

Editor's Desk

On October 7, 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi completed 20 successful years in High Public Office. First, as chief minister of Gujarat, and then as Prime Minister.

As a part of its continuous push for Governance reforms, the Government has decided that from next month, no central government file will pass through more than four hands and ministries will also be able to submit e-files to each other. The idea is to speed up decision-making and usher in an executive-centric and business-oriented functional transformation. The attempt of the Government is to encourage delegation, rather than perpetrate the current process of pushing files up to higher levels endlessly. The government has also rolled out its new version of the E-Office 7.0, which for the very first time allows the inter-ministry transfer of files. All ministries will now be able to submit their proposals online, to other Ministries, like, the Finance Ministry for direct approval. All 84 ministries and departments are expected to transition to the E-Office 7.0 version in November. Over 32,000 e-files are now being created daily and India has about 25 lakh e-files at present.

The month of October also witnessed India achieving a milestone in its Covid vaccination drive – with a 100 crore shots in the arm. India is the second country to have reached this landmark, after China. Amongst States, Uttar Pradesh had the maximum number of vaccinations.

The Global Hunger Index 2021 ranking was not good news for us. India slipped to the 101st position out of 116 countries. We were 94 last year.

Implementation aspects of the 'Vehicle Scrappage Policy' continued unabated with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issuing a notification that lists the incentives and disincentives of the policy. These are aimed at encouraging vehicle owners to discard their old and polluting vehicles.

The cabinet of Economic Affairs (CECA) approved Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Rs 100 lakh crore National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity - PM Gati Shakti to effectively implement infrastructure projects. The plan targets to cut logistic costs, increase

cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time, hence providing a boost to the economy. The plan has been approved along with roll out of its institutional framework, implementation, monitoring, and support mechanism for providing multi-modal connectivity.

October also witnessed the launch of ‘Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission’. The aim of the mission is to strengthen the critical healthcare network from villages to blocks to the district to the regional and national level in the next 4-5 years. It’s three major aspects are: creation of elaborate facilities for diagnostics and treatment, testing network for the diagnosis of diseases and lastly, expansion of existing research institutions that study pandemics.

The month ended with the 18th ASEAN-India Summit taking place on October 28. The summit reviewed the status of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership and took stock of the progress made in key areas including Covid-19 & Health, Trade & Commerce, Connectivity, and Education & Culture. Important regional and international developments including post pandemic economic recovery were discussed.

The current issue of Policy Times includes:

1. National Policy

- a. Global Hunger Index – Key takeaways for India
- b. Launch of Gati Shakti
- c. Implementation framework of Vehicle Scrappage Policy
- d. Appellate Tribunal Order on Canteen Services
- e. Deferment of import duty on solar gear
- f. 18th India-ASEAN Summit – Key Takeaways

2. State Policy

- a. Progressive Punjab Summit – Key deliberations
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