

■ MoU Enhancing Opportunities for Indian Seafarers, Healthcare Workers in UK

India and the UK have signed two MoUs on mutual recognition of educational qualifications including maritime education and a Framework Agreement on health care work force. The first MoU provides for mutual recognition of educational qualifications and duration of study undertaken by students within duly approved and recognized higher education institutions in the two countries. The MoU on maritime education qualification paves way for the two governments to mutually recognize the certificates of maritime education and training, competency and endorsements of seafarers issued by each other. It will prove beneficial for employment of seafarers of both the countries and would make them eligible for employment on ships of either party. India being a seafarer supplying nation with large pool of trained seafarers, it is expected to be significantly benefitted by the MoU. The Framework Agreement on Healthcare Workforce includes cooperation on Nursing & Allied Health Professionals (AHPs), training of healthcare professionals and measures to bridge the skill gap. The agreement will facilitate the recruitment and training of nurses and AHPs from India by UK in a streamlined manner. Given the shortage of nurses in the UK, the agreement will benefit both the sides.