

“You have power over your mind – not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength.” Marcus Aurelius

ISA-ADB, NDB, GCF, AfDB AND AIIB JOINT DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

- ISA-ADB, NDB, GCF, AfDB and AIIB joint declarations of financial partnership
- ISA and IEA sign joint declarations of partnership. ISA-IRENA to sign partnership declaration.
- ISA working for deployment of over 1000 GW of solar energy and mobilizing more than US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by the year 2030

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the African Development Bank (AfDb), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Green climate funds (GCF), and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed Joint financial partnership Declarations.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) also signed a Joint partnership Declaration with the ISA. The objective of the agreements is to deepen their cooperation in support of Renewable Energy.

The previous three partnerships were signed by ISA with the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) signed a Joint Partnership Declaration on 11th March 2018.

ISA is working for deployment of over 1000 GW of solar energy and mobilizing more than US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by the year 2030.

ISA has 60 signatories and 30 parties already had ratified solar alliance.

The African Development Bank's New Deal on Energy for Africa aims to achieve universal access to energy in Africa by 2025. AfDB's transformative Desert to Power initiative in the Sahel and Sahara regions of Africa envisages 10 GW of solar power generation and providing clean energy to 90 million people. Together with the ISA, they would like to work on mobilization of concessional Financing through existing, notably the Bank's Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa and the Facility for Energy Inclusion.

The Asian Development Bank promotes a vision of an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. ADB's energy policy aims to help its developing member countries (DMCs) in Asia to provide reliable, adequate, and affordable energy for an inclusive growth in a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable way and provide USD 3 billion per year by 2020 for clean energy, including solar energy projects in its DMCs.

ISA and ADB have joined hands for promotion of Solar Energy in Asia and the Pacific, including solar power generation, solar based mini-grids, and transmission systems dedicated for integrating solar energy into the grids and any other future programs launched by ISA.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank finalized an Energy Sector Strategy that emphasizes proactive support to client countries to develop intermittent renewable energy, including solar. AIIB and ISA both have joined hands for promotion of Solar Energy in prospective ISA member countries where AIIB operates.

The Green Climate Fund's Strategic Vision includes financing innovative projects and programmes, inter alia supporting the application and dissemination of cutting-edge climate technologies. Both ISA and GCF promote the development of affordable, reliable and sustainable solar energy as an important way towards a sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The New Development Bank's purpose is to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of South Africa (BRICS) and other emerging market economies and developing countries.

The International Energy Agency is an autonomous agency within the framework of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its 30 member countries and beyond. The IEA has four main areas of focus: energy

security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide. The IEA is at the heart of global dialogue on energy, providing authoritative statistics and analysis.

The International Renewable Energy Agency is a universal international intergovernmental organization that plays a leading role in the global energy transformation by supporting countries in achieving the increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy.

IREDA & EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK SIGN EURO 150 MILLION LOAN AGREEMENT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

- IREDA & European Investment Bank sign Euro 150 million Loan Agreement for Renewable Energy Financing in India
- More than 1 million Indian households to benefit from the new initiative
- EIB has extended this line of credit without insisting for sovereign guarantee from Government of India

European Investment Bank (EIB) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Ltd. have signed a loan agreement for a second line of credit (LoC) of Euro 150 million on non-sovereign basis.

The line of credit is for tenure of 15 years including a grace period of 3 years, and it will be used for financing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects in India. More than 1.1 million households are expected to benefit from clean energy produced with these funds. Two factors- efficient technology and easy finance are important for the success of renewable energy sector. It will bring confidence that India will exceed its target of 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022.

EIB:

EIB is the long-term lending institution of the European Union owned by its Member States. It works closely with other EU institutions to implement EU policy and is also engaged in multilateral financing. More than 90 per cent of its activity is in Europe but it is also a big investor globally. EIB's activities focus on four priority areas including innovation and skills, access to finance for smaller businesses, infrastructure and climate & environment.

IREDA:

IREDA is the dedicated financing arm of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for financing the renewable and energy efficiency projects and has been spearheading the growth of renewable energy in the country for over three decades. It has financed renewable and energy efficiency projects of financial value of over Rs.34,534.06 crore till date. To meet the financing requirement of renewable energy projects in the country, IREDA has been raising resources from various bilateral and multilateral agencies, Masala bonds, and domestic - taxable and tax-free bonds.

MOU ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS BETWEEN INDIA & FRANCE

A Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications held between India & France.

Underlining the strong and long-standing relationship between France and India, Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar termed as "historic" the inking of a MoU on "mutual recognition of educational qualifications" between the two countries.

"I hope more and more countries, like France, will come forward for mutual recognition of academic qualifications so that the mobility of students and professionals improves," Mr.Javadekar added.

The first high-level India-France Knowledge Summit, 2018 was jointly organized by French Institute in India, along with Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation (MESRI), France and co-Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Apart from MoU on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications between India and France, 15 MoUs between various institutions of India and France in the areas of Higher Education, Research, Innovation, Faculty exchange, Scientific Cooperation were exchanged.

He took the opportunity to list out the various initiatives, such as IMPRINT, GIAN, SWAYAM and PMRF taken by Government of India to boost Innovation, Research and accessibility of education in India. He pointed out that under GIAN, which is an initiative where foreign faculty visit India and conduct tailor-

made courses for Indian students in certain HE institutions, last year about 30 French Faculty members had visited India to conduct course and this number is expected to grow more.

Under IMPRINT-II, which is an open invitation for innovation by faculties, students, professionals and others in 10 domain frontier areas of innovation, Rs 1000 crore is being allocated to fund high-end research and innovation proposals. Besides, under PMRF, highest ever scholarship of Rs 70000 to 80000 per student per month will be offered to around 1000 students each year.

