लोक नीति शोध केन्द्र
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

100
MILESTONES
IN HUNDRED DAYS

100 major decisions taken by BJP-led NDA government in the first 100 days

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

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PREFACE

Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, our country witnessed an unprecedented scale of people-centric nation building activity by the BJP-led NDA government. The best evidence of its success lies in the fact that the government was voted not just back to power in 2019, but importantly with a huge increase in margin, both in vote share and the seats won. The groundswell of support reflects the decisiveness of the BJP's win earned in the 2019 mandate.

Humbled by such a landslide of public trust in its governance, the BJP-led NDA government sprung into action to make history right from day one. Starting with a momentous first decision of this cabinet – extending the PM scholarship to more children of the martyred – the government went on to effect paradigm shifts in a short time. Other decisions like announcing pension schemes for millions of farmers and traders, cemented the public trust.

As such, we at Public Policy Research Centre compiled a hundred of the important milestones achieved by this government in the first hundred days. One glance at the past hundred days of this government reveals remarkable strides in governance including a few that fundamentally altered the society and the nation.

The defining feature of this government is the unshakeable political will to settle long-standing and contentious issues, both political and economic, in national interest and bring peace and harmony to the nation. These honest intentions and great efforts are the cause of widespread popular support to the government. The bold initiative regarding Jammu & Kashmir rallied the nation in support of the decision and their support to the people of the Jammu & Kashmir. Not only did this unite the nation in its truest sense, more importantly, it provided the people of J&K with equal opportunities in life just like those from the rest of the country enjoy in our nation. This government also brought to conclusion some of its unfinished business from its previous tenure. The case in point is the abolition of the unfair practice of triple talaq, permitted within a community, perpetuated by vote-bank politics that prevented the people from developing and mainstreaming. The government paved the way for greater harmony and peace through these decisive steps.

On the economic front, the government is proactively initiating its reform agenda. The massive reform of the banking sector to initiate mergers to form twelve public sector banks from the previous 27 will unleash the potential of India's huge banking system to better serve the economy to meet its ever-growing needs. This is just one example of the many reforms that the government is undertaking

The report lists a wide range of decisions and initiatives across all the sectors that impact the nation. It brings in full display the tenacity with which the government regards good-governance and nation-building. We sincerely hope you would go through the milestones achieved and the decisions taken to appreciate the gigantic responsibility that this government is fully invested to uphold in the coming months and years.

Sumeet Bhasin   **Vinay Sahasrabuddhe**
Hon. Director   Hon. Director
Public Policy Research Centre   Public Policy Research Centre

100 Major Decisions taken by BJP-led NDA Government in the first Hundred days

1. Most productive session of parliament

Having won the popular mandate, the government was determined to set the tone of governance for the next five years. This was amply visible in its conduct of the first Session of the Parliament. The productivity of the first session 2019 was 137% for Lok Sabha, 103% for Rajya Sabha. 28 bills were introduced and passed in the same session by both Houses, the highest in any session in the past decade. It also saw 96% or 241 out of 265 first term MPs participating in various debates. This included 70 out of 78 women MPs. Lok Sabha witnessed the most productive session since 1952, a total of 33 Government Bills were introduced. About 1066 Matters of Urgent public Importance were raised by the Members during this Session by sitting late in the evening.

The session was also noteworthy for many mention worthy accomplishment including a 14% women representation, discussion on the Demand for Grant No. 82 under the control of the Ministry of Railways 2019-20 lasted for 13 hours 06 minutes, till 12.00 clock in the night, during the period of 17th Session there was no loss of time due to interruptions, which is perhaps a record since 1952 till date. During the current Session, on an average 7.6 Questions per day were answered, whereas during 1996-2019, on an average 3.35 Questions were answered. The first session also stands out as it witnessed successful passage of some of the most significant bills.

