

“Never confuse a single defeat with a final defeat.” F. Scott Fitzgerald

WINGS INDIA 2018

The four-day biennial event ‘WINGS INDIA 2018’, jointly organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India and FICCI got underway in Hyderabad.

The theme of the four-day biennial event this year is ‘India-Global Aviation Hub’.

WINGS INDIA 2018 is a platform for interactions, forging alliances, investments and air connectivity between the States and the global aviation players & stakeholders.

The four-day event will witness the presence of 125 exhibitors and 35 CEOs. WINGS 2018 will also see representation from 10 countries. Besides the conference and exhibition, Roundtables on Tourism, Cargo and Logistics and Skills and G2B and B2B meetings are scheduled. More than 300 B2B meetings are scheduled during the event.

The conference will focus on fostering partnership to transform Indian aviation and the role of conducive regulatory framework to facilitate growth of civil aviation market.

Coinciding with WINGS India 2018, FICCI is set to launch its maiden edition of ‘WINGS INDIA AWARDS’ for Excellence in the aviation sector. The awards will be conferred upon the Aviation-related Companies/Institutions/Organizations in 14 categories.

NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR 2017

Nari Shakti Puraskars 2017 were presented to 30 women by the President on the eve of International Women’s Day.

Nari Shakti Puraskars:

To acknowledge Women’s achievements, the Government of India confers Nari Shakti Puraskars on eminent women and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment. The Nari Shakti Awards were initiated in the year 1999.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development announces these national level awards for eminent women, organisations and institutions.

The Nari Shakti Puraskar carries a cash award of Rs.1 Lakh and a certificate for individuals and institutions.

SUVIDHA

- Government announces launch of ‘SUVIDHA’ – Rs. 2.50, 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin – under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)
- ‘Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha’ are the touchstones that this product will ensure for the underprivileged Women of India

Union govt. announced the launch of ‘Suvidha’, the 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), here today. The affordable sanitary napkin will be available for Rs. 2.50 per padat over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India and would ensure ‘Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha’ for the underprivileged Women of India.

This step taken by the Department of Pharmaceuticals will ensure the achievement of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All, the Minister said while addressing the media.

This is a special gift for all Women on the occasion of International Woman’s day, as this unique product would ensure Affordability, Hygiene as well as Ease of use and disposal for them. SUVIDHA napkins would be physically available at all Janaushadhi Kendras in the country by May 28, 2018 – World Menstrual Hygiene Day, the Minister informed.

According to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, about 58 percent of women aged between 15 to 24 years use locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins and tampons. Further, about 78 percent women in urban areas use hygienic methods of protection during menstrual period; only 48

percent women in rural areas have access to clean sanitary napkins.

This is one of the most important requirements in ensuring the Health Security to that section of Women in India who still use unhygienic aids during menstrual period due to non-affordability of some of the popular brands of sanitary napkins available in the market today. Such unhygienic aids cause fungal infections, Reproductive Tract Infection, Urinary Tract Infection, Cervical cancer and also make women vulnerable to infertility.

Moreover, the disposal of non-biodegradable sanitary napkins available today creates a huge environmental problem. Special additive is added in the SUVIDHA napkin which makes it biodegradable when it reacts with oxygen after it is used and discarded. This is 100% biodegradable.

The average price of sanitary napkins available in the market today is around Rs. 8 per pad, whereas now with the launch of the SUVIDHA napkins at Rs. 2.50 per pad, this will go a long way in making the basic hygiene requirement aid for Women affordable for the underprivileged sections.

KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME

Forty Indian-origin students from nine countries are in India as part of the 46th edition of Know India Programme (KIP). Madhya Pradesh is the partner state for this edition of the programme.

Know India Programme:

Know India Programme is a flagship programme of Ministry of External Affairs for engagement with Indian origin youth (between 18-30 years) to enhance their awareness about India, its cultural heritage, art and to familiarize them with various aspects of contemporary India.

Minimum qualification required for participating in KIP is graduation from a recognized University /Institute or enrolled for graduation and ability to speak in English. The applicant should not have visited India

through any previous Programme of Government of India. Those who have not visited India before will be given preference.

#YES I BLEED CAMPAIGN-2018

The government has launched the **#Yes I Bleed menstrual hygiene campaign**.

"#Yes I bleed" aims to create a holistic approach to the issue of menstruation, which is an experience that transcends culture, class, and caste. The campaign has been initiated formally across all multi-media platforms, including Face book and YouTube to spread awareness about the issue.

The United Nations has recognized menstrual hygiene as a global public health and a human rights issue yet across the globe. "Period poverty" as some call it, is a reality for millions of women and girls.

Today, in India, approximately 35 crore women menstruate and it is estimated that only 12% use proper menstrual hygiene practices and menstrual products.

In India's rural areas, with the lack of resources, education and awareness about personal hygiene, not just lack of information about hygiene products, the women don't even have any conversation around menstruation.

For the less privileged, periods are the few 'cursed' days of the month. A woman on her periods cannot enter the temple, kitchen or take part in any auspicious occasion – because she is 'impure'.

The 88% who do not have access to sanitary pads use unsanitised cloth, husk sand, tree leaves and even ash. These can cause severe reproductive health problems and infections, and can also lead to cervical cancer.

Also, there is the issue of school dropouts and poor attendance because of inadequate menstrual hygiene management. This also is one of the causes for loss of wages for women labourers.

