



Nepal -1st country in South East Asia to eliminate Trachoma

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Nepal to be the first country in South-East Asia Region to defeat trachoma, world's leading infectious cause of blindness. The eye disease was second leading cause of preventable blindness in Nepal in 1980s. It puts more than 190 million people in 41 countries at the risk of blindness. In 1998, the WHO had resolved to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem. In 2002, the Nepal Government launched the National Trachoma Programme in order to eliminate the disease. It helped in the reduction of the active trachoma by 40 percent from 2002 to 2005.

Airtel Payments Bank appoints Anubrata Biswas as MD, CEO

- ❖ Airtel Payments Bank said that it has appointed former ICICI Bank senior executive Anubrata Biswas as its Managing Director and CEO. In his new role, Biswas will be responsible for driving Airtel Payments Bank's mission of taking convenient and innovative digital banking services to the doorstep of every Indian. Prior to joining Airtel Payments Bank, Biswas was the joint general manager and retail business head - South India, for ICICI Bank.

Cabinet Approves USOF Scheme for Meghalaya

- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Implementation of a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North Eastern Region (NER) in Meghalaya. The development plan would be funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3911 crore out of which Rs. 8120.81 crore has already been approved by the Cabinet in 2014. It aims to improve the telecom network in the area so as to improve the mobile connectivity in Meghalaya. The project has provision of 2G and 4G mobile coverage in identified uncovered areas of Meghalaya and seamless mobile coverage along the National Highways there.

Mission Innovation (MI) Ministerial Held at Malmo, Sweden

- ❖ The third edition of the Mission Innovation Ministerial Meet was held in Malmo, Sweden. Ministers and delegates from around 23 countries participated in the meeting. The Indian delegation was led by the Union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan. The Minister and other delegates participated in several discussions with business leaders, clean energy innovators and policy makers to discuss plans, progress, country highlights etc. Mission innovation countries launched Mission Innovation Champions Programme to felicitate clean energy innovators. At the Solutions Summit, the MI 2020 Solutions booklet was launched.

Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum Inaugurated by the PM of Netherlands

- ❖ The Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte inaugurated the Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum in New Delhi. Last year in June, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India and the Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment of the Netherlands. This forum was inaugurated in lines of that MoU. Mark Rutte appreciated efforts being made under the Namami Gange programme launched by the Modi Government. He also advocated waste-to-wealth approach to encourage sustainability of projects.

India-Netherlands-Sweden to collaborate for research programme on HIV/AIDS

- ❖ The Governments of India, Netherlands and Sweden have launched first-of-its-kind collaborative research programme on HIV/AIDS. It aims at harnessing complementary research strengths and diverse expertise across three nations to catalyze development of better tools to understand and address burgeoning global epidemic of HIV.

Palestine has become the 193rd nation to join the Chemical Weapons Convention

- ❖ The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is an arms control treaty that outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors. It is administered by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an intergovernmental organization based in The Hague, The Netherlands.

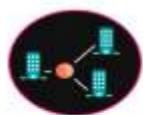
Tejaswini Strikes Gold At Munich Grand Prix

- ❖ Former World Shooting Champion Tejaswini Sawant had bagged the gold in the Grand Prix in Munich, Germany. Tejaswini had won the World Championship gold in prone in 2010 in Munich. She had recently won gold in the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.

Odisha govt. to set up mineral police stations

- ❖ The Odisha government will soon establish mineral police stations in the State in order to curb rampant theft of minor minerals from different districts.

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