

Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

- **Cabinet approves the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved to introduce a Bill, namely, the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 that is the Bill to replace the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 (12 of 2019). The Bill will be introduced in ensuing session of the Parliament.

After the amendment of sub-section (v) of section 2 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, a trust or any entity notified by the Central Government will be eligible to be considered for grant of permission to set up a unit in Special Economic Zones.

- **Cabinet approves Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

Reforms in the field of Medical education so as to give a push to the goal of a quality health coverage to the citizens of India has been one of the major pillars of the NDA Government led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Keeping the spirit alive and to fulfil yet another promise of the Government, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to replace the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019 through an Act of Parliament. The Bill will be introduced in the ensuing session of the Parliament.

The move will ensure transparency, accountability and quality in the governance of medical education in the country.

Impact:

- (i) The New Bill provides for supersession of MCI for a period of two years w.e.f. 26.09.2018.
- (ii) During this period, the Board of Governors shall exercise the powers and functions of MCI as

assigned under the IMC Act, 1956.

(iii) The number of members in the Board of Governors will be increased from existing 7 to 12.

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Kyrgyzstan on Cooperation in the field of Health**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of Health.

Scope of Cooperation: The Memorandum of Cooperation covers the following areas of cooperation:-

- Strengthening of healthcare systems;
- Non-communicable diseases, communicable diseases and anti-microbial resistance;
- Development of hospital management systems and health information systems Hospital Management;
- Maternal and child health;
- Medical Researches;

Implementation: A Working Group will be set up to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

- **Cabinet approves New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019**

Making India as the hub of International Arbitration has been one of the pioneering initiatives of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led NDA Government. Setting up of an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalized domestic and international arbitration are a step in this direction.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved today the Bill New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) Bill, 2019 for introduction in the ensuing session of Parliament.

Impact:

- (i) The benefits of institutionalized arbitration will be manifold for the Government and its agency and to the parties to a dispute.
- (ii) This will result in quality experts being available in India and also an advantage in terms of cost

incurred.

(iii) It will facilitate India becoming a hub for institutional arbitration.

Implications: The Bill provides for setting up of an independent and autonomous body for institutional arbitration and to acquire and transfer the undertakings of International Centre For Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR) to New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) w.e.f a specified date 2nd march, 2019.

- **Cabinet approves Memorandum of Collaboration between India and Kyrgyzstan on Joint Research Work on High Altitude Biology and Medicine**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) between India and Kyrgyzstan for collaborative research work on High Altitude Biology and Medicine and aiming at further development and strengthening of mutual relationships in science and medicine, especially in high altitude biology and medicine.

The MoC will help in understanding the physical and mental picture of soldier system at high altitude and mitigate the high altitude related maladies by using Yoga practice, herbals and nutraceuticals in Indian and Kyrgyz soldiers/population.

- **Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Kyrgyzstan in the field of Legal Metrology**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Legal Metrology between India and Kyrgyzstan. The MoU will be signed on the sidelines of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) from June 13-14, 2019.

Benefits:

- Exchange of information and documents relating to legal metrology;
- Develop training programme for officials and non-officials dealing with the subject of legal metrology;
- Exchange of officials, experts and professionals for mutual cooperation in the area of legal metrology;
- Participation in Seminars, Workshops, Meetings, Attachment Learning Programmes etc. in area of mutual interest, as may be appropriate;
- Establishment of requirements for pre-packaged goods and carrying out the state metrological supervision of pre-packaged goods;

- **Cabinet approves signing and ratification of bilateral investment treaty between India and Kyrgyzstan**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing and ratification of bilateral investment treaty between India and Kyrgyzstan. The Bilateral Treaty is likely to increase investment flow between India and Kyrgyzstan and protection to investors of both countries making investments in both countries.