Equally important is the safe disposal of used sanitary pads, which actually are an environmental disaster. In villages, the used

pads often end up in village ponds, exposing every human being and animal to the risk of infection.

Menstruation is still a taboo subject in our country and a topic that even women are uncomfortable discussing in public. This was a much-needed awareness campaign, and added that the subject of menstrual hygiene is “more about a change of mindset than simply about the use of proper menstrual products”. Mindset change is happening, but much more needs to be done.

It is high time people dispel the misconceptions that surround the normal physiological process of menstruation and discard the restrictions imposed on women during “the time of the month”.

AIR-BREATHING ELECTRIC THRUSTER (ABET)

The European Space Agency (ESA) is building Air-Breathing Electric Thruster (ABET) that can possibly extend the working life of satellites by years and even help with interplanetary travel using just the air around it as a propellant.

Air-Breathing Electric Thruster (ABET):

An air-breathing engine works by collecting the sparse air at the edge of the atmosphere and compresses it to a point that it becomes thermalised ionised plasma. It then fires out the plasma using an electric charge to achieve thrust. An air breathing thruster could keep a satellite operational for extended periods of time if it only uses the air around it for fuel instead of propellants.

This Air-Breathing Electric Thruster (ABET) does not operate in complete vacuum, but works in low Earth orbit (LEO) – altitude of 2,000 km or less– notes the ESA. At LEO, the air is scarce, but not entirely absent. In fact, there is enough air to cause a drag on spaceships and satellites. This is why there are on-board engines installed on satellites to correct course every time it moves out of position.

UNION CABINET HAS APPROVED RELAXING THE CAP ON SPECTRUM

The Union Cabinet has approved relaxing the cap on spectrum holding by telcos

This approval is expected to aid mergers and acquisitions in the sector

The Cabinet has also given telcos the option to extend the time period for payment of spectrum bought in auction to 16 years from the present 10 years

This is likely to help with the cash flow in the short to medium term, while adding Rs. 74,446 crore till 2034-35 to the government's kitty due to no reduction in interest rates

The government is hopeful that this move would encourage participation in future spectrum auctions

Possible benefits of this decision

The decision based on the recommendations by the Inter Ministerial Group on stressed assets in the telecom sector

It will facilitate investments, consolidation and enhance ease of doing business, said an official release

BALKRISHNA DOSHI WON 2018 PRITZKER PRIZE

Balkrishna Doshi is the newest winner of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, known as the Nobel for architects. He has built more than a hundred buildings that reflect his investment in local materials, social change and the environment. He is the first Indian to receive the award.

Pritzker Architecture Prize:

The international prize, which is awarded each year to a living architect/s for significant achievement, was established by the Pritzker family of Chicago through their Hyatt Foundation in 1979. It is granted annually and is often referred to as “architecture's Nobel” and “the profession's highest honor.” The award consists of \$100,000 (US) and a bronze medallion. The award is conferred on the laureate/s at a ceremony held at an

architecturally significant site throughout the world.

MARSHALL ISLANDS TO LAUNCH WORLD-FIRST DIGITAL LEGAL TENDER

The Marshall Islands will launch the world's first legal tender crypto currency. A law in this regard has been passed by the parliament.

The Marshall Islands has partnered with Israeli company Neema to issue 24 million units of the Sovereign (SOV) digital currency.

The SOV will require users to identify themselves, thus avoiding the anonymity that has kept bit coin and other crypto currencies from gaining support from governments.

Venezuela had launched the Petro crypto currency in February. Unlike the Petro, the Sovereign (SOV) will be recognized in law as legal tender, holding equal status as the US dollar, which is the Pacific island nation's current currency.

Plans for possible sovereign crypto currencies have gained momentum in recent months, as digital tokens launched by private companies have jumped in value. Several governments, including China, Estonia, and Iran, have discussed plans for their own digital currency.

Crypto currencies are being denounced in many countries because of their use in grey and black markets. There are two sets of interconnected risks; one being to the growth and expansion of these platforms in the uncertain policy environment, and the other being the risks these platforms poses to the users and the security of the state. They also have the potential use for Illicit Trade and Criminal Activities and can be used for Terror Financing.

The future and further success of crypto currencies depends upon the way regulatory frameworks are devised. Different countries have approached this innovation in different ways, and therefore the regulatory environment remains uncertain. The governments will have to take considered steps, given the risks from possible use of crypto currencies in terror financing, money laundering and tax evasion.

CIMON (CREW INTERACTIVE MOBILE COMPANION)

Airbus, an aeronautics company based in Netherlands, is developing CIMON (Crew Interactive MOBILE CompanioN), an AI-based space assistant for Germany's DLR Space Administration.

The artificial intelligence system will soon join the crew aboard the International Space Station (ISS) to assist astronauts. It will be tested during the European Space Agency's Horizons mission between June and October this year.

CIMON:

CIMON will be the first AI-based mission and flight assistance system. The entire structure of CIMON is made up of plastic and metal, created using 3D printing.

With CIMON, crew members can do more than just work through a schematic view of prescribed checklists and procedures; they can also engage with their assistant. CIMON makes work easier for the astronauts when carrying out every day routine tasks, helps to increase efficiency, facilitates mission success and improves security, as it can also serve as an early warning system for technical problems.
