



CPRG NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020 | EDITION 1



ECONOMIC
POLICY



SOCIAL POLICY



REGIONAL
INTEGRATION



GOVERNANCE

CONTRIBUTOR: Dipendra Chetry

BUDGET SESSION 2020: AN OVERVIEW



The 2020 Budget session of the Parliament started with the joint address of the President, Ram Nath Kovind, following which the Budget was presented on 1st February 2020 by our Finance Minister. The session is divided into two parts, the first part began from January 31st 2020 and go on till 11th February 2020, after which the session will be adjourned for a short break (12th February 2020- March 1, 2020). There will be total of 31 sittings.

Currently, 41 Bills are pending in the Parliament. Of these, 14 Bills are listed for consideration and passing. Four Bills are listed for withdrawal, 28 Bills are listed for introduction, consideration and passing.

Highlights of the Budget Session 2020-

- 1. **Economic Survey says economic growth to rebound to 6-6.6 in next fiscal:** The Economic survey on Friday projected India's economic growth at 6- 6.5% in the next financial year starting April 1st, 2020, saying growth has bottomed out. The growth in 2020-21 compares to a projected 5% expansion in 2019-20. The two-volume Survey this year has been printed in lavender colour - the same as the colour of the new 100 rupee currency note, the oldest currency note in circulation in the country. The pre-Budget Survey said for wealth to be distributed, it first has to be created and called for looking at wealth creators with respect. It advocated 10 new ideas that would benefit markets*

as well as the economy.

2. **India happy J&K, Ladakh have rights on par with rest of country- President:** President Kovind announced it with pride as to how the Parliament has set new records of working by enacting several landmark legislations and further added that his government is taking strong steps for making this decade as India's decade.
3. **Ramjanmabhoomi:** President Kovind praised the manner in which people were treated with maturity after the Supreme Court verdict on the issue of Ramjanmabhoomi and further added that this government strongly believes in mutual discussions and debates and out rightly denounces any kind of violence in the name of protest for the government has been following the mantra of 'Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka viswas.'
4. **Article 370, J&K and Ladakh:** The removal of Article 370 and Article 35A of the constitution by a two third majority was not only termed as historical but also as paving the way for the development of J&K and Ladakh. The construction and opening of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor in record time was also commended and mentioned in the Parliament.
5. **Constitutional Amendment Act:** Mr Kovind declared the Citizenship Amendment Act as a 'historic law' which led to protest from the opposition members, following which the President remained muted before order was restored. He condemned the atrocities committed on the minorities in Pakistan and urged the world community to take notice of this and take necessary steps.
6. **Rural Development:** He commended the work of his government for making so many areas in rural parts of India open defecation free due to the successful implementation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. He took a note of the problem of piped water, for which he stated the government's policy of Jal Jeevan Mission and Aspirational districts scheme for the development of the poor.
7. **North East and rail connectivity:** The President talked about the development of the North- Eastern states with better rail connectivity and bringing peace to the region with the signing of the historic Bodo Accord.
8. **Pradhan Mantri Schemes:** He commended the success rate of all the Pradhan Mantri schemes and how have they contributed in accelerating the all round growth of the country.
9. **Women's safety:** The issue of women safety was taken up by the President in his speech where he described how its government is working towards the issue via setting up of 1000 fast track courts to deal with cases of crime against women. He commended how women have been faring well in the recent Khelo India Games held at Guwahati, Assam.
10. **Economy, GST and Make in India:** He stated how the entire idea of GST promoted transparent trade in the country through technology. He reiterated the government's commitment of a \$5 trillion economy. With respect to Make in India, he stated about the recent construction of modern trains in the form of Vande Bharat and Tejas Express and believed that using of locally made goods is likely to benefit our small entrepreneurs.
11. **Chandrayan:** He praised the recent Chandrayan 2 launch and stated that it has brought new energy towards technology among the youths of the country. The policy of Neighborhood first' also found a mention in his speech.
12. **Budget 2020:** Presenting the first Union Budget of the third decade of 21st century, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, today unveiled a series of far-reaching reforms, aimed at energizing the Indian economy through a combination of short-term, medium-term, and long-term measures. The Key Highlights of Union Budget 2020-21 are as follows. Three prominent themes of the Budget-
 - **Aspirational India** - better standards of living with access to health, education and better jobs for all sections of the society
 - **Economic Development for all** - "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas".
 - **Caring Society** - both humane and compassionate; Antyodaya as an article of faith.
 - Three broad themes are held together by: Corruption free, policy-driven Good Governance. Clean and sound financial sector.
 - **Ease of Living** underlined by the three themes of Union Budget 2020-21.

