

Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

- **Cabinet approves MoU on Maritime issues between India and Denmark**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Maritime issues between India and Denmark. The MoU is proposed to be signed during the upcoming visit of the WIP from Denmark to India in January, 2019.

Benefits:

Signing of the MoU will pave way for both countries for exploration of areas for bilateral collaboration:

- Facilitating cross-border cooperation and investments between the maritime sectors of India and Denmark;
- Enabling both the countries to exchange expertise, publications, information, data and statistics to improve mutual capabilities for ensuring quality shipping; cooperation in the field of green maritime technology and shipbuilding, granting the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) the status of Recognized Organization (RO), cooperation in the fields of maritime training and education;
- Research and development for sustained cooperation in the field of merchant shipping and maritime transport related matters; and

- It will also further extend and deepen the cooperation on the opportunities of mutual benefits to both the countries, at both bilateral and international level.

Background:

Denmark is one of the important trading partners with India. Major Danish exports to India include medicinal/ pharmaceutical goods, power generation machinery; industrial machinery, metal ores, organic chemicals, etc. Major Indian exports to Denmark include apparels, textiles/ fabrics/ yarns, road vehicles and components, metal goods, iron and steel, footwear and travel goods. In order to boost the bilateral trade between the two countries and to ensure cooperation and coordination in the maritime sector, it is proposed to enter into a bilateral MoU with Denmark.

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Japan on Development of Advanced Model Single Window**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Japan on Development of Advanced Model Single Window.

Benefits:

The MoU would lead to cooperation between India and Japan on the development of 'Advanced Model Single Window' and its operationalization in Central and State Governments in India for taking administrative procedures necessary for business operations, and to develop a structure in which those procedures are completed in an expeditious manner, so as to accelerate India's effort to promote Ease of Doing Business in India. The 'Advanced Model Single Window' is based on the best practices in and outside India, with measurable parameters and identify possible obstacles for establishment of the Single Window in India. It will thus, facilitate investments.

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and France on technical bilateral cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and France on technical bilateral cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy. The MoU was signed on 3rd October, 2018.

Salient Features:

India and France aim to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable issues on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity. The technical cooperation will cover joint research working groups, pilot projects, capacity building programs, study tour, case studies and the sharing of experience/expertise. Benefits. The MoU will help in strengthening bilateral cooperation between India and France.

- **Cabinet approves Signing of the TOR provide tax assistance to Swaziland**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Signing of Terms of Reference (TOR) governing the engagement of the designated Indian Expert to provide tax assistance to Swaziland (now known as Eswatini) under the Tax Inspectors Without Borders Programme between India and Eswatini.

Details:

- An Indian Expert has been mutually selected by the Government of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini under the TIWB programme.
- The Terms of Reference will formalize the conditions of the engagement of the designated Indian Expert to provide tax assistance to Eswatini under the TIWB Programme.

Major Impact:

The engagement of the Indian Expert under the TIWB programme will give impetus to India's support in capacity building in tax matters in developing countries.

Background

The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) Programme which is jointly launched by UNDP and OECD is intended to support developing countries to strengthen national tax administrations through building audit capacity and to share this knowledge with other countries. The TIWB Programme aims to strengthen tax administrations of developing countries by transferring technical know-how and skills to their tax auditors, and through the sharing of general audit practices and dissemination of knowledge products with them. The TIWB Programme complements the efforts of the international community to strengthen cooperation on tax matters and contribute to domestic tax mobilisation efforts of developing countries. India has been supportive in capacity building in tax matters in developing countries. India being a global leader in this respect has a very important role to play in South-South Cooperation in tax matters.

- **Cabinet approves Bilateral Swap Arrangement between India and Japan**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for entering into an Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan and authorizing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to sign the Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement between the RBI and the Bank of Japan for a maximum amount of USD 75 billion.

Salient Features:

The swap arrangement is an agreement between India and Japan to essentially exchange and re-exchange a maximum amount of USD 75 Billion for domestic currency, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments for meeting short-term deficiency in foreign exchange.

