

“Do not fear failure but rather fear not trying.” Roy T. Bennett

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL**3RD ANNUAL MEETING OF AIIB**

The Department of Economic Affairs and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will jointly host the third Annual Meeting of the AIIB in Mumbai.

The **theme for this year’s meeting is “Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration”** that will see leaders from varied organizations and levels of government to share ideas and experiences for creating a sustainable future through sound infrastructure investment.

This year will also see the launch of the inaugural Asian Infrastructure Forum, which will gather infrastructure practitioners in a practical and project-driven discourse.

It is focused on matching innovative finance to critical infrastructure needs.

The Department of Economic Affairs, in partnership with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**, is also **organizing an exhibition India Infrastructure Expo 2018**.

The objective of the exhibition is to offer companies from the public and private sector to showcase their latest solutions, technologies and offerings in the realm of infrastructure project development and delivery.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

The AIIB is a multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.

It was proposed as an initiative by the government of China in 2013 and came into existence in 2014.

The capital of the bank is \$100 billion, equivalent to 2/3 of the capital of the Asian Development Bank and about half that of the World Bank.

Recently AIIB extended USD 1.2 bn loan for infra projects in India.

The fund will be invested in six projects, including \$500 million in the Mumbai Metro and \$455 million in rural roads in Andhra Pradesh.

This also includes \$200 million to the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.

MONGOLIA LAUNCHES CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST OIL REFINERY WITH INDIAN AID

Mongolia launched construction of its first oil refinery with help of India.

It is a long-awaited project that is funded by India and designed to end the country’s dependence on Russian fuel.

The oil refinery, in southern Dornogovi province, will be capable of processing 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil per year

Mongolia’s new refinery, planned for completion in late 2022, will meet all of the nation’s demand for gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Earlier it was solely dependent on Russia for petroleum, though it exported crude oil.

By establishing this strategically important oil refinery, the national economy will become independent from energy imports, and fuel and commodity prices will be stabilized.

The project is expected to boost Mongolia’s gross domestic product by 10 percent, it said.

A Mongolian oil refinery has been discussed since 1997, but while several projects were approved, none have been completed.

The refinery’s financing is part of a \$1 billion credit line agreement between Mongolia and the Export-Import Bank of India, made during a 2015 visit by Prime Minister Modi.

India-Mongolia Bilateral relations:

Mongolia, a large landlocked country wedged between giants China and Russia, has a population of just 3 million. Almost half its people live as nomadic stock herders.

Mongolia considers India a “third neighbor” as well as a “spiritual neighbor” (the late venerable Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, a

Buddhist monk who is revered in Mongolia, was the Indian ambassador to Ulaanbaatar for 10 years).

India shares historical relations with Mongolia in terms of culture from over 2700 years.

Nomadic Elephant was the Counter-Terrorism joint military exercise conducted by India and Mongolia in 2016

NATIONAL

PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT (PWM) RULES

India generates an estimated 32 million metric tonnes of packaging waste each year, of which plastic waste constitutes 16%. But only 60% of the collected plastic waste is recycled.

According to the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016, all States have to annually apprise the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the steps taken to reign in plastic use, whether a ban is in force, and the strength and performance of a recycler and waste-processing network.

The theme for the World Environment Day 2018 “Beat Plastic Pollution”.

The theme of Earth Day 2018 is “End Plastic Pollution”.

The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 aim to:

- Increase minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns.
- Expand the jurisdiction of applicability from the municipal area to rural areas, because plastic has reached rural areas also.
- Responsibility of local bodies and Gram Panchayat.
- Collect back system of plastic waste.
- To bring in the responsibilities of producers and generators, both in plastic waste management system and to introduce collect back system of plastic waste.

- Phasing out of manufacture and use of non- recyclable multilayered plastic: to be phased out in two years’ time.
- To promote use of plastic waste for road construction as per Indian Road Congress guidelines or energy recovery, or waste to oil etc. for gainful utilization of waste and also address the waste disposal issue;

Performance according to latest CPCB report:

States’ claim on fighting plastic only strong on paper.

Only 24 States and Union Territories have complied with some of the above directions.

