

19 October 2024

Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates International 6G Symposium



Key Points:

- ❖ Minister of Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has inaugurated the International 6G Symposium at the sidelines of ITU-WTSA24 and IMC 24.
- ❖ The Bharat 6G Alliance is a collaborative initiative of Indian industry, academia, national research institutions, and standards organizations.
- ❖ The event, organized by the Bharat 6G Alliance, marks a crucial milestone in India's journey towards global leadership in 6G technology.
- ❖ It brings together various stakeholders to foster innovation, standardization, and research in the field of 6G telecommunications and to contribute to global 6G standards through bodies like the ITU and 3GPP (Third Generation Partnership Project).
- ❖ B6GA has already forged alliance with NextG Alliance of ATIS USA, 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association (6G IA), European Council, and 6G Flagship- Oulu University.
- ❖ The Bharat 6G Alliance(B6GA) signed various MoUs with global collaborators, NGMN Alliance (Next Generation Mobile Network Alliance), 5G ACIA (5G Alliance for Connected Industries and Automation), Germany, UKI-FIN (UK- India Future Networks Initiative) & UK TIN (UK Telecom Innovations Networks), 6G Forum (South Korea), 6G Brasil (Brazil).

Om Birla addresses the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva



Key Points:

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and emphasised the need for multilateralism in the world.
- ❖ He also said that dialogue and cooperation amongst Parliaments in science, technology, and innovation were important for the common good.
- ❖ The 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held at the IPU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, from 13 to 17 October 2024.
- ❖ The IPU is the global organisation of the National Parliaments. The Indian delegation led by Om Birla included Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Singh, the Secretary General of both Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha and various other Members of Parliament.

About the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

- ❖ The Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is an annual meeting in which all the members of the IPU and its various committees, including the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young MPs, participate.
- ❖ The Assembly provides a platform for delegates to deliberate, exchange views and galvanise parliamentary action.

Theme of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

- ❖ The theme of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future.

Jamaica rejoins the IPU as 181st Member

- ❖ At the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva, the Parliament of Jamaica rejoined the IPU as its 181st Member Parliament. Jamaica had previously been a member of the IPU from 1983 to 1996.
- ❖ The IPU comprises 181 national Member Parliaments and 15 regional parliamentary bodies.

About the Inter-Parliamentary Union

- ❖ The Inter-Parliamentary Union was set up as the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on 30 June 1889 in Paris, France.
- ❖ In 1899, the name was changed to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- ❖ The main aim of the IPU was to bring together the world's parliamentarians and promote arbitration and mediation as a means of solving disputes between nations.
- ❖ The credit for setting up the IPU is given to the first Nobel Peace Prize winner, Fredric Passey of France, and the Englishman William Randal Cremer.
- ❖ The IPU is the world's first permanent international political organisation.
- ❖ In modern times, the IPU empowers parliaments and parliamentarians so as to promote peace, democracy, human rights and sustainable development around the world.
- ❖ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

India and Mauritania sign four MoUs during President Murmu's visit



Key Points:

- ❖ India and Mauritania signed four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to strengthen and deepen their bilateral ties.
- ❖ The MoUs were signed during President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Mauritania. President Droupadi Murmu is on a threenation tour of Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi from 13-17 October 2024.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu is the first Indian president to visit these African countries.

Highlights of President's visit to Mauritania

- ❖ President Murmu arrived in Mauritania on 16 October after the conclusion of her threeday official visit to Algeria from 13-15 October 2024.
- ❖ President Murmu was received at the Nouakchott-Oumtounsy International Airport by the President of Mauritania, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.
- ❖ President Murmu held talks with Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani at the Presidential Palace in Nouakchott, the capital city of Mauritania and discussed bilateral issues.

Four MoUs were signed on the occasion between the two countries;

- ❖ training of diplomats,
- ❖ cultural exchange,
- ❖ visa exemption and
- ❖ Foreign Office consultations.
- ❖ Later, the President addressed the small Indian community in Mauritania at a reception hosted by the Ambassador of India to Mauritania.

India-Mauritania bilateral relationships

- ❖ India established an embassy in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in June 2021.
- ❖ The first Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries were held in Nouakchott on 21 March 2024.
- ❖ The bilateral trade between the two countries in 2022-23 was \$378.24 million. India's exports to Mauritania were \$146.57 million, and imports were \$231.68 million.

- ❖ India mainly exports cereals, pharmaceuticals, plastic products, cotton, ceramics, iron and steel articles, boilers, related mechanical appliances, electrical products, and chemicals.
- ❖ The main import items from Mauritania are iron and steel, copper, aluminium, electrical machinery, etc.

