

## Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Australia on the safety in Mines, Testing and Research Station**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and Department of Natural Resource Mines and Energy, Queensland Government, Australia through the Safety in Mines, Testing and Research Station (SIMTARS).

Impact: The MoU will help in establishing a partnership between DGMS and SIMTARS for:

- implementation of risk based safety management system, providing training,
- organising, conference, seminar and other technical meetings, setting up occupations safety and health academy and national mine disaster centre, and
- modernising R&D laboratory of DGMS.

Implementation strategy: The memorandum of understanding will become operative from the date of signing and remain in effect for three years.

- **Cabinet approves Revised Cost of Estimates (RCE) for 13 new Central Universities set up under Central Universities Act, 2009**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for incurring an expenditure of Rs.3639.32 crore for the 13 new Central Universities for recurring cost and creation of necessary infrastructure for completion of the campuses. The work will be completed within a period of 36 months.

The Cabinet has also given ex-post facto approval for an amount of Rs.1474.65 crore, being the amount spent over and above the earlier Cabinet approval of Rs.3000 crore for these Central Universities.

The new Central Universities in the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir (Two), Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu were established under Central Universities Act, 2009. These include:

- Central University of South Bihar, Gaya, Bihar
- Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh
- Central University of Jammu, Jammu
- Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi
- Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar
- Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga
- Central University of Kerala, Kasargod
- Central University of Orissa, Koraput
- Central University of Punjab, Bhatinda
- Central University of Rajasthan, Bandersindri, Rajasthan
- Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur
- Central University of Gujarat, Gujarat
- Central University of Himachal Pradesh

Impact: This would increase access to higher education and set exemplary standards for other Universities to emulate. It will also help in minimizing the regional imbalances in educational facilities.

- **Cabinet approves expenditure sanction for Integrated E-filing and Centralized Processing Centre 2.0 Project**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to expenditure sanction of Rs.4,241.97crore for Integrated E-filing &Centralized Processing Center 2.0 Project of the Income Tax Department.

The Union Cabinet also approved the expenditure sanction for the consolidated cost of Rs.1,482.44crore of the existing CPC-ITR 1.0 project upto FY 2018-19. The broad objectives of this project are listed as under:

- Faster and accurate outcomes for taxpayer.
- First time right approach,
- Enhancing user experience at all stages.
- Improving taxpayer awareness and education through continuous engagement.
- Promoting voluntary tax compliance.
- Managing outstanding demand.

This approval has significant benefits for the Department and taxpayers through various functionalities such as pre-filing of ITR and acceptance by taxpayer as a means to improve accuracy and to reduce refund/processing turnaround time drastically, facilitation to taxpayers in resolving outstanding tax demands; integrated contact centers for taxpayer assistance and tax payer outreach program through digital media and employer/partner accreditation program to bring significant enhancement in services to taxpayers.

The decision will ensure horizontal equity by processing returns filed by all categories of taxpayers across the country in a consistent, uniform, rule driven, identity blind manner. This will assure fairness in tax treatment to every taxpayer irrespective of their status.

- **Cabinet approves ex-post facto approval for Agreement on the facilitation of visa arrangements signed between India and Maldives**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its ex-post facto approval to the Agreement on the facilitation of visa arrangements signed between India and Maldives signed in December, 2018.

The Visa Facilitation Agreement signed during the visit of Maldivian President to India aims to further deepen people to people exchanges between the two countries making it easier for Maldivian and India nationals to travel to each others' countries for tourism, medical treatment, education as well as business and employment. The Agreement provides for 90-day visa free travel for tourism, medical and limited business purpose and also provides for easy conversion of such visa free entry to medical visa as well as visas for dependents of students and those pursuing employment in each other's territories.

- **Cabinet approves recapitalisation of Export-Import Bank of India**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the recapitalization of EXIM Bank. The details are as follows:

- Issuance of Recapitalization Bonds by Government of India to the tune of Rs.6,000 crore for capital infusion in Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).
- The equity will be infused in two tranches of Rs. 4,500 crore in FY 2018-19 and Rs.1,500 crore in FY 2019-20 respectively.
- The Cabinet also approved an increase in the authorized capital of Exim Bank from Rs. 10,000 crore to Rs. 20,000 crore. The recapitalisation bonds will be on the lines issued to Public Sector Banks.

Major Impact:

- Exim Bank is the principal export credit agency for India.
- The infusion of capital into Exim Bank will enable it to augment capital adequacy and support Indian exports with enhanced ability.

➤ The infusion will give an impetus to anticipate new initiatives like supporting Indian textile industries, likely changes in Concessional Finance Scheme (CFS), likelihood of new LoCs in future in view of India's active foreign policy and strategic intent.

- **Cabinet approves expansion of Numligarh Refinery Assam capacity from 3 MMTPA to 9 MMTPA**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to the project for capacity expansion of Numaligarh Refinery from 3 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonne Per Annum) to 9 MMTPA. It involves setting up of crude oil pipeline from Paradip to Numaligarh and product pipeline from Numaligarh to Siliguri at a cost of Rs.22,594 crore. The project is to be completed within a period of 48 months, after approval and receipt of statutory clearances.

Expenditure: The total project cost of Rs. 22,594 crore will be financed by a mix of debt, equity and Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The debt of Rs.15,102 crore will be raised by Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) and apart from its internal accrual of Rs.2,307 crore, the promoters, namely, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Oil India Ltd & Government of Assam (GoA) will contribute to equity. The project will be supported by Viability Gap Funding of Rs.1,020 crore from the Government of India.

Impact: The expansion of the refinery will meet the deficit of petroleum products in the North East. It will also sustain the operations of all North East refineries by augmenting their crude availability. It will generate direct and indirect employment in Assam and is a part of the Government's Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for the North East.

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.

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, India

NATIONAL APEX CHAMBER

Tel: +91 49545454

Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: [spsharma@phdcci.in](mailto:spsharma@phdcci.in)

Website: [www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in)

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PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110 016 (India) • Tel. : +91-11-2686 3801-04, 49545454, 49545400  
Fax : +91-11-2685 5450 • E-mail : [phdcci@phdcci.in](mailto:phdcci@phdcci.in) • Website : [www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in), CIN: U74899DL1951GAP001947

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