- **Cabinet approves the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

In order to make the Dental Council of India more effective, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the introduction of a Bill to amend the Dentists Act, 1948 (16 of 1948). The decision also gives effect, with certain modifications, to the provisions of the Dentists Act, 1948 with regard to the membership of the Dental Council of India and membership of State and Joint State Dental Councils.

Impact: The amendment will help restructure the Dental Councils and the representation of Central Government members and elected members would no longer be made mandatory in the Dental Councils. In the process it will reduce the redundancy. The Bill will be introduced in the upcoming session of Parliament

Details: To amend the following clauses of the Dentists Act, 1948:

- I. Membership of the Dental Council of India under clause (f) of section 3 and
- II. Membership of State and Joint State Dental Councils under clause (b) of section 21 and clause (b) of section 23 of the said Act.

- **Cabinet approves Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the draft Homoeopathy Central Council(Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Impact: The Bill seeks to extend the period for reconstitution of the Central Council from existing period of one year to two years so that the tenure of the Board of Governors may be extended for a further period of one year with effect from 17th May, 2019. This will help the Central Council of Homoeopathy in exercising the powers and performing the functions of the Council.

Implementation: The Bill will replace the Homoeopathy central council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 and extend the tenure of Government for another one year.

- **Cabinet approves The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

In a major move aimed at making Aadhaar making people friendly, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved "The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019" to replace the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019. The amendments proposed are the same as those contained in the Ordinance promulgated by President on 2nd March, 2019. The Bill will be introduced in ensuing session of Parliament.

The decision is expected to go a long way in meeting the people friendly and citizen centric nature of Aadhaar.

Impact:

- (i) The decision would enable UIDAI to have a more robust mechanism to serve the public interest and restrain the misuse of Aadhar.
- (ii) Subsequent to this amendment, no individual shall be compelled to provide proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo authentication for the purpose of establishing his identity unless it is so provided by a law made by Parliament.
- (iii) For the convenience of general public in opening of bank accounts, the proposed amendments would allow the use of Aadhaar number for authentication on voluntary basis as acceptable KYC document under the Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

- **Cabinet approves "The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019"**

Giving a major push to the reforms in Education sector, making it inclusive and keeping in mind the aspirations of the people from different categories, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the introduction of a Bill namely "The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019".

The Cabinet decision will address the long standing demands of persons belonging to SCs/STs/SEBCs and ensure their rights envisaged under the Constitution. It will also ensure providing of 10% reservation to EWS.

Impact: This decision will:

- (i) Allow filling up of more than 7000 existing vacancies by direct recruitment in Teachers' Cadre with 200 point roster. Ensure compliance of the Constitutional Provisions of Articles 14, 16 and 21.
- (ii) Ensure full representation of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes Socially and Educationally Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections in direct recruitment in teachers' cadres.
- (iii) Expected to improve the teaching standards in the higher educational institutions by attracting all eligible talented candidates belonging to SCs/STs/SEBCs/EWS.
- (iv) Implications:

The Bill will replace "The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Ordinance, 2019". And will be introduced in the forthcoming session of the Parliament.

- **Ratification of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the ratification of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI)

Impact: The Convention will modify India's treaties in order to curb revenue loss through treaty abuse and base erosion and profit shifting strategies by ensuring that profits are taxed where substantive economic activities generating the profits are carried out and where value is created.

Details:

- i. India has ratified the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, which was signed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley at Paris on 07/06/2017 on behalf of India.
- ii. The Multilateral Convention is an outcome of the OECD / G20 Project to tackle Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (the "BEPS Project") i.e., tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations where there is little or no economic activity, resulting in little or no tax being paid. The BEPS Project identified 15 actions to address base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) in a comprehensive manner.
- iii. India was part of the Ad Hoc Group of more than 100 countries and jurisdictions from G20, OECD, BEPS associates and other interested countries, which worked on an equal footing on the finalization of the text of the Multilateral Convention, starting May 2015. The text of the Convention and the accompanying Explanatory Statement was adopted by the Ad hoc Group on 24 November 2016.

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