About Mauritania

- ❖ Mauritania is an Islamic country situated along the Atlantic Ocean's coast in Africa.
- ❖ It forms a transitional zone between Arab North Africa, also known as the Maghreb region (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia), and the black African populations lying south of the Tropic of Cancer.
- ❖ Mauritanian was a colony of France, and it gained independence in 1960.
- ❖ It is a very poor country that lies in the Sahara desert of Africa, and a large part of its population is nomadic.
- ❖ Mauritania has large reserves of iron ore, copper, and gypsum, as well as some oil resources.
- ❖ Capital: Nouakchott
- ❖ Currency: Ouguiya
- ❖ President: Mohamed Ould Cheikh Ghazouani



Mauritius, first recipient of Rupee loan under IDEAS of Govt. of India



Key Points:

- ❖ India has extended a line of credit (loan) of Rs 487.60 crores to the Government of Mauritius under the Government of India's Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) programme.
- ❖ It is the first time that India has extended a line of credit in Indian rupees to a foreign government under the IDEAS programme.
- ❖ The loan offer was made to the Mauritius foreign minister Maneesh Gobin, by Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S . Jaishankar.
- ❖ The loan was approved after the Mauritius government accepted Dr Jaishankar's offer.

SBI to Provide Loan to Mauritius

- ❖ The Rs 487.60 crore line of credit to the government of Mauritius for financing a water project in Mauritius will be provided through the State Bank of India (SBI).
- ❖ The loan amount will be used to replace around 100 km of obsolete water pipeline in Mauritius.

What is IDEAS?

- ❖ The Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) was launched as India Development Initiative by the government of India. It was announced in the 2003-2004 budget speech by the then Finance Minister Jaswant Singh with an allocation of Rs 200 crore.
- ❖ It was later renamed the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS).

Aim of the IDEAS

- ❖ Under IDEAS, the government of India provides concessional loans or grants to developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America for developmental or other projects.
- ❖ The aim is to promote India's strategic economic interest in the world.
- ❖ The repayment of loans is the responsibility of the borrowing country.

- ❖ The borrowing country must buy at least 75 % of the goods /services from India for the projects for which a loan has been provided under IDEAS.

Lending Bank

- ❖ The loan will be channelled to the borrowing country under IDEAS through the ExportImport Bank of India (EXIM) bank/Public Sector Bank or any other financial agency nominated by the Union Ministry of Finance.

Who manages the IDEAS?

- ❖ The IDEAS programme is administered by the Department of Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ However, loans are provided to foreign countries on the recommendation of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ❖ Mauritius is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean near the eastern African coast and two-thirds of the country's population are of Indian origin.

CJI DY Chandrachud inaugurated the AROHA 2024 in New Delhi



Key Points:

- ❖ The Chief Justice of India, Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, inaugurated the first **International Conference on Advancements of Research & Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda - AROHA-2024 at New Delhi on 17 October 2024.**
- ❖ The three-day AROHA-2024 is being held in New Delhi from 17-19 October 2024.
- ❖ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Ayush and Health & Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, Dr. Shyama Kuruvilla, Director (ad

interim) of the Global Traditional Medicine Centre, WHO, Jamnagar, Gujarat, and other distinguished guests were present on the occasion.

Who has Organised the AROHA -2024?

- ❖ AROHA 2024 has been organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, an autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Ayush.

Theme of the AROHA 2024

- ❖ The theme of the AROHA 2024 is Advancements in Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda.

Participants of AROHA 2024

- ❖ Both national and international scholars, industry leaders, and Ayurveda experts are participating in the AROHA 2024 through virtual medium or in person.
- ❖ Amongst the foreign countries, delegates from Japan, Colombia, Australia, Germany, Sri Lanka, and Argentina are participating.

Aim of the AROHA

- ❖ The aim of the AROHA 2024 is to popularise and project Ayurveda as one of the key pillars of global health and wellness. The conference will explore how to integrate traditional Ayurvedic practices with modern scientific advancements.
- ❖ The conference will cover a wide variety of agendas, including Ayurveda, ethnomedicine, quality control, standardisation, diagnosis, drug delivery, evidencebased understanding, and globalisation.

All India Institute of Ayurveda

- ❖ The All India Institute of Ayurveda has been set up as an autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Ayush. It is the apex of the Ayurveda Institute in India.
- ❖ The main campus of the All India Institute of Ayurveda is in New Delhi In order to promote Ayurveda and promote academic and scientific collaborations in the world, the All India Institute of Ayurveda has tied up with leading institutions in over 17 countries.
- ❖ Director : Professor Tanuja Manoj Nesari

Cabinet approves additional instalment of three percent of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees



Key Points:

- ❖ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a 3% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees.
- ❖ The hike, which takes effect from July 1, 2024, also extends to pensioners, with Dearness Relief (DR) being increased by the same percentage.
- ❖ The Dearness Relief for pensioners has also been revised by 3%.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved an additional installment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 01.07.2024 representing an increase of three percent (3%) over the existing rate of 50% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate against price rise.
- ❖ The total financial burden on the exchequer due to the DA and DR revisions will be ₹9,448.35 crore annually.
- ❖ This increase will benefit around 49.18 lakh central government employees and 64.89 lakh pensioners. The DA/DR adjustments, made twice a year on January 1 and July 1, are calculated based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW), published by the Labour Bureau.
- ❖ With the hike effective from July, employees will receive arrears for July, August, and September along with their revised payments.
- ❖ The revisions aim to protect against the erosion of real pay due to inflation.

