

Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

- **Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Angola for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Electronics and Information Technology**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Angola for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Electronics and Information Technology. The MoU intends to promote closer cooperation in the areas of e-Governance, HRD for IT education, Information Security, Electronics Hardware manufacturing, IT embedded Software industry, Telemedicine etc.

- **Cabinet approves MoU signed between India and France in the field of Renewable Energy**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and France in the field of Renewable Energy on 10th March, 2018 in New Delhi.

Both sides aim to identify research/ demonstration/ pilot project between National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), India and Commissariat al'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives (CEA), France in the mutually identified areas. Based on mutual agreement, both parties would work for implementation & deployment of pilot project in ISA member countries. Collaboration may occur through several means, including joint research projects, joint R&D, joint workshops, Research and Technology exchange including exchange of domain experts. The MoU also aims for exchange of expertise and networking of information. The MoU will help in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Denmark on Food Safety Cooperation**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Denmark regarding cooperation in the areas of food safety. The MoU was signed on 16th April 2018.

Benefits:

The MoU will help deepen bilateral ties, mutual understanding and trust, eventually strengthening both sides in their capacity building efforts towards food safety. It will further promote understanding of the best practices in the areas of food safety in both countries and in faster resolution of issues related to food safety. The MoU will help improve food safety standard setting by getting access to best practices and facilitating food trade of important commodities.

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Morocco on India-Morocco cooperation in Renewable Energy**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-

post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Morocco on India-Morocco Cooperation in Renewable Energy. The MoU was signed on 10th April, 2018 in New Delhi.

Both sides aim to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable energy issues on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity. The MoU envisages establishing a Joint Working Committee to review, monitor and discuss matters relation to areas of cooperation. The MoU aims for exchange of expertise and networking of information. The MoU will help in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Singapore on Cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Singapore on Cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration.

Salient Features: The MoU aims at improving the current system of governance, particularly in the areas of Workforce, Workplace and Jobs, Public Service Delivery, Human Resource Management, Public Sector Reform, Leadership/ Talent Development and E-Governance/Digital Government.

Benefits: The MoU will provide a framework for cooperation between India and Singapore in the field of Public Administration and Governance Reforms. It aims at achieving excellence in public administration, good governance and public service reform, which in turn, would ensure and promote greater public accountability. It also aims to bring about innovative best practices, so as to achieve excellence in public administration in the context of improving online public service delivery.

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Turkey on trade in poppy seeds to ensure quick and transparent processing for import of poppy seeds from Turkey**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Turkey on trade in poppy seeds to ensure quick and transparent processing for import of poppy seeds from Turkey.

Details:

The MoU provides that –

1. Turkish Grain Board (TMO) shall maintain an online system to enable regulation of export of poppy seeds from Turkey to India. Exporting companies shall submit application through the Agean Exporters Association (EIB) (responsibility given by law) to TMO for obtaining membership of the online System.
2. Each year, the quantity of poppy seeds which shall be imported by India from Turkey shall be decided by Government of India in consultation with Government of Turkey taking into account the production of poppy seeds in Turkey in a crop year, balance from previous crop years and domestic or other export requirement of Republic of Turkey.

3. The exporting companies shall get registered with the TMO. Each sales contract entered into by the exporting company with Indian importer shall be registered with TMO through the online system referred. It shall be the responsibility of TMO not to register sales contract in excess of the quantity referred to in Para 2 above.
4. Taking into account the quantity as referred to in Para 2 above, every year both parties may consider to set a quantity to be imported by any Indian importer in a crop year.
5. The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) will register the sales contract registered by TMO as per details accessed on the online system maintained by TMO in accordance with guidelines for registration laid down by Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The CBN shall upload the details of sales contract so registered by it on the online system. TMO shall allow the export in respect of only those contracts so registered by CBN.
6. The TMO shall provide a legal production certificate for the poppy seeds to exporters following the submission of sales contract and the completion of other necessary procedures.

The MoU will promote quick and transparent processing of quota allocation and prior authorization for poppy seeds import from Turkey. In this way genuiness of import contract can be easily ensured as well as many litigation matter resulting in delay in the import can be avoided.

The MoU will ensure continuous availability of poppy seeds in domestic market of India and ultimately Indian consumers of poppy seeds will be benefited.

