

Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Morocco for setting up of a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the MoU between India and Morocco for setting up of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter-Terrorism.

Setting up of the JWG on Counter Terrorism by India and Morocco would help cases relating to terrorist attacks. The MoU would, thus be the basis for obtaining / exchanging information on terrorist activities.

- **Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between India and Finland on Cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of outer space**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for Memorandum of Understanding between India and Finland on cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of outer space. The MoU has already been signed in 10th January, 2019 at New Delhi.

Impact: The signed MoU will provide impetus to explore newer research activities and application possibilities in the field of remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication; satellite navigation; space science and exploration of outer space. Cooperation with the Government of Finland would lead to develop a joint activity in the field of application of space technologies for the benefit of humanity.

Implementation Strategy and Targets:

- The Participants will each nominate a coordinator for the purpose of coordinating cooperative

activities under this MoU. In order to facilitate the implementation of this MoU, the Participants could meet on mutual decision alternately in India or in Finland or through videoconference.

- The Participants or, upon their authority, the implementing agencies, may set up project teams if necessary, to manage specific cooperative projects taken up under implementing arrangements.

The move comes in the background of interest expressed by the Govt. of Finland for co-operation in the area of Space.

- **Cabinet approves Proposal for leasing out of 1.61 acres of land at Alipur, Delhi, owned by Delhi Milk Scheme to Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium for setting up of Kisan Mandi**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for leasing out 1.61 acres of land bearing khasara No.91/15 located at Alipur Delhi, owned by Delhi Milk Scheme to Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) for setting up of KisanMandi.

The lease will be for a period of 30 years w.e.f, 10.09.2014 to 09.09.2044, with the lease rent of Rs.100/- per month with annual increase of 10% per annum from 10.09.2014. The lease rent will be payable in advance for whole year in the beginning of the calendar year latest by 31st January.

Impact:- The setting up the KisanMandi by SFAC, which will, provide as an additional, marketing channel/ platform to FPOs and Growers Association for direct sale of fruits and vegetables to whole sale and retail buyers in Delhi/NCR for the benefit of farmers as well as consumers of the country.

Highlights of the KisanMandi:-

- Only registered FPOs/Grower Associations (GAs) will be allowed to offer fresh produce for sale on this platform.
- Organisationretailers, wholesalers, hotels and catering institutions, Resident Welfare Association (RWAs) and ordinary consumers can buy from this platform, with no agents / middlemen involved.
- There will be no commission charged on the transactions in the KisanMandi either from sellers or buyers, FPOs will pay a small service charge for the use of facilities such as godowns, cold stores

etc.

- KisanMandi will also offer direct supply through retail outlets on a franchises model. A beginning will be made by offering staple produce such as potato and onion through selected kiosks of the Delhi Milk Scheme. The KisanMandi will also have provision for online sales and. direct marketing through call centre etc.

- **Cabinet approves proposal for allotment of land measuring 30 acres to Pasteur Institute of India for establishment of New Viral Vaccine Manufacturing Unit at Coonoor, Tamil Nadu**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Proposal for allotment of land measuring 30 acres to Pasteur Institute of India (PII) for establishment of New Viral Vaccine Manufacturing Unit at Coonoor, Tamil Nadu.

The project entails production of Viral Vaccines (like TCA anti-Measles Vaccine, JE Vaccine etc.) and Anti Sera (like Anti Snake Venom and Anti Rabies Sera) at the PII, Coonoor. Land for the project will be transferred free of cost.

Land used for the project will also be got changed by the Ministry of Health & FW from 'Industrial' to 'Institutional'.

Benefits: The allotment of land will encourage the production of life-saving vaccines for children, to strengthen the vaccine security of the country, and would reduce the cost, besides providing import substitution as presently these are being imported.

- **Cabinet approves Extension of tenure of the National Commission for SafaiKarmacharis beyond 31.3.2019 for three years**

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for Extension of tenure of the National Commission for SafaiKarmacharis (NCSK) beyond 31.3.2019 for three years.

Salient Features: The NCSK was established in the year 1993 as per the provisions of the NCSK Act 1993 initially for the period upto 31.3.1997. Later the validity of the Act was initially extended upto 31.3.2002

and thereafter upto 29.2.2004. The NCSK Act ceased to have effect from 29.2.2004. After that the tenure of the NCSK has been extended as a non-statutory body from time to time. The tenure of the present Commission is upto 31.3.2019.

Major impact: The major beneficiaries of the proposal would be the SafaiKaramcharis and persons engaged in manual scavenging in the country since the NCSK will work for their welfare and upliftment. The number of Manual Scavengers identified under the MS Act Survey as on 31.01.2019 is 14226 and under the National Survey undertaken by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment at the behest of NITI Aayog is 31128 on 31.01.2019.

