

Editor's Desk

Policy Times A monthly newsletter of GPA Policy Cell

Issue 15, March 2021

After creating history by presenting the first paperless Union Budget for FY21/22, The Centre is looking forward to accelerating the country's vaccination drive. Phase 2 of the inoculation has started from March 1, 2021, covering a larger population base as India prepares to export more vaccines to countries in need of boosting the country's reputation in vaccine diplomacy.


The Prime Minister in the last month has appreciated the efforts of the private sector in India and encouraged them to be self-reliant while assuring that Government interference would be at the bare minimum. The appreciation for the private sector and assurances of government regulations supporting the private sector in India has led to titans of the industry as well as industry bodies appreciating the PM's efforts to include the private sector as a major force to push India to become a USD 5 Trillion economy in the coming few years.

Peace has been attained on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as India and China's armed forces have started to disengage as talks continue to ensure further tensions do not arise between the two nuclear and economic powerhouses. Corresponding with the news of disengagement was also China regaining the top spot of India's largest trade partner (who would have imagined this a few months ago). The third ministerial meet of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) and peace with China show India's commitment to multi-alignment.

On the domestic front, the Farmer's protest continues, and the stalemate between the Centre and the Farmers Unions persists. The coming months would also see five states going to the polls. The elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry would occur between March 27-April 29, and the results of the same are due on May 2, 2021. The results would be a test for the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party's (BJP) popularity in the masses, especially after the Farmers protest and the CAA-NRC (especially in West Bengal and Assam).

The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Telecom have taken important steps in February to keep a check on frauds and to relook security guidelines and an exponential increase in cyberattacks globally, especially after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic since early last year. The Reserve Bank of India is also taking strides towards ensuring proper regulation of the fiscal and monetary policy through the new mantra of 'One Nation One Ombudsman' and introducing Risk-Based Internal Audits for select NBFCs, UCBs. States like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh introduced their first paperless budget. In comparison, Rajasthan's budget prioritised Universal Health Care, Uttar Pradesh, in the biggest budget presented on the floor, making the state self-reliant.

In this issue, we focus on:

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1. The Prime Minister's message to Private Businesses after the Union Budget
 2. National Policies which includes the Government's formulation of new labour codes, switching government vehicles to electric, the National Digital Urban Mission , new national packaging initiative.
 3. State Policies focusing on Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh's state budgets as well as new developments in Odisha, Punjab, Delhi and Karnataka.

We hope you enjoy the new Issue, and as always, looking forward to your feedback!