Bills to be presented in the Budget Session 2020-

The Narendra Modi government has intimated Parliament about its intent to bring **28 new Bills** in the Budget Session, including the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, Seeds Bill, Pesticides Management Bill** and a bill to allow RBI place the gold deposits with Foreign Commercial Banks (FCB) or any financial institutions. Besides these, the government also plans to get **17 pending Bills** passed in the two-leg Budget Session that ends on April 3 and spread over 31 working days.

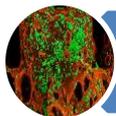
In the first leg, the government plans to replace two ordinances with **Minerals Laws (Amendment) Bill** and **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill**. The new bills include **Seeds Bill**, which seeks to regulate the quality of seeds sold in the market and the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill**. Another Bill on agenda is **Pesticides Management Bill** and the **Pharmacy Council of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy Bill**, which seeks to create a regulatory body for maintenance of Central Register of Pharmacists of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy and for matters connected therewith and to bring about uniformity and standardization in education and practice of Pharmacy of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy.

The **Companies (Second Amendment) Bill** is another bill on top of the agenda as it seeks to make changes in the Companies Act, 2013 to decriminalize the offences and facilitate ease of doing business. Another Bill seeking to strengthen the financial stability on government table is the **Bilateral Netting of Financial Contracts Bill**, which enables India to become one of the major markets for the Over-The-Counter (OTC) Derivatives products. **The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill** is another bill related to finance where the proposed changes seek to allow the Central Board of RBI to deploy forex reserves to invest in securities issued by a non-sovereign institution or body corporate established outside India and broaden the definition of securities to include mutual funds, exchange traded funds. It also seeks to allow the Central Board of RBI to place the gold deposits with Foreign Commercial Banks (FCB) or any financial institutions.

Conclusion-

The Budget session is one of the most anticipated sessions of the country where the public get a report of the progress made by the current government and the plan ahead for the same. This year's Economic Survey and Budget has seen a mixed reaction among different class of people and packs a wallop. Nevertheless, we still have a long session to come and hope that the major bills are taken up and implemented well.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019- nCoV) OUTBREAK



WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS

It is a family of viruses that can cause a range of illness in humans including common cold and more severe forms like SARS and MERS which are life threatening. The virus is named after its shape which takes the form of a crown with protusions around it and hence it is known as coronavirus.



SYMPTOMS

Patients with 2019- nCoV have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of- Fever, Cough/ Shortness of breath



HOW IS INDIA RESPONDING TO THE OUTBREAK

According to the Health Ministry, 9150 passengers have been screened for the novel coronavirus. Health ministry has asked travellers from China to report to the nearest health facility in case they do not feel well. The ministry has asked authorities at seven airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Cochin to screen those travelling from China.

DELHI ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2020: AN ANALYSIS

In what promised to be a high stake triangular contest among AAP, BJP and Congress, elections for the 70-member Delhi assembly was held on February 8th 2020. The counting of votes took place on February 11th, 2020.



