

## Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

- **Cabinet approves extension of the term of the Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes in the Central List till 31st May 2019**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the extension of the term of the Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes in the Central List for six months beyond 30th November, 2018 and till 31st May 2019.

The Commission has held extensive meetings with the stake holders including the State Governments, the State Backward Classes Commissions, various community associations and general public belonging to various Backward Classes and Commissions and also obtained records, caste-wise, of OBCs admitted in higher educational institution as well as similar caste-wise data of recruits in Central Departments, Central Public Sector Undertakings, Public Sector Banks & Financial Institutions.

Based on the emanating information from the data as processed and analyzed, the Commission has expressed that a round of discussion with the States and their Backward Classes Commission was required before finalizing the sub-categorized lists and the Report.

- **Cabinet approves: i) Implementation of the umbrella scheme "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services"; ii) Sub-schemes to continue during 2017-20; and iii) National Facility for Airborne Research(NFAR) to be set up**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

has approved continuation of the nine sub-schemes of the umbrella scheme "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" during 2017-2020 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1450 crore. It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through its institutes namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service(INCOIS).

The CCEA also approved establishment of National Facility for Airborne Research (NFAR) with a financial commitment of Rs 130 crore during 2020-21 and beyond.

Impact: The scheme will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast and services, thereby ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the various services like Public weather service, disaster management, Agro-meteorological Services, Aviation services, Environmental monitoring services, Hydro-meteorological services, climate services, tourism, pilgrimage, power generation, water management, Sports & adventure etc.

Generating employment opportunities: A sizable number of scientific and technical staff along with requisite administrative support, thereby generating employment; to ensure last-mile connectivity of the weather based services to the end -user, a large number of agencies like the Krishi Vigyana Kendras of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Universities and local municipalities are roped in thus generating employment opportunities to many people.

- **Cabinet approves the Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2018 for regulation and standardisation of education and services by allied and healthcare professionals**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2018 for regulation and standardisation of education and services by allied and healthcare professionals. The Bill provides for setting up of an Allied and Healthcare Council of India and corresponding State Allied and Healthcare Councils which will play the role of a standard-setter and facilitator for professions of Allied and Healthcare.

### Targets:

- An Interim Council will be constituted within 6 months of passing of the Act holding charge for a period of two years until the establishment of the Central Council.
- The Council at the Centre and the States are to be established as body corporate with a provision to receive funds from various sources.
- Councils will also be supported by Central and State Governments respectively through Grant-in-aid as needed. However, if the State Government expresses inability, the Central Government may release some grant for initial years to the State Council.

### Major Impact, including employment generation potential:

- Bring all existing allied and healthcare professionals on board during the first few of years from the date of establishment of the Council.
  - Opportunity to create qualified, highly skilled and competent jobs in healthcare by enabling professionalism of the allied and healthcare workforce.
  - High quality, multi-disciplinary care in line with the vision of Ayushman Bharat, moving away from a 'doctor led' model to a 'care accessible and team based' model.
- 
- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation on Youth Matters**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation on Youth Matters.

An MoU between India and Tajikistan to promote cooperation on Youth matters between the two countries was signed on 8/10/2018 at Dushanbe. The MoU was signed by Shri Somnath Ghosh, Ambassador of India to Tajikistan, for Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India and Mr. Abdullozoda Ahtam Rustam, Chairman of the Committee for Youth and Sports Affairs for the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The MoU shall remain valid for a period of five (5) years. The areas of cooperation on Youth matters include exchanges of youth, representatives of youth organizations, and Government officials in-charge of youth policy-making, extension of invitations to international conferences and seminars on youth matters held in the two countries, exchanges of printed materials, films, experiences, research and other information on youth matters, participation in youth camps, youth festivals and other youth events held in the two countries, and any other cooperative activities on youth matters jointly approved under the relevant laws and regulations of both countries.

The objective of the MoU is to strengthen and encourage cooperation on youth matters with Tajikistan through participation in events and activities organized by either side, information and knowledge sharing, and youth exchanges.

