

"The one who falls and gets up is stronger than the one who never tried"

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL**INDIA AND BANGLADESH AGREED TO INSTITUTE A COORDINATED PATROL (CORPAT)**

India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute a Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual feature between the two Navies.

It is aimed to consolidate bilateral defense relations between India and Bangladesh and to explore new avenues for naval cooperation.

India-Bangladesh Naval Cooperation

The commencement of CORPAT is a major step towards the enhanced operational interaction between both Navies.

Naval cooperation between India and Bangladesh has been traditionally strong, encompassing a wide span which includes operational interactions through port calls, passage exercises along with capacity building, capability enhancement and training initiatives.

CORPAT:

Over the last few years, the Indian Navy has expanded its assistance to countries in the region through material support, training, EEZ surveillance, provisioning of platforms, hydrographic assistance, joint exercises and offering slots in professional training courses.

The Navy regularly conducts CORPATs with Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. It also conducts EEZ surveillance of Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles on their request.

PAKISTAN PUSHES LAW AHEAD FATF MEET

Facing grey-listing by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) during its crucial six-day Paris meeting starting on Monday, Pakistan has notified the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Regulations- 2018, which it claims is fully compliant with the global watchdog's guidelines.

The development comes amid a **strong push by the United States, backed by the United Kingdom, Germany and France, to put Pakistan in the FATF 'grey list' for its failure to comply with the anti-money laundering and terror funding guidelines** despite repeated attempts.

Since the last FATF session, over the past few months, Pakistan President had issued multiple ordinances in view of the FATF requirements. However, its Parliament was yet to approve a proposed amendment that recognized all the UNSC declarations in Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Act, promulgated as an Ordinance in February and laid in the Senate in April 2018.

On June 20, the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan said it had notified the regulations that seek to make financial institutions more accountable in terms of money laundering and terror funding activities, it being "mandatory" for the country as a member of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

During its last session, the FATF Plenary had decided to put Pakistan on the grey list, subjecting it to direct monitoring and intense scrutiny by the International Co-operation Review Group on terror financing, pending further review during the June meeting.

Pakistan was placed on the same list from 2012 to 2015.

Earlier, the FATF had also sought an exhaustive report from the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering, focused on measures taken by Pakistan against terror funding and money laundering.

AIIB APPROVED \$100 MILLION INVESTMENT IN NIIF

The board of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved \$100 million investment in the National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF).

AIIB:

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a

mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.

It is headquartered in Beijing.

It commenced operations in January 2016 and has now grown to 84 approved members from around the world.

By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors today, it aims to connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.

The United Nations has addressed the launch of AIIB as having potential for “scaling up financing for sustainable development” for the concern of global economic governance. 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.

NIIF:

NIIF was set up in 2015 as an investment vehicle for funding commercially viable greenfield, brownfield and stalled projects in the infrastructure sector. NIIF will invest in areas such as energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infrastructure-related sectors in India.

The corpus of the fund is proposed to be around Rs40,000 crore, with the government investing 49% and the rest to be raised from third-party investors such as sovereign wealth funds, insurance and pension funds, endowments etc.

OPEC AGREED TO INCREASE ITS DAILY OUTPUT TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF RISING CRUDE OIL PRICES

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has agreed to increase its daily output to address the problem of rising crude oil prices. The cartel's output would be increased by about a million barrels a day beginning in July.

Countries across the world have been vocal in recent months about the need to bring down rising oil prices that threaten to put the global economy under stress. Emerging markets such as India that have been affected by the

rising cost of oil imports, have also been exerting pressure.

The present deal could help the Saudis appease major oil consumers to some extent. Meanwhile, Iran, which has been opposed to raising OPEC output as it would lower prices, is set to suffer a marginal loss as it lacks spare capacity to ramp up production. This works in favour of its rival, Saudi Arabia, which can recover from the impact of lower prices by capturing market share.

OPEC has failed to address two uncertainties that will shape the oil market over the coming months and years.

The first is the situation in Venezuela, which has gone from bad to worse over the past two months. In the short term, the situation remains the greatest uncertainty hanging over the oil market.

The second, and potentially more destabilising, issue in the longer term is the prospect of a sharp increase in the production of so-called “tight oil” from shale rocks in the US.

OPEC:

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a group of oil-producing nations that was first established in Baghdad, Iraq, in 1961. OPEC is one of the most powerful international organizations in the world and was a major player in the shift towards state control over natural resources.