In fact, this assembly election was quite significant, provided the city sends only seven members to the Lok Sabha and has 70 members Assembly and the government itself having limited powers because of the somewhat unique arrangement where the Centre exercises power over law and order and land. Yet, the symbolism of Delhi is hard to miss. By virtue of being the capital, it carries disproportionate political weight. By virtue of being home to what is considered the national media, it occupies greater attention in the public imagination. The very nature of Delhi's politics has also lent it particular significance. As one of India's pre- eminent urban centres, which is home to migrants of all regions, and citizens of all

classes, the city also is a microcosm of a larger India. The 2020 Delhi Assembly election thus gave a sense of many trends in Indian Politics and was quite crucial in the face of the ongoing anti- CAA protest and the disruption of law and order situation in the state. Ultimately, in the intense tussle between development on one hand and bluff and bluster on the other hand, the former emerged victorious, with the Aam Aadmi Party retaining power with a stunning victory, winning 62 of the 70 assembly seats and leaving the BJP with just 8 seats. The Aam Aadmi Party, however has retained power in Delhi on the back of an extremely bitter election campaign. With this, Mr Arvind Kejriwal is all set to take oath as Delhi's Chief Minister for third straight term on 16th February 2020. The election result comes as a surprise as it was only eight months ago when Delhi voted for BJP in the seven Lok Sabha constituencies while the AAP finished at a distant third place in the national elections, pointing to the fact that voters do make a distinction between state and national polls. So, how did Mr Kejriwal turn this tide in his favour?

How Kejriwal won the Assembly Elections once more?-

1. GOOD GOVERNANCE WORKS:

'Vote for us only if our government has worked over the past five years. Else vote for the BJP.' This was how Kejriwal sought vote for AAP during the election campaign in Delhi. He cited free electricity, education reforms, better health services and zero corruption among others as achievement of the AAP government while seeking vote for the party. The entire plank of making the fight between development and bluff has tended to work well. In fact, all these developmental activities aimed at good governance generated much goodwill among the people for Kejriwal and the AAP, which is evident by the stunning victory they had in this election.

2. NICE GUY IMAGE SELLS:

The election campaign was riddled with controversial remarks, most of which came from the BJP leaders. Union Minister, Mr Anurag Thakur, in sync with audience at a poll rally shouted slogans that translated into 'shoot the traitors.' Other BJP leaders such as Manoj Tiwari, Parvesh Verma, Kapil Mishra and even Union Minister Mr Prakash Javalker made comments that were controversial. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was equally acerbic in using 'abusive' language.



But, Arvind Kejriwal came as an angry young man of Indian politics six years ago, made a conscious shift to present an image of a good boy of Indian politics. He spoke about himself among the voters as 'aapka beta' (son of Delhi), hitting right at the chord. He started building his son of Delhi image with his thrust on the pilgrimage programme. This image struck a chord with the Delhi voters, who did not like the foul language used during election campaign by his rivals

3. HINDU IDENTITY TO COUNTER HINDUTVA:

Hindutva plank has worked for the BJP for years. The Congress tried to go with the soft Hindutva but they failed. However, Modi's appeal seemed to be limited to the Lok Sabha elections. In the Vidhan Sabha elections, it has been a different ball game altogether. Leaving from the tactical mistake made by Rahul Gandhi's Congress, Kejriwal and his AAP appeared shy of targeting PM Modi directly and projected his Hindu identity frequently on and off social media.

In the last lap of the elections campaign, he presented himself as a devotee of Lord Hanuman, known in legends and the epic Ramayana as an incarnation of Lord Shiva and an ardent follower of Lord Ram. Though he was criticised for asserting his Hindu identity but it according to party members helped AAP to counter the BJP's attempt to paint him and AAP as anti- national and thereby offset any kind of polarization by BJP.

4. MIDDLE CLASS CONNECT:

The middle class had overwhelmingly supported the BJP in the Lok Sabha election. That had given the BJP hope that it could retain the middle class support in Delhi. Kejriwal went out to the middle class voters offering freebies concerning their daily- life household needs and presenting a picture of an honest government.

