**EDITORS’ DESK**

The New Year, 2022, woke up to the brutal reality of a rise in Covid case, forcing State Governments to re-introduce restrictions on movement of citizens, bring about the reimposition of night curfew and weekend curfews. We have all been engulfed in the third wave of the pandemic, which is thankfully receding.

Elections to the State Assembly of the five States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Mizoram have heightened political activity across Parties. The election fever is catching on rather rapidly, though a lot of the campaigning is Digital. Policy making is being shaped by the Political discourse, as can be well expected.

Addressing the nation on the eve of the Republic Day, Hon’ble President of India emphasised the role of small and medium enterprises.

At the World Economic Forum, Global CEOs and World leaders es came together to discuss ways and means to architect policy changes so as to provide a boost to the Global Economy.

The Economic Survey has projected GDP growth in the range of 8-8.5 per cent for the year 2022-23. The Union Budget of 2022-23 has taken a long term approach toward driving Growth. The focus on higher capital spending, the allocation for which has increased by 1.5 lakh crore to a whopping 7.5 lakh crore has been the toast! Two-thirds of this has been allocated to transport and highways, railways, and defence. The impact will be visible in the medium term. But then 2024 is not far…

The National Family Health Survey 5 has been launched. We are detailing this more in the current Issue.

As far as the Auto sector goes, the Draft notification which mandates that vehicles in category M1, manufactured after 1st October 2022 need to be fitted with two side/side torso air bags and two side curtain/tube air bags has raised the heckles of the Industry. This will clearly result in cost escalation in the low and medium category of vehicles, hindering the growth of the auto industry in India.

The proposed changes in the central deputation of IAS officers has sparked a new political row. Many Chief Ministers have voiced their resistance to this change and have commented on how this goes against the federal structure of the Country.

On the international front, talks of the India-UK FTA, trade talks with Korea and USA were major highlights. In the trade talks with USA, reciprocal removal of restrictions on Agri products is a welcome move.

The notification of the certification scheme for Drones by the Central Government is a Welcome step towards making India a Global Drone hub. This in conjunction with the airspace map, the PLI scheme and the single window DigitalSky platform will go a long way in developing a robust Drone ecosystem.

In this Issue, we will talk about:

**National Policy**

1. Union Budget 2022-23: Highlights
2. Trade Dialogues and Summits: Key Takeaways
3. NITI-RMI Report: Blueprint for Inclusion of EVs in Priority
4. Revised Consolidated Guidelines & Standards for Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles (EVs)
5. Deputation of All India Services Officers - Proposal for Change in Rules
6. National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5: Key Takeaways
7. Draft notification for Provision of Six Airbags in Cars
8. Drone Certification Scheme

**Multilaterals**

1. World Economic Forum 2022: Key Takeaways for India

**State Policy**

1. Drafts Rules for Tech Aggregators

Enjoy!