NATIONAL

GOVERNMENT'S FLAGSHIP SMART CITIES MISSION LACKED INTEGRATE APPROCH

The government's flagship Smart Cities Mission has been too “project-focused” instead of evolving an integrated urban development paradigm.

New Delhi-based Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) highlights following aspects seeking more attention:

- It also lacks a strong gender equality or non-discrimination approach to city development

- The report also highlights the lack of any specific directions with the mission to make Indian cities more gender friendly or non-discriminatory.
- The ministry of housing and urban affairs had earlier proposed to set up several smart city sub-committees, including one on gender, but these are yet to take off.

The report also critiques the model for creating small area-based 'smart enclaves' resulting in an undue focus on a part of the cities.

These area-based development zones cover less than 5% of the geographic domain of many of the proposed smart cities, says the report prepared by the HLRN.

The lack of a city development model, for example, and adequate standards to guide project implementation, including for housing, water, sanitation, health, and environmental sustainability.

This raises questions about whether the mission will really be able to deliver on its aims and ensure the fulfillment of rights and entitlements of all city residents, the report says.

The SCM guidelines do not include any human rights-based indicators to monitor implementation of the Mission or to ensure that projects will also benefit low-income and other disadvantaged groups.

In its March 2018 report, the standing committee had noted that of all urban schemes, spending on Smart Cities Mission had been the lowest.

Only 8% of the total identified projects under the mission have been completed in three years.

The Smart Cities Mission should reinvent itself as the Sustainable Cities Mission.

A shift is required to bring about substantial and sustained improvement in the lives and livelihoods of not only the 8% of India's population covered by the mission's proposed 'area-based development'.

POWER MINISTRY MAY MAKE 24°C AS DEFAULT SETTING AIR CONDITIONERS

The government will consider making 24°C as a mandatory default setting for air conditioners (ACs).

The temperatures settings in ACs will be in the range of 24°C to 26°C.

AC makers have also been advised to have labeling indicating the optimum temperature setting for the benefit of consumers both from financial and health points of view.

Every 1°C increase in the air conditioner temperature setting results in saving of 6% of electricity consumed.

Normal human body temperature is approximately 36-37°C, but large number of commercial establishments, hotels and offices maintain temperature around 18-21°C.

This is not only uncomfortable but is actually unhealthy.

Some countries like Japan have put in place regulation to keep the temperature at 28°C.

Impact:

Total connected load in India due to air conditioning will be 200 GW by 2030 and this may further increase as today only about 6% of households use ACs.

Considering this huge demand, India can save about 40 million units of electricity usage every day.

The new campaign will result in substantial energy savings and also reduce greenhouse gas emission.

Power Ministry estimates indicate that if all the consumers adopt the norm, this will result in savings of 20 billion units of electricity in one year alone.

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA PROPOSED TO SET UP A WATER AERODROME IN CHILIKA LAKE

The Airports Authority of India has proposed to set up a water aerodrome in Chilika Lake for starting amphibious aircraft operations in Odisha.

It is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest lagoon in the world after The New Caledonian barrier reef in New Caledonia.

It is the largest wintering ground for migratory waterfowl found anywhere on the Indian sub-continent.

It is one of the hotspot of biodiversity in the country, and some rare, vulnerable and endangered species listed in the IUCN Red List of threatened Animals inhabit in the lagoon for at least part of their life cycle.

On account of its rich bio-diversity and ecological significance, Chilika was designated as the 1st "Ramsar Site" of India.

MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT BEGAN ENFORCING BAN ON PLASTIC

Maharashtra government recently began enforcing a ban on plastic, a decision it announced in March. The government had given the manufacturers, distributors, and consumers a period of three months to dispose their existing stock and come up with alternatives to plastic usage.

Under the notification products manufactured from plastic and thermocol have been covered under the ban. As a result usage of plastic bags with a handle and without handle, disposable cups, and plates, spoons, forks, glasses and containers is prohibited in the state. Plastic packaging used to wrap and store the product is also included in the ban.

Apart from this plastic straw, non-woven polypropene bags, pouches and any other plastic used to store, package and transfer food items will no longer be permitted in the state. Besides, it has banned the use of plastic and thermocol for decoration purposes.

Officials from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and district and local administration have been authorised to implement it. For regulating this law at tourist locations, tourism police, or Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has been made responsible.

The government has also formed an association comprising of plastic manufacturers, ministry officials and

environmental experts to oversee the implementation of the ban.

While environmentalists welcomed the cabinet's decision, the plastic industry has slammed the government calling it "retrograde step." With its huge dependence on plastic and lack of alternatives to the banned products, many also wonder if the plan would be a success.
