

## Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Maldives on Training and Capacity-Building Programme for Maldivian Judicial Officers in India**

The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives on Training and Capacity-Building Programme for Maldivian Judicial Officers in India. The MoU will promote cooperation between India and Maldives in judicial and other legal areas, and enable exchange of knowledge and technology in training and capacity building.

- **Cabinet approves MoUs signed between India and German Agency in the field of Occupational Diseases, Re-habilitation and vocational training**

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for the MoUs between India and German for collaboration in the field of Occupational Diseases, Re-habilitation and vocational training of Insured Persons with disabilities. The MoUs with the DGUV, a specialized agency in Germany working for Occupational Safety and Health(OSH) and social protection, will help broadly in:- Exchanging information and promoting activities in the area of rehabilitation related to medical, occupational and social re-habilitation of Insured Persons with disabilities, and Prevention, detection and treatment of occupational diseases: Exchange of information and collaboration will enable capacity building and social re-habilitation of Insured Persons with disabilities, besides prevention, detection and treatment of occupational diseases.

- **Cabinet approves MoU signed between India and Bangladesh on withdrawal of 1.82 cusec of water from Feni River by India**

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for the MoU between India and Bangladesh on withdrawal of 1.82 cusec of water from Feni River by India for drinking water supply scheme for Sabroom town Tripura, India. As on date, there is no water sharing agreement on Feni river between India and Bangladesh. The present supply of drinking water to Sabroom town is

inadequate. The ground water in this region has high iron content. Implementation of this scheme would benefit over 7000 population of Sabroom town.

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Paraguay for Strengthening Cooperation in the field of Tourism**

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Paraguay for Strengthening Cooperation in the field of Tourism. The MoU was signed in New Delhi on 27th September, 2019.

**Salient features and main objectives of the MoU:**

- Expansion of bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector;
- Exchange of information and data related to tourism;
- Encouraging cooperation between tourism stakeholders including Hotels and Tour Operators and airlines;
- Establishing exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resource Development;
- Investment in the Tourism and Hospitality sectors;
- Exchanging visits of Tour Operators/Media/Opinion-Makers for promotion of two-way tourism;
- Exchange of experience in the areas of promotion, marketing destination, development and management;
- Participation in travel fairs/exhibitions in each other's country; and
- Promoting safe, honourable and sustainable tourism.

**Benefits:**

The MoU between India and Paraguay will help the two nations in creating an institutional mechanism for enhancing cooperation in the tourism sector. It will further help India in increasing foreign tourist arrivals from Paraguay, which in turn, will result in economic development and employment generation. It will create favourable conditions for long-term tourism cooperation for the mutual benefits of all stakeholders within the broader framework and areas of cooperation. The MoU will explore to incorporate the best practices in order to implement the measures that will realize the objectives set out in this MoU.

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

## **Medicine.**

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Brazil in the field of Health and Medicine. The MoU is expected to be signed in November, 2019. The bilateral MoU between India and Brazil will encourage cooperation between the two countries through joint initiatives, technology development in the health sector and development of research in the health sector. It will facilitate in improving the public health status of people of both the countries. It will strengthen bilateral ties between India and Brazil.

- **Cabinet approves protocol amending the Convention between India and Brazil for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income**

The Union Cabinet Chaired approved the signing of the Protocol amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

### **Implementation Strategy and Targets:**

After Cabinet approval, necessary formalities for bringing the Protocol into force will be completed. Implementation would be watched and reported by the Ministry.

### **Major impact:**

Through updation of the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention's (DTAC's) provisions to international standards, the Amending Protocol between India and the Federative Republic of Brazil will facilitate elimination of double taxation. Clear allocation of taxing rights between Contracting States through DTAC will provide tax certainty to investors & businesses of both countries. The Amending Protocol will augment the flow of investment through lowering of tax rates in source State on interest, royalties and fees for technical services. The Amending Protocol implements minimum standards and other recommendations of G-20 OECD Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project. Inclusion of Preamble Text, a Principal Purpose Test, a general anti abuse provision in the DTAC along with a Simplified Limitation of Benefits Clause as per BEPS Project will result in curbing of tax planning strategies which exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules

**Point-wise details:**

- a. The existing DTAC between India and Brazil was signed on 26th April, 1988 and was amended through a Protocol signed on 15th October 2013 in respect of exchange of information. Through the present Protocol, the DTAC has been amended on various other aspects.
- b. The amended DTAC also implements the minimum standards as well as other recommendations of the G-20 OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project.

**Background:**

The existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between India and Brazil being very old was required to be amended to bring it in line with international developments and also to implement the recommendations contained in the G20 OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project (BEPS).

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Switzerland on Technical Cooperation in the field of Climate Change and Environment**

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Switzerland on Technical Cooperation in the field of Climate Change and Environment. The MoU was signed in Switzerland on 13th September, 2019.

**Major impact:**

Environmental degradation falls on the socially and economically disadvantaged, more heavily than the better off sections of the society. Any effort at thwarting environmental degradation would lead to environmental equity in the sense of availability of sound environmental resources to all sections of the society.

**Benefits:**

The MoU will enable establishment and promotion of closer and long-term cooperation between the two countries in the field of environmental protection and management of natural resources on the basis of equity, reciprocity and mutual benefits, taking into account the

applicable laws and legal provisions in each country. It will enhance public accountability by way of exchange of information and technology between the two countries. Further, It is expected to bring in the latest technologies and best practices suited for bringing about better environment protection, better conservation, better management of climate change and wildlife protection/conservation.

**Salient features:**

- Capacity-building on Climate Change and Sustainable Water management;
  - Sustainable Forest Management;
  - Sustainable development of mountainous regions;
  - Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development;
  - Addressing issues of Air, land and water pollution;
  - Focussing on Clean and Renewable Energy; and
  - Climate change risk management.
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- **Cabinet approves MoU signed between India and Guinea in the field of Renewable Energy.**

The Union Cabinet has given approval for the MoU between India and Guinea in the field of Renewable Energy.

**Objective:**

- To establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship
- To encourage and promote bilateral technical cooperation in the field of renewable energy on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity between the Parties.
- Areas of cooperation include Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Bio-energy, and Waste to energy, Small Hydro Storage and Capacity Build.
- The Memorandum of understanding will also help in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

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