- **Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Argentine in tourism**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Argentine in the field of Tourism.

The signing of MoU between India and Argentine in the field of tourism will help the two parties in creating an institutional mechanism for enhancing cooperation in the tourism sector.

- **Cabinet approves Revision in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to the Cabinet note on the proposal for official Amendments in The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016 so as to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) of Chhattisgarh.

This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019. After the Bill becomes an Act, member of the communities newly listed in the revised list of Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh will also be able to derive benefits meant for Scheduled Tribes under the existing schemes of the Government. Some of the major schemes of this kind include Post Matric Scholarship, National Overseas Scholarship, National Fellowship, Top Class Education, Concessional Loans from National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, Hostels for ST boys and girls etc.

In addition to above, they will also be entitled to benefits of reservation in services and admission to educational institutions as per Government policy.

- **Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Saudi Arabia on establishing a mechanism for Investment Infrastructure in India**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing Memorandum of Understanding between India and Saudi Arabia on establishing a mechanism for investment Infrastructure in India.

The MoU will be a step forward in engaging with the institutions of Saudi Arabia to attract a potential investment into the infrastructure sector in the country. It will lead to boosting infrastructure development in the country, creation of more jobs, growth of ancillary industries/sectors which will lead to growth in GDP and over all economic prosperity.

- **Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between India and Saudi Arabia on cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs matters**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Saudi Arabia on cooperation and mutual assistance in Customs Matters.

The Agreement will help in making available, reliable, quick and cost effective information and intelligence for the prevention and investigation of Customs offences and apprehending of Customs offenders.

- **Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Saudi Arabia in the field of tourism**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Tourism, Government of the Republic of India and the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for

strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism.

The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are:

- a) Exchanging information and expertise in Legislations in the tourism development, Hotels, resorts and tourist accommodation facilities, Tourism data and statistics, Exhibition events and other tourism activities in States of the Parties, Tourism development, planning and investment; Licensing, operating and marketing tourism facilities, Agricultural Tourism, Desert tourism etc.
 - b) Exchanging media publications, tourism related films, and encourage exchanging of visits between experts and tourism media representatives in the States of the Parties.
 - c) Introducing tourism investment opportunities available in the States of the Parties; encourage mutual tourism investment in tourism projects.
 - d) Encouraging organizing joint tourism events; participate in exhibitions, conferences and seminars held in the States of the Parties thus contributing to tourism development and crystalizing a joint tourism vision.
 - e) Encouraging public and private education facilities working the tourism education and training field in the States of the Parties.
 - f) Exchanging innovative experience and technologies in the tourism field, and consultation services.
 - g) Cooperation and coordinating in international forums and organizations concerned with tourism affairs.
- **Cabinet approves continuation of sub-schemes under “Umbrella programme for development of Scheduled Tribes” for the period till March, 2020: Over 10 crore Scheduled Tribe people to be benefitted**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for continuation of sub-schemes under “Umbrella programme for development of Scheduled Tribes” from 1.4.2017 to 31.3.2020 with an outlay of Rs.11,900 crore.

- **Minimum Support Price for Raw Jute for 2019-20 season hiked to Rs.3950/- from Rs.3700/- per quintal by the Cabinet**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2019-20 season.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Raw Jute has been increased to Rs.3950/- per quintal for 2019-20 season from Rs. 3700/- per quintal in 2018-19 season.

Impact: The MSP would yield returns of 55.81 percent over the all India weighted average cost of production. The MSP of Raw Jute is expected to ensure appropriate minimum prices to the farmers and step up investment in Jute cultivation and thereby production and productivity in the country.

Nodal Agency: The Jute Corporation of India would continue to act as Central Nodal Agency to undertake price support operations at the MSP in the Jute growing states.

Please contact for any query related to this mail to Ms. Kritika Bhasin, Research Officer at kritika.bhasin@phdcci.in with a cc to Dr. S P Sharma, Chief Economist at spsharma@phdcci.in, and Ms. Megha Kaul, Economist, 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

Tel: +91 49545454

Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: spsharma@phdcci.in

Website: www.phdcci.in

Follow us on



NATIONAL APEX CHAMBER



"Towards an Inclusive & Prosperous India"



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 • Website : www.phdcci.in, CIN: U74899DL1951GAP001947

Connect with us:  [@phdchamber](#)  Like us on [Facebook](#)  Follow us on [Instagram](#)  [YouTube](#)  Join us on [LinkedIn](#)

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.