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Mou/Agreement

CABINET APPROVALS

India-Nepal Joint Statement during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India

- Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, is on a State visit to India from April 6-8, 2018. On April 7, 2018; the two Prime Ministers comprehensively reviewed the entire spectrum of multifaceted ties between the two countries. They welcomed the growing partnership between the two governments, private sector and at the people's level. The two Prime Ministers resolved to work together to take bilateral relations to newer heights on the basis of equality, mutual trust, respect and benefit.

Nepal:

President	Ms. Bidhya Devi Bhandari
Prime Minister	Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli
Capital	Kathmandu
Currency	Nepalese Rupee

India Signs MOU with World EXPO 2020 Dubai

- India and World Expo 2020 signed participant's contract today for India's pavilion in the prestigious World Expo 2020 held once in 5 years. The contract provides for the setting up of India pavilion at Expo 2020 on an extra-large plot (about one acre) in the 'Opportunity' segment.

Indian Consortium and Saudi Aramco Sign MoU for Ratnagiri Mega Refinery in Maharashtra

- An Indian Consortium consisting of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL and Saudi Aramco signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop and build an integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex, Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL) in the State of Maharashtra. Saudi Aramco may also seek to include a strategic partner to co-invest in the project.

Saudi Arabia:

King	Salman
Crown Prince	Mohamma
Capital	Riyadh
Currency	Saudi riyal

Indo-Vietnam pact on transfer of convicted prisoners gets enforced

- An Indo-Vietnam pact for transfer of each other's sentenced prisoners to serve their remaining terms in their own countries has come into effect with its ratification by the two nations. The agreement on transfer of the sentenced persons was signed by India and Vietnam on November 1, 2013 and was ratified by India on January 1, 2014. Vietnam, however, ratified it only on March 10, 2017.

Vietnam:

President	Tran DaiQuang
Prime Minister	Nguyen XuanPhuc
Capital	Hanoi
Currency	Dong

Cabinet approves MoU between India and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on the return of Illegal Migrants

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to the MoU between India and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on the return of Illegal Migrants. The MoU will facilitate that the Visa Free Agreement for holders of Diplomatic passports as well as liberalization of UK Visa Regime for those who are travelling to the UK legally, after conclusion of the MoU.

United Kingdom (England):

Monarch	Elizabeth II
Prime Minister	Theresa May
Capital	London
Currency	Pound sterling

Cabinet approves a Cooperation Arrangement between India and Afghanistan for cooperation in the field of food safety and related areas

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Cooperation Arrangement between Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (MAIL), Afghanistan for cooperation in the field of Food Safety and related areas. The areas of cooperation include the following:
 - a. Establishment of a mechanism of information exchange and communication;
 - b. Facilitating technical exchange on identified topics of interest especially about import procedures, quality control operations, sampling, testing, packaging and labeling;
 - c. Facilitating/organization of joint seminars, workshops, visits, lectures, training programme, etc.;
 - d. Other areas of interest to the participants within their responsibilities as they may mutually determine.

Afghanistan:

President	Ashraf Ghani
Capital	Kabul
Currency	Afghani

Cabinet approves the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi has given its approval to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 for better protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

Salient Features:

1. It proposes to include “National Commission for Protection of Child Rights” as deemed Member of the Commission;
2. It proposes to add a woman Member in the composition of the Commission;
3. It proposes to enlarge the scope of eligibility and scope of selection of Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission; and
4. It proposes to incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories.
5. It proposes to amend the term of office of Chairperson and Members of National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission to make it in consonance with the terms of Chairperson and Members of other Commissions.

Cabinet approves agreement to formalize ISA HQ in India

- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave its ex post facto approval to an agreement that would formalize the headquarters of the International Solar Alliance in India (ISA). The headquarters agreement will institutionalize the functional arrangements between India and ISA.

Seven MoUs signed with Russian original equipment manufacturers

- Seven MoUs were signed at the Defence Expo 2018 by Indian private companies and Russian original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to manufacture and develop spares and sub-assemblies of identified Russian-origin platforms in use by the Indian armed forces. The MoUs were signed after the third India-Russia Military Industrial Conference at the Defence Expo 2018.

Russia:

President	Vladimir Putin
Prime Minister	Dmitry Medvedev
Capital	Moscow
Currency	Russian Ruble

India-US Strategy Energy Partnership Joint Statement

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan and U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership.
- Under the Partnership, the United States and India will pursue four primary pillars of cooperation: (1) Oil and Gas; (2) Power and Energy Efficiency; (3) Renewable Energy and Sustainable Growth; and (4) Coal. Both parties may consider establishing additional pillars of cooperation based on mutual agreement.

Joint Press Statement from the Summit between India and the Nordic Countries

- The summit was held in Stockholm. The Summit emphasized the Indian Government's strong commitment to innovation and digital initiatives as key to prosperity and sustainable development, with national flagship programmes such as Make in India, Startup India, Digital India and Clean India.

- Nordic solutions in clean technologies, maritime solutions, port modernization, food processing, health, life-sciences and agriculture were mentioned. The Summit welcomed the Nordic Sustainable Cities Project aimed at supporting the Smart Cities Program of the Government of India.

To note: The Nordic countries are **Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden**, including their associated territories (Greenland, the Faroe Islands and the Åland Islands).

CCEA approves restructured National Bamboo Mission

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on April 25, 2018 approved the centrally sponsored scheme ‘**National Bamboo Mission**’ (NBM) under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for the remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-20).

MoU between India and Sao Tome and Principe

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **Sao Tome and Principe** for Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of **Medicine and Homoeopathy**. The MoU was signed in March, 2018.

NHAI signs agreement for its First International Project

- To provide seamless vehicular movement for enhancing trade, business, health, education and tourism between Indian, Myanmar and Thailand, the National Highways Authority of India has signed an agreement for up gradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway (Milepost 40/0 to Milepost 115/5) in Myanmar to two lane with earthen shoulder. The project will have 3 new major bridges and 2 new minor bridges.

New pollution-forecast system India to tie up with US and Finland

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be tying up with the **United States** and **Finland** to develop new **pollution-forecast** system to anticipate **particulate matter** (PM) levels at least two days in advance and at greater resolution.
- The new system will be jointly developed with expertise from Finnish Meteorological Institute and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

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