Benefits: The Agreement will facilitate exchange programmes in the field of Youth Affairs, which will help in promoting exchange of ideas, values and culture amongst Youth and in consolidating friendly relations between India and Tajikistan. The benefits arising from such bilateral exchange programmes between both countries would be equally available to all youth irrespective of their caste, religion and gender. These will further help in developing international perspective among the Youth and expanding their knowledge and expertise in the areas of Youth Affairs.

- **Cabinet apprised of Agreement between India and Uzbekistan on Cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation between India and Uzbekistan. The Agreement was signed on 1st October 2018 at New Delhi in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirayoyev, by the Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan on the Indian side and Minister of Innovative Development, Mr. Ibrohim Abdurakhmanov on the Uzbek side.

Benefits: Signing of the Agreement will open a new chapter in bilateral relations, as both sides will now

leverage complementary strengths spurred by a significant convergence of mutual interests in science and technology. The objective of the Agreement is to promote cooperation in the fields of science, technology and Innovation between the two countries. The stake-holders will include researchers from scientific organizations, academia, R&D laboratories and industries from India and Uzbekistan. Agriculture and Food Science and Technology; Engineering Sciences; Information and Communication Technology, Applied Mathematics and Data Science and Technology; Health and Medical Technology; Materials Sciences; Life Sciences & Biotechnology; Physics and Astrophysics and Energy, water, climate and natural resources were identified as potential areas for immediate collaboration.

- **Cabinet apprised of the MoU between Atal Innovation Mission, India and Fund "Talent and Success", Russia for promotion of science & technology**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Atal Innovation Mission, India and Fund "Talent and Success", Russia for promotion of science & technology, strong foundation to the collaborative work through exchange of students, teachers, researchers and scientists between both countries. The MoU was signed on October 5, 2018.

Benefits: The MoU will facilitate promotion of science & technology, strong foundation to the collaborative work through exchange of students, teachers, researchers and scientists between India and Russia.

Major Impact: The MOU will provide a mechanism in taking part in establishing relationships with schools, universities, cultural institutions, science & technology and specialized education institutions, high-tech companies, startups and innovation centers in both countries. The activities are expected to promote creation of new scientific knowledge, generation of intellectual property, innovations and products development in both countries.

- **Cabinet approves MoU with Mauritius on Consumer Protection and Legal Metrology**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved MoU between India and Mauritius on Consumer Protection and Legal Metrology

Benefits: The MoU is beneficial for bilateral relations of both the countries. It will help in expanding cooperation in the field of consumer protection, and will provide an institutional mechanism for exchange of information and derive mutual benefits from development taking place in both the countries. It will further promote inclusive sustainable and resilient development in the areas of Consumer Protection & Legal Metrology to deal with new challenges such as misleading advertisement, telemarketing, multi-level marketing, e-commerce etc. It will ensure traceability of national and international standards, thereby developing new areas of expertise that may facilitate in tackling new challenges. Further, periodical exchange of information and training programme will ensure gainful expertise, for good governance and in fighting consumer vulnerability.

- **Cabinet approves setting up of Medical College at Silvassa in the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the setting up of Medical College at Silvassa in the Union Territory (UT) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Salient Features:

- Setting up of the medical college at Silvassa, UT Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli at a capital cost of Rs. 189 crore to be incurred in two years, 2018-19 – Rs. 114 crore and 2019-20 – Rs. 75 crore with yearly intake of 150 students.
- The project will be completed by 2019-20 and the construction and capital expenditure will be incurred as per the norms of Medical Council of India (MCI) norms and extant guidelines of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- The annual recurring expenditure for the Medical College shall be managed within the budget provision for the UT.
- Creation of 21 regular posts of 14 (JS) level and above (including teaching and non-teaching) out of 357 regular posts which were recommended by the Committee on Establishment Expenditure (CEE).

Benefits: The approval will increase the availability of doctors and address the issue of shortage of doctors.. It will enhance medical education opportunities to students of the two UTs. It will also result in optimal utilization of the existing infrastructure of district hospitals and improve tertiary care facilities for the people of the two UTs and adjoining areas. The Medical College will benefit the students, especially those of tribal and rural areas of the two UTs, which will promote social equity. Health equity will be promoted by provision of better services through improvement in the strength of doctors in the UTs.