SECL Becomes First Coal Company to Open Four AMRIT Pharmacies



Key Points:

- ❖ South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India, has inaugurated the country's 216th AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy.
- ❖ Located at the Health Centre in SECL's Indira Vihar Colony, Bilaspur, this new facility makes SECL the first coal company to operate four AMRIT pharmacies.
- ❖ The AMRIT pharmacies, part of a flagship initiative launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015, provide a wide range of generic and life-saving branded drugs, implants, and surgical consumables at highly subsidized rates.
- ❖ SECL's initiative will benefit both inpatients and outpatients, including SECL employees, general public, and especially people from tribal and rural areas within the coal belt.
- ❖ The expansion of these pharmacies will ensure easier access to affordable medicines for communities in some of the most underserved areas.
- ❖ This pharmacy, along three others located in Central Hospitals in the operational areas of Gevra in Korba district, (CG), Sohagpur in Shahdol district (MP), and Chirimiri in Manendragarh-Chirimiri-Bharatpur district (CG), ensures that a wide array of medications for common and critical conditions such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases are available under one roof.

Dr Jitendra Singh dedicates India's first Airport based self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility



Key Points:

- ❖ Pavana Chitra embodies a powerful fusion of technology, tradition, and art, presenting an off-grid, self-powered indoor air quality monitor powered by indigenous indoor solar cells developed by CSIR-NIIST.
- ❖ It is crafted from locally available materials and designed to mimic the natural process of photosynthesis. Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled Pavana Chitra, India's first Airport based self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport

Justice will no longer be 'blind': Supreme Court embraces new symbolism



Key Points:

- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) of India has unveiled a redesigned version of the 'Lady Justice' statue, marking a significant departure from its colonial past.
- ❖ Traditionally depicted with a blindfold and a sword, the new statue now features 'Lady Justice' with open eyes and the Constitution of India in place of the sword, reflecting the judiciary's commitment to constitutional values and justice that "sees everyone equally".

Lady Justice's eyes open, blindfold removed

- ❖ The removal of the blindfold from 'Lady Justice' is more than a visual change—it symbolises a shift in how the judiciary views justice in modern India.
- ❖ The blindfold, long associated with impartiality and equality before the law, has been replaced with open eyes. This change, according to sources in the Supreme Court, reflects an evolving legal identity—one that distances itself from colonial symbols and embraces a uniquely Indian interpretation of justice.
- ❖ The updated statue now stands proudly in the judges' library, embodying a justice system that is aware, vigilant, and inclusive.

Replacing the sword with the Constitution

- ❖ Another striking feature of the new 'Lady Justice' is the replacement of the sword with the Constitution. While the sword previously represented authority and punishment, its replacement with the Constitution signifies a shift towards a more principled and balanced approach to justice.
- ❖ The Constitution, as the foundation of the judiciary's role, represents the upholding of rights, equality, and fairness over mere retribution.
- ❖ The sword is a symbol of violence, but courts deliver justice according to constitutional laws. The new statue aims to reflect this principle.

NITI Aayog organized a two-day International Methanol Seminar and Expo 2024



Key Points:

- ❖ NITI Aayog has organized a two-day international methanol seminar and expo in 2024 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The event was held in collaboration with the Methanol Institute of the United States.
- ❖ This event highlight the progress of projects, products, and Research and Development initiatives related to Methanol production, application, and allied technological developments in the world.
- ❖ The key focus of the seminar highlight the role of Methanol in the world energy transition and the rise of Methanol as a low-carbon fuel in green shipping.

17 October – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty



- ❖ The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is celebrated every year on October 17 throughout the world.
- ❖ The day tries to promote dialogue and understanding about poverty within governments and policymakers.
- ❖ Theme 2024 – Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges: Together Towards Equality and Inclusion In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly, by resolution 47/196, designated October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

16 October – World Food Day



Key Points:

- ❖ World Food Day is celebrated every year on 16 October across the world.
- ❖ The objective of World Food Day is to eradicate hunger, ensure food security, boost agricultural productivity and support a sustainable food system.
- ❖ Theme 2024 – Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future
- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) came into existence in 1945 and World Food Day came into existence in 1979 when the 20th FAO Conference declared October 16 as World Food Day

World Standards Day



Key Points:

- ❖ World Standards Day is observed every year on 14 October.
- ❖ This aims to emphasize the role that standardization plays in enhancing international trade and safety, as well as quality of life.
- ❖ Theme 2024 – Shared Vision for a Better World: Standards for the Changing Climate
- ❖ The date it commemorates is the first meeting held in 1946, at which delegates from 25 countries met in London to establish an international organization that would concentrate its efforts on standardization.
- ❖ Although the International Organization for Standardization was constituted the following year, the first World Standards Day was only celebrated in 1970

15 October – World White Cane Day



Key Points:

- ❖ World White Cane Day is observed annually on October 15 to recognise the importance of the white cane as a tool for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

- ❖ Beyond its practical use, this day aims to raise public awareness about pedestrian safety and the rights of people with visual disabilities.
- ❖ Theme 2024 – Promoting Inclusion: Celebrating Abilities and Advocating Access for People