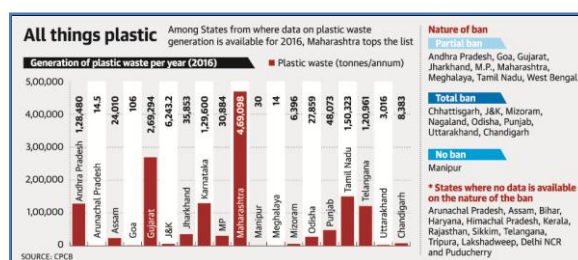
Most states’ have imposed ban only in specific towns or cities.

Delhi, which reportedly generates the largest quantity of plastic waste in the country, has not provided information on its plastic management initiatives to the CPCB.

The law requires that all plastic waste recyclers register themselves but there were around 312 unregistered plastic manufacturing/recycling units across India.

Most of the States/UTs have not set up proper monitoring system for use of carry bags as per the specified guidelines.

Maharashtra tops the list on plastic waste generation.



MOWCD RECEIVES THE ‘BEST PERFORMING SOCIAL SECTOR MINISTRY’ SKOCH AWARD

Lauding the achievements of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in delivering the promises made and for its significant achievements and initiatives from the last 4 years, SKOCH has conferred the ‘Best performing Social Sector Ministry’ award on the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Outlining the achievements and initiatives of the Ministry, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi has said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, flagship schemes like **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** has achieved huge success within a very short period of time. Under this scheme, efforts were made at National, regional and local level which led to behaviour change which is reflecting in the improved sex ration at birth.

The Minister further shared the details on the achievements of the Ministry including **6 months maternity leave, Sexual Harassment at Work Place Act, SHe-box, One stop centres, Universal Women help line (181), 33 per cent reservation in police.**

The Minister also mentioned that a special division has been set up recently by Ministry of Home Affairs for women related issues, on the request of WCD Ministry.

Stressing that forensic analysis plays a critical role in nabbing the culprits in sexual assault cases, the Minister has said that earlier this month, foundation of Sakhi **Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory** was laid in Chandigarh and added that 5 more advanced forensic labs would come up in Guwahati, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune and Bhopal.

The Minister also said that **special forensic kits for rape cases will be provided to all police stations and hospitals.** The funds for these kits will be provided from Nirbhaya Fund.

AADHAAR BIOMETRIC DATA CANNOT BE USED FOR CRIME INVESTIGATIONS, UIDAI CLARIFIES

The biometric data collected by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) cannot be used for any other purpose except for generating Aadhaar and authenticating the identity of cardholders.

Invoking section 29 of the Act, the UIDAI issued a statement after reports emerged about the purported use of Aadhaar biometric data for the purpose of investigating a crime.

The section 33 of the Aadhaar Act allows a very limited exception and permits the use of

or access to Aadhaar biometric data in cases involving national security after pre-authorisation by an oversight committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary

This is also the consistent stand taken by the Union of India in the ongoing Aadhaar case in the Supreme Court

According to Section 29 of the Aadhaar (Targeted delivery of financial and other subsidies, benefits and services) Act, 2016 No core biometric information, collected or created under this Act, shall be—(a) **shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever; or (b) used for any purpose other than generation of Aadhaar numbers and authentication under this Act.**

The identity information, other than core biometric information, collected or created under this Act may be shared only in accordance with the provisions of this Act and in such manner as may be specified by regulations

No identity information available with a requesting entity shall be—(a) used for any purpose, other than that specified to the individual at the time of submitting any identity information for authentication; or (b) disclosed further, except with the prior consent of the individual to whom such information relates

No Aadhaar number or core biometric information collected or created under this Act in respect of an Aadhaar number holder shall be published, displayed or posted publicly, except for the purposes as may be specified by regulations

SCIENCE AND TECH

INDO-UN SMALL SATELLITES PROGRAMME (UNSSP)

India to teach satellite tech to students from abroad.

India has thrown open its satellite-building expertise to engineering graduates chosen from other countries.

ISRO's Bangalore-based U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) — until recently known as ISAC — will train the overseas students.

Capacity-building programme was India's contribution to the world in response to a request that the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs had made to space-faring nations last year.

The countries are marking the 50th year of the first **UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space** — called **UNISPACE+50**.