Apart from these initiatives Ministry has created special vehicle called higher education finance agency, through this agency Ministry is mobilizing hundred thousand Crore Rupees to put in next three four years essentially in higher education and small portion is school education.

The goal set by the French Government to attract 10,000 students to France by 2020. Last year, over 5000 Indian students chose France as a study destination, showing a 60% increase from the previous year.

The summit explores seven priority sectors for collaboration: space and aeronautics, mathematics and information technology, agronomy and food processing, eco-energy, natural resources and bioactive compounds, architecture and urban planning and urban mobility.

MOU ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS BETWEEN INDIA & FRANCE

Karnataka government has unveiled the State flag for Karnataka. If approved by the Centre, Karnataka will be the second State to have a flag after Jammu and Kashmir. The proposal will be now sent to the Union Home Ministry for approval since a State has no powers to announce its own flag.

The red-white-yellow flag has the State emblem at the centre. The State flag will fly below the national flag as prescribed.

In the tri-colour State flag, white symbolizes peace with State emblem. While yellow symbolizes the auspiciousness and well-being of Kannadigas, the red colour symbolises courage.

In S.R. Bommai v/s Union of India (Supreme Court 1994) case, the Supreme Court has declared that federalism is a basic feature of the Constitution and States are supreme in their sphere. This being the Constitutional position, there is no prohibition in the Constitution for the State to have its own flag. However, the manner in which the State flag is hoisted should not dishonour the national flag. It has to be always below the national flag.

The national flag code specifically authorizes use of other flags subject to the regulation by the court. So, State flag is not unauthorized.

MOU ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS BETWEEN INDIA & FRANCE

The Supreme Court has delivered a landmark judgment allowing “living will” where, an adult in his conscious mind is permitted to refuse medical treatment or voluntarily decide not to take medical treatment to embrace death in a natural way. In its judgment, the court has laid down a set of guidelines for “living will” and defined passive euthanasia and euthanasia as well.

Passive Euthanasia: When doctors don't provide, or remove patients from, life sustaining treatment. Including Disconnecting life-support machines, feeding tubes, not carrying out life-saving operations, not providing life-extending drugs, Non-treatment not seen as cause of death; patient understood to have died because of underlying condition.

Guidelines lay down by the court:

It is a medical power of attorney that allows an individual to appoint a trusted person to take health care decisions when the patient is not able to take such decisions. The trusted person can decide on the patient's behalf how long the medical treatment should continue when the patient is unconscious or in a coma state is not in a position to decide.

According to the Supreme Court rules, it can be executed only by an adult who is of a sound and healthy state of mind and in a position to communicate, relate and comprehend the purpose and consequences of executing the document.

It must be voluntarily executed and should have characteristics of an informed consent

given without any undue influence or constraint.

It shall be stated clearly as to when medical treatment may be withdrawn or no specific medical treatment shall be given which will only have the effect of delaying the process of death that may otherwise cause the patient pain, anguish and suffering and further put him or her in a state of indignity.

In order to overcome the difficulty faced in case of patients who are unable to express their wishes at the time of taking the decision, the concept of advance medical directives emerged in various countries.

It should indicate the decision relating to the circumstances in which withholding or withdrawal of medical treatment can be resorted to.

Be in specific terms and the instructions must be absolutely clear and unambiguous.

Mention that the executor may revoke the instructions/authority at any time.

Disclose that the executor has understood the consequences of executing such a document.

Specify the name of a guardian or close relative who, in the event of the executor becoming incapable of taking decision at the relevant time, will be authorized to give consent to refuse or withdraw medical treatment in a manner consistent with the advance directive.

In the event that there is more than one valid living will, none of which have been revoked, the most recently signed advance directive will be considered as the last expression of the patient's wishes and will be given effect to.

Procedure:

The document should be signed by the executor in the presence of two attesting witnesses, preferably independent, and counter-signed the jurisdictional Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC) so designated by the concerned district judge.

The JMFC shall preserve one copy of the document in his office, keep another in digital format, forward one copy of the document to the registry of the jurisdictional district court, inform the immediate family members of the executor.

A copy is handed over to the competent officer of the local body. A copy of the

directive is handed over to the family physician, if any.

In the event the executor becomes terminally ill and is undergoing prolonged medical treatment with no hope of recovery and cure of the ailment, the treating physician, when made aware about the advance directive, shall ascertain the genuineness and authenticity thereof from the jurisdictional JMFC before acting upon the same.

The document should be given effect to only after being fully satisfied that the executor is terminally ill and is undergoing prolonged treatment or is surviving on life support and that the illness of the executor is incurable or there is no hope of him/her being cured.

The physician or hospital where the executor has been admitted for medical treatment shall constitute a medical board that shall visit the patient and form an opinion whether to certify or not to certify carrying out the instructions of withdrawal or refusal of further medical treatment.

The Chairman of the board nominated by the collector, that is, the Chief District Medical Officer, shall convey the decision of the board to the jurisdictional JMFC before giving effect to the decision to withdraw the medical treatment administered to the patient.

The JMFC shall visit the patient at the earliest and, after examining all aspects, authorize the implementation of the decision of the board.

It will be open to the executor to revoke the document at any stage before it is acted upon and implemented.

If permission to withdraw medical treatment is refused by the Medical Board, it would be open to the patient or his family members or even the treating doctor or the hospital staff to approach the high court and its chief justice will have to constitute a division bench to decide upon case.

Right to Die:

Right to die peacefully is part of Fundamental Right to Life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. Article 21 provides that "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law".
