

## Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

**Cabinet approves MOU between India and United Arab Emirates for cooperation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises and Innovation** --The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given its approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between India and United Arab Emirates for cooperation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises and Innovation. The MoU would benefit Indian SMEs and lead to equitable and inclusive development. The exposure to best practices in SME sector abroad would provide an opportunity to Indian SMEs to improve upon them and innovate further. It would also provide to Indian SME sector an opportunity to have a mutually beneficial relation with SME sector of the United Arab Emirates and to explore their markets.

**Cabinet gives approval to the package for supporting Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) – Augmentation of Corpus of Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)** -The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval to the package for supporting Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) – Augmentation of the Corpus of Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). The proposal includes Augmentation of the corpus of the Trust from Rs. 2,500 crore to Rs. 7,500 crore, to be fully funded by the Government of India, to increase coverage of the loans covered under the credit guarantee scheme from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore and increase coverage of the credit guarantee scheme for loans being extended to micro and small enterprises by NBFCs also.

**Cabinet approves MoU between India and Serbia for cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics** -- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Serbia for promoting cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics. The MoU aims to promote cooperation between India and Serbia in the field of IT and Electronics, and to foster active cooperation and exchanges between the private entities, capacity building institutions, the Governments and other public and private organizations of the two countries in IT & Electronics.

**Cabinet approves India's Membership in the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), South Korea**-- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to the proposal for India's taking full membership of the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) Governing Council. The move involves payment of annual contribution of US \$ 5,00,000 to the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), Seoul, South Korea.

**Cabinet approves MoU on cooperation on Youth matters between India and Russia**-- Exchange programmes in the field of Youth Affairs between India and Russia will help in promoting exchange of ideas, values and culture amongst Youth through establishment of people-to-people contacts and in consolidating friendly relations between the two countries. The selections for participation in exchange programmes shall be done in an objective and transparent manner and the outcomes of the programmes under the MoU shall be open for public scrutiny. Exchange programmes will help in developing international perspective among the Youth and expanding their knowledge and expertise in the areas of Youth Affairs.

**Cabinet apprised of the MoU between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for cooperation in the field of outer space** --The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on November 11, 2016 at Tokyo, Japan between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for cooperation in the field of outer space. This MoU provides scope for pursuing cooperation in various areas of space science technology and applications including: earth observation, satellite communication and navigation; exploration and space sciences; Research and development (space systems and space technology); and Space industry promotion.

**Cabinet approves MoU between India and Vietnam In the field of cyber security** -- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Vietnam in the field of Cyber Security. It was signed between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), India and the Cyber Security Department, Ministry of Public Security, Vietnam on 3rd September 2016 at Hanoi. The MoU intends to promote closer cooperation for exchange of knowledge and experience in detection, resolution and prevention of cyber security-related incidents between India and Vietnam.

**Cabinet approves Trade Agreement negotiations with Peru** --The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved holding negotiations for Trade Agreement with Peru on trade in goods, services and investment. A Joint Study Group (JSG) between India and Peru was constituted in order to explore the possibility for entering into trade agreement with Peru on 15th January, 2015. Both sides concluded the Joint Study Group Report on 20th October, 2016 and agreed to carry forward the discussions on trade in goods, trade in services and investment.

**Cabinet approves MoU between India and the United Arab Emirates on the Mutual Recognition of Certificates of Competency as per the provisions of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW, 78) and amendments thereof** --The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Arab Emirates on the Mutual Recognition of Certificates of Competency. The proposed MoU will pave way for recognition of maritime education and training, certificates of competency, endorsements, training documentary evidence and medical fitness certificates for seafarers issued by the Government of the other country in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1/10 of the Convention, and cooperation between the two countries in training and management of seafarers.

**Cabinet approves the exclusion of States from the investments of National Small Savings Fund from 1.4.2016** --The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given its approval to exclude State Governments States/UTs (with Legislature) except Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh from National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) investments from 01.04.2016. It also approved providing a one-time loan of Rs. 45,000 crore from NSSF to Food Corporation of India (FCI) to meet its food subsidy requirements.

**Cabinet approves MoU between India and the United Arab Emirates on Bilateral Cooperation in the Road Transport and Highways sector** --The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Arab Emirates on Bilateral Cooperation in the Road Transport and Highways Sector to be signed between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India and the Federal Transport Authority – Land and Maritime, U.A.E. The proposed MoU envisages increased cooperation, exchange and collaboration between India and the UAE, and will contribute to increased investment in infrastructure development and enhance logistics efficiency.

**Cabinet approves the repealing of the obsolete and redundant laws** --The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given its approval for introduction of the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017 to repeal 105 Acts. The two Member Committee constituted by the PMO, the Law Commission of India and the Legislative Department identified 1824 redundant and obsolete Central Acts for repeal. After careful examination and consultation with various Ministries/Departments in the Government of India, four Acts have been enacted to repeal 1175 Central Acts (during the period May, 2014 to August, 2016) by Parliament which are The Repealing and Amending Act, 2015 (17 of 2015) repealing 35 Acts; The Repealing and Amending (Second) Act, 2015 (19 of 2015) repealing 90 Acts, The Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Act, 2016 (22 of 2016) repealing 756, Appropriation Acts including Appropriation (Railways) Acts and The Repealing and Amending Act, 2016 (23 of 2016) repealing 294 Acts

**Cabinet approves the Establishment of Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Jharkhand** -The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given its approval for the 12th Plan Proposal of the DARE/ICAR Plan Scheme of the 'Establishment of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)-Jharkhand'. It will have an estimated outlay of Rs. 200.78 crores (100% ICAR share) on 1,000 acre land provided by the Government of Jharkhand at the Gauria Karma Village in Barhi Block of Hazaribag.

**Cabinet approves MOU between India and United Arab Emirates for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors** --The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has given its approval for Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United Arab Emirates in the field of agriculture and allied

sectors. The MoU will be mutually beneficial to both countries. It will promote understanding of best agricultural practices in the two countries and will help in better productivity at farmer fields as well as improved global market access leading to equity and inclusiveness. Cooperation in agricultural technology will lead to innovative techniques for increasing production and productivity leading to strengthening of food security.

**Cabinet approves amendment in Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme**—The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given its approval for amendment in the Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) to further incentivize investments in Electronic Sector and moving towards the goal of 'Net Zero imports' in electronics by 2020. Besides expediting investments into the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector in India, the amendments in M-SIPS are expected to create employment opportunities and reduce dependence on imports. The projects already received under the scheme have the potential to generate employment to the extent of upto one million persons (direct and indirect).

**Cabinet approves MoU between India and the United Arab Emirates on Institutional Cooperation in Maritime Transport** --The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Arab Emirates on Institutional Cooperation in Maritime Transport. The proposed MoU will pave way for facilitation and promotion of maritime transport, simplification of customs and other formalities, wherever possible, observed in Ports and facilitation of the use of existing installations for the disposal of waste.

**Cabinet approves Listing of Government owned General Insurance Companies at the stock exchanges** --The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given its 'in principle' approval for listing the following five Government owned General Insurance Companies in the stock exchanges. These are the New India Assurance Company Ltd., United India Insurance Company Ltd., Oriental Insurance Company Ltd., National Insurance Company Ltd. and General Insurance Corporation of India.

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Warm regards,

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