Benefits:

The BSA is a very good example of mutual cooperation between India and Japan for strategic objective of assisting each other in times of difficulty and for restoring international confidence. This facility will enable the agreed amount of Capital being available to India on tap for use. Also, with this arrangement in place, prospects of Indian companies would improve in tapping foreign capital as there would be greater confidence in stability of country's exchange rate. Availability of such swap line to tide over difficulties arising out of Balance of Payment (BOP) would deter speculative attacks on the domestic currency and greatly enhance the RBI's ability to manage exchange rate volatility.

The arrangement is another milestone in mutual economic cooperation and special strategic and global partnership between India and Japan.

- **Cabinet approves setting up of 3 new AIIMS**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for:

- (a) Establishment of three new AIIMS at (i) Vijaynagar, Samba, Jammu at a cost of Rs.1661 crore (ii)Awantipura, Pulwama, Kashmir, at a cost of Rs.1828 crore and (iii) Rajkot, Gujarat at a cost of Rs.1195 crore. These AIIMS will be set up under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
- (b) Creation of one post of Director in the basic pay of Rs 2,25,000/- (fixed) plus NPA (however pay + NPA would not exceed Rs 2,37,500/-) for each of the above three AIIMS.

Time Frame:

S.No.	New AIIMS	Time Frame for Construction and Details
1.	Vijaynagar, Samba, Jammu	48 months - broadly comprising a pre-construction

		phase of 12 months, a construction phase of 30 months and stabilization / commission phase of 6 months.
2.	Awantipura, Pulwama, Kashmir	72 months -broadly comprising a pre-construction phase of 12 months, a construction phase of 54 months and stabilization / commission phase of 6 months.
3.	Rajkot, Gujarat	45 months - broadly comprising a pre-construction phase of 10 months, a construction phase of 32 months and stabilization / commission phase of 3 months.

Details:

- a) Establishment of new AIIMS involves creation of Hospital, Teaching Block for medical & nursing courses, residential complex and allied facilities/services, broadly on the pattern of AIIMS, New Delhi and other six new AIIMS taken up under Phase-I of PMSSY. The objective is to establish the new AIIMS as Institutions of National Importance for providing quality tertiary healthcare, medical education, nursing education and research in the Region.
- b) (i) Each new AIIMS will add 100 UG (MBBS) seats and 60 B.Sc. (Nursing) seats.
(ii) Each new AIIMS will have 15-20 Super Specialty Departments.
(iii) Each new AIIMS will add around 750 hospital beds which will include Emergency / Trauma

Beds, AYUSH Beds, Private Beds and ICU Speciality & Super Speciality beds.

(iv) It is expected that each new AIIMS would cater to around 1500 OPD patients per day and around 1000 IPD patients per month.

(v) There will be a Medical College, AYUSH Block, Auditorium, Night Shelter, Guest House, Hostels and residential facilities.

Expenditure:

Construction of new AIIMS is fully funded by the Central Government. The Operations & Maintenance expenses on new AIIMS will be fully borne by the Central Government.

The establishment of the new AIIMS will create capital assets for which requisite specialized manpower will be created, based on the pattern of the six new AIIMS, for their maintenance and upkeep.

Impact:

- Setting up of new AIIMS would transform health education and training and address the shortfall of health care professionals in the region.
- The establishment of new AIIMS will serve the dual purpose of providing super speciality health care to the population.
- It will also help create a large pool of doctors and other health workers in this region that can be available for primary and secondary level institutions / facilities being created under National Health Mission (NHM).

Employment Generation:

- Setting up new AIIMS in Jammu & Kashmir and in Gujarat will lead to employment generation for nearly 3000 people in various faculty & non faculty posts in each of the AIIMS.
- Indirect employment generation will take place due to facilities & services like shopping centre, canteens, etc. coming in the vicinity of new AIIMS.
- The construction activity involved for creation of the physical infrastructure for the various new AIIMS is also expected to generate substantial employment in the construction phase as well.

Background:

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), a Central Sector Scheme, aims at correcting the imbalances in the availability of affordable tertiary healthcare facilities in different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States in particular.

Two new AIIMS, one each for Jammu Region and Kashmir Region in the State of Jammu & Kashmir was announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister under the Prime Minister's Development Package on 07.11.2015. AIIMS in Gujarat was announced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2017-18.

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Warm Regards,

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