Further, involvement of a large number of salaried professionals in the volunteer force of the AAP helped the party connect with the voters better. These 'educated and well- informed' volunteers of the AAP 'explained' to the voters they contacted to focus on factors concerning local government in the Delhi election. This worked for them heavily.

5. KEEPING CONGRESS AT BAY:

The Congress had drawn a naught in 2015 but polled 9.7% of total votes cast. This time the Congress's vote share is below 5%. This has had its own impact on the outcome of the Delhi election. Pre-election analysis had that the more Congress gains in Delhi polls, better is the chance of the BJP to win this election. Kejriwal's strategy was focused not only on countering the BJP by choosing where to attack and where not, but also on making sure that the Congress does not get traction, particularly among the Muslim voters in the backdrop of anti-CAA protest in Delhi.

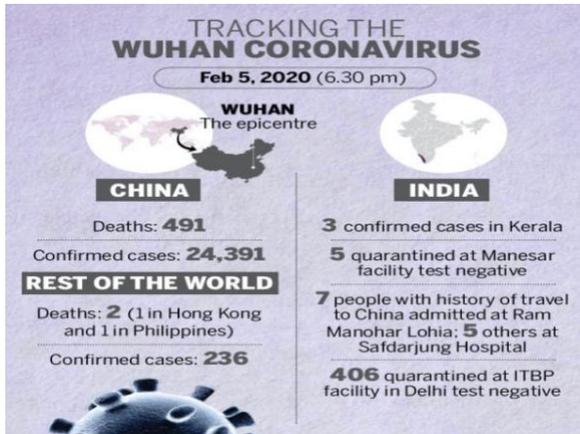
Kejriwal and the AAP, however, were successful in conveying the message that the Congress was not in the race to capture power in Delhi, and a vote to the party - which looked absolutely divided and out of sorts - would be helping the BJP. This helped the AAP pulling lots of floating voters to itself.



NCT OF Delhi Result Status			
Status known for 70 out of 70 Constituencies			
Party	Won	Leading	Total
Aam Aadmi Party	62	0	62
Bharatiya Janata Party	8	0	8
Total	70	0	70

Conclusion-

In conclusion, the Delhi election is likely to go a long way in establishing the credibility of the AAP as a serious political party and Arvind Kejriwal among top political faces of the country with a bright potential in future. This conclusion from the Delhi election looks more emphatic considering what would have been the future of the AAP and Kejriwal had they lost power in the national capital. Further, it also rings a bell for major national parties like BJP to go beyond the politics of polarization and signals a high time for the Congress to re-establish its lost glory and look for its revival in the truest sense.



MONTH AT A GLANCE

1. *US President Donald Trump acquitted of all impeachment charges by the Senate.*
2. *India Russia sign first ever term contract to import crude oil to India.*
3. *Intellectual Property Index: India ranks 40th.*
4. *WHO on Coronavirus: Virus is not yet pandemic.*
5. *GoM headed by MoH&FW Harsh Vardhan to monitor novel coronavirus outbreak constituted.*
6. *The Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Bill introduced in Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister.*
7. *Jaipur receives UNESCO World Heritage City Certificate.*
8. *DefExpo 2020: India's target in Defence sector is 5 billion USD in next five years.*
9. *DefExpo 2020: UP is to sign 23 MoUs and create 3 lakh job opportunities.*
10. *Meera Bai Chanu sets new National record in Weightlifting.*

The **Centre of Policy Research and Governance (CPRG)**, India strongly believes that in the 21st century an India deprived of gainful opportunities, necessary for the flourishing of a young and emergent India, will prove to be an impediment in the development of human capital and preservation of global security. CPRG thus works • towards providing gainful opportunities in an effort to promote the involvement of young people in policy making and politics.



9930912114



cprgindia@gmail.com



cprgindia



<https://www.facebook.com/CPRGIndia/>



CPRGIndia



A-3, Dhawan Deep
Building, 6-Jantar Mantar
Road, Janpath,
New Delhi - 110001