- **Cabinet approves provision of mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism Areas**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the "Universal Service Obligation Fund [USOF]" supported scheme to provide mobile services at 4072 tower locations identified by MHA in inhabited uncovered areas affected by Left Wing Extremism [LWE] of 96 districts in 10 States for Phase-II project. The total project cost would be Rs.7,330 Crore.

This network would be used by the security personnel deployed in LWE affected areas. Project will also provide the mobile services to help the residents in unconnected inhabited villages which would improve the economic activities in the region. It will give impetus to the e-Governance activities in the backward and LWE affected area with the availability of digital mobile connectivity. The numbers of Tower locations proposed in the 10 States are as follows:

S.No.	States	Districts	Number of Tower locations
1	Andhra Pradesh	8	429
2	Bihar	8	412
3	Chhattisgarh	16	1028
4	Jharkhand	21	1054

5	Madhya Pradesh	1	26
6	Maharashtra	2	136
7	Odisha	18	483
8	Telangana	14	118
9	Uttar Pradesh	3	179
10	West bengal	5	207
Total	10 states	96	4072

- **Cabinet approves USOF scheme for provision of mobile services in Meghalaya under CTDP for North Eastern Region**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Implementation of a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North Eastern Region(NER) in Meghalaya at a total estimated project cost of Rs. 3911 crore to be funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and approval of the enhanced cost of CTD Project for NER for an amount of Rs. 8120.81 crore (Rs. 5336.18 crore already approved by the Cabinet on 10.09.2014).

Salient Features: The Scheme entails:

- Provision of 2G+4G mobile coverage in identified uncovered areas of the State of Meghalaya; and
- Provision of 2G+4G seamless mobile coverage along the National Highways in Meghalaya.

Benefits:

- Strengthening of telecom network will result in increase the penetration of mobile connectivity in Meghalaya resulting in affordable and equitable access of communication, information and governance to people.
 - Providing access to public mobile network to hitherto unreached people of Meghalaya will empower citizens with benefits of ICTs for furthering socio-economic developments.
 - The innovative skill of uncovered areas will increase through broadband and internet access.
- **Cabinet approves waiver of Penal Interest on Government Loans advanced to Visakhapatnam Port Trust**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for waiving of Penal Interest on Government Loans

to Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) as per following:

- i. Waiver of Penal Interest amounting to Rs. 250.89 crore in respect of VPT as on 31.03.2017 and further accruals thereon till date of approval of waiver;
- ii. VPT to pay penalty @0.25% of Penal Interest as on date of approval of waiver of Penal Interest;
- iii. VPT to pay the outstanding Principal of Rs. 44.69 crore and outstanding Interest as on the date of approval of waiver, in one single instalment in the Financial Year 2018-19.

• **Cabinet approves restructuring of balance sheet of Scooters India Limited, Lucknow**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for restructuring of balance sheet of Scooters India Limited, Lucknow (SIL) by way of:

- i. reduction of equity of Rs. 85.21 crore in the share capital of SIL held by Government of India against accumulated losses. The reduction would be deemed to have taken effect as on 31.03.2013 and
- ii. freezing the interest on the Non-Plan loan of Rs. 1.89 crore released to SIL during 2012-13 from the date of its release to the company and conversion into equity of the outstanding principal amount of Rs. 1.89 crore.

With this approval, the balance sheets of Scooters India Limited from 2012-13 onwards will be regularised and further restructuring will be effected accordingly. This is also expected to clear a hurdle in the process of disinvestment of the company.

• **Cabinet approves waiver of Penal Interest on Government Loans advanced to Paradip Port Trust**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for waiving of Penal Interest on Government Loans to Paradip Port Trust (PPT) as per following:

- i. Waiver of penal interest amounting to Rs.1076.59 crore in respect of PPT as on 31.03.2017 and further accruals thereon till date of approval of waiver.
- ii. PPT to pay penalty @ 0.25% of Penal Interest as on the date of approval of waiver of penal Interest.
- iii. PPT to start the re-payment of outstanding principal of Rs. 387.74 crore and outstanding interest as on date of approval of the waiver and the re-payment to be completed in two instalments in 2018-19 and 2019-20.

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Warm regards,

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