

“Do not fear failure but rather fear not trying.” Roy T. Bennett

INTERNATIONAL**HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE**

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for entering into Headquarters (Host country) Agreement between **India and the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and authorizing the Ministry of External Affairs for signing the Headquarter Agreement.

The Headquarters Agreement will institutionalize the functional arrangements between India and ISA. It will help in smooth transition of ISA as international inter-governmental organization. Creation of ISA will lead to accelerated solar technology development and deployment in ISA member countries including India.

The Paris Declaration establishes ISA as an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries. The ISA is the first international body that will have a secretariat in India.

The ISA's major objectives include global deployment of over 1,000GW of solar generation capacity and mobilization of investment of over US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by 2030.

As an action-oriented organization, the ISA brings together countries with rich solar potential to aggregate global demand, thereby reducing prices through bulk purchase, facilitating the deployment of existing solar technologies at scale, and promoting collaborative solar R&D and capacity building.

When the ISA Framework Agreement entered into force on December 6th, 2017, ISA formally became a de-jure treaty based International Intergovernmental Organization, headquartered at Gurugram, India.

The ISA is not only expected to spur innovation in the RE space but also help make India a technological hub with independent manufacturing capabilities of RE equipment like solar panels, rather than being dependent on imports, through initiatives like 'Make in

India'. India's Ministry of External Affairs is expected to play a role in "marrying Indian tech and finance capabilities with specific projects around the world".

India announced a goal of obtaining 40% of its electricity from non-fossil fuels by 2030 at the Paris climate change summit. It is close to achieving 20 GW grid connected solar power generation capacity this fiscal year (2018), in pursuit of achieving its target of 100 GW by 2022.

NATIONAL**SEBI AMENDS NORMS FOR REITS, INVITS TO MAKE THEM MORE ATTRACTIVE**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended REITs and InvITs regulations to facilitate the growth of such trusts.

This has been done in order to make real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) more attractive.

Both trusts will have to provide a mechanism for resolution of disputes with their shareholders and partners in the holding firm InvIT will have to file the final placement memorandum with SEBI within 10 working days from date of listing of the units issued therein.

Real estate investment trusts (REITs):

Real Estate Investment Trusts or REITs are mutual funds like institutions that enable investments in the real estate sector.

This is done by pooling small sums of money from a multitude of individual investors for directly investing in real estate properties so as to return a portion of the income (after deducting expenditures) to unitholders of REITs, who pooled in the money.

A REIT in India is allowed to invest mainly in completed and revenue generating assets and other approved investments. REIT will have to distribute the majority of its income among the unit holders.

REITs are set up as a trust under the provisions of the Indian Trusts Act, 1882

Like a mutual fund, it has three parties – Trustee, Sponsor(s) and Manager – to avoid any conflict of interest issues.

REITs are regulated by the securities market regulator in India- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN & CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH) 2018 PARTNERS' FORUM

PMNCH Delegation recently called on the Prime Minister and presented the logo for the 2018 Partners' Forum.

PMNCH Delegation:

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (The Partnership, PMNCH) is an alliance of more than 1000 organizations in 77 countries from the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health communities, as well as health influencing sectors.

The Partnership is governed by a Board, and administered by a Secretariat hosted at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Partnership provides a platform for organizations to align objectives, strategies and resources, and agree on interventions to improve maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health.

The Partnership's role complements the work and accountability processes of its individual members, enabling them to deliver more collectively than they would alone.

This Partner-centric approach mobilizes, engages and empowers different implementing partners. It allows them to coordinate their actions and activities, and encourages and promotes mutual accountability.

GOOGLE FILED APPEAL AT NCLAT AGAINST JUDGMENT FROM INDIA'S COMPETITION

Online search giant Google has filed an appeal at the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) against a judgment from

India's competition watchdog that found it guilty of "search bias"

The antitrust watchdog had fined the U.S. firm ₹1.36 bn for 'abusing' its dominance

In February, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had imposed a ₹1.36 billion fine on Google, saying it was abusing its dominance in online web search and online search advertising market

The Commission found that Google, through its search design, had placed its commercial flight search function at a prominent position on the search results page to the disadvantage of businesses trying to gain market access

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June 2016

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI)

The President of the Tribunal and the chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India

The Members of the Tribunal and the Technical Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of—

- (a) Chief Justice of India or his nominee— Chairperson;
- (b) a senior Judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of High Court— Member;
- (c) Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs—Member;

(d) Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice—Member; and

(e) Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance— Member

MOBILE APP LAUNCHED FOR THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS

A new website a mobile app has been launched for the 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis'. The Mobile App will help the Commission in addressing the grievances/complaints of petitioners in an efficient manner.