2. Abrogation of Article 370 – breaking years of status quo in Kashmir

The abrogation of Article 370 has realised the philosophy of '*ek desh mein do vidhan do pradhaan aur do Nishan nahi chalenge*' articulated by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, founder of Bhartiya Jan Sangh the predecessor to Bhartiya Janata Party. In order to protest against the permit system and build national awareness for J&K's complete integration, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, entered J&K and was arrested on 11 May, 1953, at Lakhanpur, Kathua district. With great pride and patriotism, he had asked Shri Vajpayee ji to inform every Indian that he had entered J&K, even though as a prisoner, the remark today resonates today with every Indian. For decades Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee carried on his struggle and had aptly stated that martyrdom of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was the first sacrifice for *Akhand Bharat*. Today, the dream of One Nation One Constitution has become a reality with this bold and decisive policy move of Modi government. Despite being an integral part of India, the state had a separate flag, the abrogation does away with this anomaly in a united and democratic India, breaking psychological barriers between Kashmir and rest of India. The move will now open doors to development and growth in the region, paving way for rapid employment generation, boost the huge tourism potential of the state and create opportunities in industries including import-export, food processing, and health care will also flourish in the state with the scrapping of Article 370.

3. Socio economic welfare of Kashmiris and boosting investments

Most of the progressive legislations and welfare initiatives were not applicable in the state owing to Article 370 depriving the residents of Kashmir from social progress. Making rapid strides towards development Government decided to recruit people from Jammu & Kashmir in 50,000 posts across armed and paramilitary forces in the next three months. The government has also assured ₹2 lakh life insurance cover to each panch and sarpanch in the newly-created Union Territory. The government has also planned the state's first investor summit to unleash development opportunities in the Union Territory. Further, as a means of support to the farmers of J&K, NAFED committed over Rs. 5000 Crores for apple procurement in the Valley - to benefit over 7 lakh apple farmers of the State.

4. Rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits plan

Even before the abrogation of Article 370, the government had taken credible steps to address years of injustice meted out to Kashmiri Pandits. Government has created 3,000 additional State Government jobs for the Kashmiri migrants and construction of 6,000 Transit Accommodations in the Kashmir Valley to rehabilitate Kashmiri Pandits. Due to onset of militancy in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during early 1990s, most of the Kashmiri Pandit families along with some other families migrated from Kashmir valley to Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country and hundreds lost their lives in the violence. This was one of the largest migrations since India's independence from Britain in 1947. The issue of resettlement of and according justice to Kashmiri pandits was always on the agenda government and targeted steps have been taken even in the previous term.

5. Reorganization of J&K into two Union Territories

Ladakh including Aksai Chin will be Union Territory, both Hill Councils will continue to be active, Jammu and Kashmir will be UT with Assembly with elected CM and MLAs. It is a bold and far-reaching decision that seeks to redraw the map and future of a region at the center of a protracted militancy movement. The redrawing of the region will aid in creation of new opportunities for development without discrimination. The move restores the long pending due of Ladakh region which suffered for the last seven decades due to neglect. The new status as a Union territory will not only boost development, but also create jobs, cater to aspirations of the youth. With Ladakh as a

Union territory, humane laws such as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and the vigilance of national watchdogs, like the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), can be duly applicable to safeguard the welfare of the tribes of this region.

6. Justice to Muslim women – banning the unjust Triple Talaq practice

Correcting a historic wrong the parliament passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019 criminalizing the practice of triple talaq. In 1985, the Rajiv Gandhi government nullified, by enacting a law, the Supreme Court's landmark judgment which had ruled that Shah Bano was entitled to get maintenance from her husband, who had divorced her. The law was discriminatory and deprived the Muslim women of the right under Art 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code which provided for maintenance in case of destitution, and was not specific to a religion and gave relief to all. Shah Bano case was blow to women's rights and gender justice in the country. It was an opportunity missed to initiate much needed reforms and accord dignity to

Muslim women and succumbed to the lure of vote bank politics. This time when the Supreme Court struck the practice of Triple Talaq as unconstitutional the Narendra Modi led government seized the opportunity to pass a legislation and criminalize the gross injustice meted out to women until now.

7. Protecting children against sexual abuse

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks to protect children from offences such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography. The amendment prescribes death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children and greater punishments for other crimes against minors. The Bill defines child pornography and makes it punishable. The bill also takes into consideration the fact that children are

administered drugs and hormones to make them sexually active, for commercial purposes and prescribes stringent punishment for the same. The society has woken up to harsh reality with many eminent personalities coming forward and sharing their shattering experiences of child abuse creating awareness and emphasizing on the gravity of the situation. The government also plans to carry out programmes in school across the country to make aware children about good and bad touch and train over 40,000 teachers for the same.

8. Creation of Chief of Defence Staff

Reiterating the determination to enhance our security infrastructure and enhance coordination between our forces, India will now have a Chief of Defence Staff- CDS. Just like other advanced countries, where security apparatus is headed by a single office, India will henceforth have CDS to advise the government on all matters of security. This step will make our national security more effective and ensure better jointmanship and a multi-disciplinary approach.