- **Cabinet approves Commemoration of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has passed a Resolution to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji, which falls next year, throughout the country and across the globe, in a grand and befitting manner along with State Governments and the Indian Missions abroad. Guru Nanak Devji's teachings of love, peace, equality and brotherhood have eternal value.

The following are the highlights of the decisions taken in the Cabinet meeting:

Development of Kartarpur Sahib corridor: In a significant decision, the Union Cabinet approved the building and development of the Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district to the international border, in order to facilitate pilgrims from India to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur on the banks of the Ravi river, in Pakistan, where Shri Guru Nanak Devji spent eighteen years. Pilgrims would then be able to visit the holy shrine throughout the year.

Development of Sultanpur Lodhi: The Union Cabinet also decided that the historic town of Sultanpur Lodhi, associated with the life of Shri Guru Nanak Devji, shall be developed as a heritage town and on the Smart City principles, including energy efficiency, to highlight Shri Guru Nanak Devji's emphasis on sustainability and reverence for nature. As a major attraction for pilgrims and tourists, a heritage complex at Sultanpur Lodhi, "Pind Babe Nanak da" will be established to depict life in the times of Shri Guru Nanak Devji. Sultanpur Lodhi railway station will be upgraded and developed with all the modern amenities.

Centre for inter faith studies and Chairs in foreign Universities: A centre for inter faith studies will be set up at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Chairs on Shri Guru Nanak Devji will be set up in one University each in UK and Canada. An International seminar on the life and teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Devji will be organised in New Delhi.

Celebrations throughout the country and globally: States/Union Territories will also be requested to celebrate 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji in a befitting manner. Indian missions overseas will organize special events on the occasion.

Commemorative coin and stamps: Commemorative coin and postage stamps will be released by the Government of India to mark this momentous occasion.

Religious activities and publications: Religious activities will be organised throughout the country. Doordarshan will telecast programmes on Shri Guru Nanak Devji and the Gurubani. National Book Trust will publish Gurbani in different Indian languages. UNESCO will be requested to publish Shri Guru Nanak Devji's writings in world languages.

Special train for pilgrims: Ministry of Railways will run a train passing through the various holy places associated with Shri Guru Nanak Devji, for pilgrims and tourists.

Please contact for any query related to this mail to Ms. Kritika Bhasin, Research Officer at [kritika.bhasin@phdcci.in](mailto:kritika.bhasin@phdcci.in) with a cc to Dr. S P Sharma, Chief Economist at [spsharma@phdcci.in](mailto:spsharma@phdcci.in), and Ms. Megha Kaul, Economist, [megha@phdcci.in](mailto:megha@phdcci.in), PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Warm regards,

Dr. S P Sharma  
Chief Economist

-----

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area  
August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016  
Ph.: + 91-11-26863801-04, 49545454  
Fax: +91- 26855450, 49545451  
Email: spsharma@phdcci.in  
Website: www.phdcci.in



The banner features the ISO 9001:2015 logo on the left and the HABIL logo on the right. The central text reads "Towards a Prosperous India" in italics. Below this, the full name "PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY" is displayed. Contact information includes the address "PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110 016 (India)", telephone numbers "+91-11-2686 3801-04, 49545454, 49545400", fax "+91-11-2685 5450", email "phdcci@phdcci.in", website "www.phdcci.in", and CIN "U74899DL1951GAP001947". At the bottom, social media icons for Twitter (@phdchamber), Facebook (@phdcci1951), Instagram (@phdcci), YouTube, and LinkedIn are provided with the text "Connect with us:".

**COPYRIGHT:** All rights reserved. No part of this publication/Release may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, without the prior written permission of the publisher. For permission requests, write to the publisher.

**DISCLAIMER:** This message and its attachments contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are strictly prohibited to disclose, copy, distribute or take any action in reliance on the contents of this information. E-mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free, as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of e-mail transmission. If verification is required please request a hard-copy version.