NCSK:

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis is an Indian statutory body was established through National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993. It aims to promote and safeguard the interests and rights of Safai Karamcharis.

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis seeks to study, evaluate and monitor the implementation of various schemes for Safai Karamcharis as an autonomous organization and also to provide redressal of their grievances.

PROJECT DHOOP

In order to address rising incidence of Vitamin 'D' Deficiencies (VDD), particularly amongst the young people, FSSAI has launched a unique initiative, 'Project Dhoop' in association with NCERT, NDMC and North MCD Schools.

Project Dhoop:

Project Dhoop urges schools to shift their morning assembly to noon time, mainly between 11am and 1pm to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.

Micronutrients including vitamins are needed by people in only very small amounts, but these are the "magic wands" that enable the body to produce enzymes, hormones and other substances essential for proper growth and development. As tiny as the amounts are, the consequences of their absence are severe.

Vitamin A, D, B12, Iron, Folic Acid and Iodine, are the most important; their lack represents a major threat to the health and development of populations the world over, particularly children and pregnant women in countries like India.

Vitamin D deficiency occurs due to overuse of sunscreen, wearing clothes that cover most of the skin, working all day in an air-conditioned atmosphere, and other factors. Also, the school uniforms needs to be designed in a way that at least face and arms are exposed to sunlight, which would be equivalent to 18 per cent of body surface, and the exposure has to be at least for 30-40 minutes.

FSSAI:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.

It was created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.

The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are appointed by Government of India.

The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.

SCIENCE AND TECH

PSLV-C41 SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES IRNSS-1I NAVIGATION SATELLITE

In its forty third flights, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C41 successfully launched the 1,425 kg IRNSS-1I Navigation Satellite today from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.

IRNSS-1I is the latest member of the 'Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)'

system. NavIC, also known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1,500 km around the Indian mainland.

A number of ground facilities responsible for IRNSS satellite ranging and monitoring, generation and transmission of navigation parameters, satellite control, network timing, etc., have been established in many locations across the country as part of NavIC.

Till now, PSLV has successfully launched 52 Indian satellites and 237 customer satellites from abroad.

Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System

The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) with an operational name of NAVIC (which stands for Navigation with Indian Constellation) is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system that provides accurate real-time positioning and timing services

It covers India and a region extending 1,500 km (930 mi) around it, with plans for further extension

The system at-present consist of a constellation of 7 satellites, with two additional satellites on ground as stand-by

The constellation is already in orbit and system was expected to be operational from early 2018 after a system check

NAVIC will provide two levels of service, the 'standard positioning service' will be open for civilian use, and a 'restricted service' (an encrypted one) for authorized users (including military). Due to the failures of one of the satellites and its replacement no new dates for operational status has been set.

5G MIMO RADIO LABORATORY AT IIT DELHI

In an effort to establish India as a key global player in the standardization, research and development and manufacturing of 5G equipment, a Massive MIMO radio laboratory has been set up at IIT Delhi. This will be the first such lab in India.

Massive Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (MIMO) technology:

Multiple-input multiple-output, or MIMO, is a radio communications technology or RF technology that is being mentioned and used in many new technologies these days.

Wi-Fi, LTE; Long Term Evolution, and many other radio, wireless and RF technologies are using the new MIMO wireless technology to provide increased link capacity and spectral efficiency combined with improved link reliability using what were previously seen as interference paths.

MIMO technology uses a natural radio-wave phenomenon called multipath. With multipath, transmitted information bounces off walls, ceilings, and other objects, reaching the receiving antenna multiple times at different angles and slightly different times. In the past, multipath caused interference and slowed down wireless signals. With multipath, MIMO technology uses multiple, smart transmitters and receivers with an added spatial dimension, increasing performance and range.

In Massive MIMO technology, several antennas are deployed at the base station as compared to only a few antennas in 3G/4G. This large antenna array at the base station allows the network to communicate reliably with a very large number of mobile terminals simultaneously at the same time and on the same frequency channel.

It will help curb the emittance of radiation harmful to our health and also will allow less radio interference for better communication.
