ❖ India will host the next steering committee meeting of the proposed 1,814 kilometre-long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. The decision was made during the sixth joint Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation. The pipeline, that had its ground-breaking ceremony in December 2015, has seen flagging interest since then for a number of reasons. India's effort is to tap Turkmenistan's Galkynysh gasfields, which are the fourth largest in the world.

Indian Government asks Internet majors to remove Blue Whale links

- ❖ Government has directed internet majors – Google, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Microsoft and Yahoo – to immediately remove the links of dangerous online game Blue Whale Challenge, which has led to suicide of children in India and other countries. The Blue Whale challenge is reportedly a suicide game in which the player is given certain tasks to complete for a period of 50 days and the final task leads to suicide. The player is also asked to share photos after finishing the challenge.

Odisha Government will soon launch “Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran” (DAMON)

- ❖ Odisha Government will soon launch “Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran” (DAMON), a special programme to prevent the spread of malaria in remote areas of Ganjam district. Under this programme, camps will be held in remote areas for mass test for malaria. As many as 103 camps will be held in the next three months. Around 15,000 people would be covered under the programme.

Australian state government has approved the world’s biggest single tower solar thermal power plant

- ❖ Australian state government has approved the world’s biggest single tower solar thermal power plant, a 150-megawatt structure to be built in South Australia by 2020. Solar thermal technology uses mirrors to concentrate the Sun’s light at the top of a tower. This heats the stored molten salt and the heat is then used to operate steam turbines. The Aurora Solar Energy Project will be built and managed by SolarReserve company.

World’s most liveable cities: Melbourne ranked Number 1

- ❖ The 2017 Global Liveability Ranking was released today by the Economist Intelligence Unit. The EIU Liveability index scores 140 of the world’s major cities in healthcare, education, stability, culture, environment and infrastructure. Melbourne tops the index for the 7th time in a row with perfect scores for health, education and infrastructure. Adelaide equal 5th with Canada’s Calgary. Perth creeps into the 10 at 7th .