9. Leaving no stone unturned to subdue terrorism - The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 passed

The Bill gives greater power to NIA to investigate cases and accords power to the government to designate an individual as a terrorist. Designating individuals as terrorists would throttle the entire network of terror activities as it would tighten the noose on sympathizers and disrupt their financial networks. Under the Act the government has designated Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Mumbai terror attack accused Zaki-ur-Rehman-Lakhvi and fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim has terrorists. The Act also addresses procedural complications in investigation, by providing greater powers in search and seizure to NIA and empowering inspectors to investigate cases, the measures would aid in expediting investigation into terror related offences and overcome jurisdictional issues.

10. **Empowering our investigative agencies - The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed**

The Bill makes our legislative infrastructure to deal with terrorism much robust and adds new scheduled offences. The law authorizes officers of the NIA to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India, subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries. The Bill ensures an integrated approach for India's war on terror. The offences included are cross border such as counterfeiting, cyber terrorism, trafficking etc. It has broadened the scope and would thus help in investigating and reflects the philosophy of Zero tolerance against terrorism. The amendments would help in Interstate coordination in investigating offences.

11. **Benefitting 3 crore retail traders and shop keepers to benefit through - Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana**

The scheme assures a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 3,000/- month after attaining the age of 60 years. This decision can also be seen in the light of several other steps taken for the welfare of traders, small and medium business.

12. **26,968 Dalit-majority villages identified for focused implementation of various government schemes**

To meet critical gaps in socio-economic and infrastructure needs, and reduce disparities, focused implementation of all existing central and state welfare schemes will be carried out in the identified villages. These villages — where over 50 per cent of the total population are Dalits and those with a sizeable overall population — have been zeroed in under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana for "integrated development". The scheme also identifies 50 monitorable indicators to reduce the inequality between Dalit and general households in these villages. These fall within 10 key basic service areas such as health, education, drinking water and sanitation, social

security, roads and housing, electricity, agriculture, livelihoods, financial inclusion, and digitization.

13. Rs 100 lakh crores for developing modern infrastructure over 5 years

An inter-ministerial Task force is being formed by Department of Economic Affairs to finalize the pipeline of infrastructure projects. This initiative is expected to boost growth and creation of jobs. These projects would be monitored actively to accelerate capital expenditure and investments in the economy.
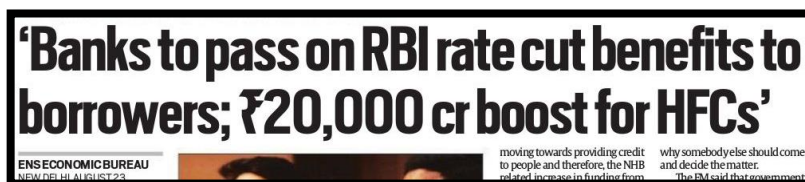
14. Major reforms in banking sector – PSBs consolidation

Punjab National Bank will be anchor bank for the merger of PNB, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank, the second will consist of Union Bank, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank, the third will consist of Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank and the last will be the merger of Canara Bank with Syndicate Bank (for strong national presence and global reach). Remaining banks have been designated for enhance national regional presence respectively. Non-official directors to perform role analogous to independent directors. Sanctioning and monitoring of loans have been separated. Special agencies have been formed to monitor loans above Rs 250 crore to avoid a Nirav Modi like situation. Risk Management Committee given mandate to fix accountability for compliance of Risk Appetite Framework. The reforms would also usher in enhanced capacity to increase credit, enhance strong national presence and international reach of banks, enable reduction in lending cost, improved ability to raise market resources and next Generation technology for the banking sector.

To boost credit uptake in the economy, the government has also approved an upfront release of ₹ 70,000 crore additional lending through upfront Capital to PSBs injecting liquidity to the tune of ~ ₹5 Lakh crore. Banks have decided to pass on the interest rate cuts through MCLR

'Banks to pass on RBI rate cut benefits to borrowers; ₹20,000 cr boost for HFCs'

reduction to benefit all borrowers through lower capital cost. Banks have agreed to link Repo Rate to Interest Rate; this will cause reduced EMIs for housing and vehicle loans and other retail loans

15. Lowering Non-Performing Assets of Banks

Record levels of loan recovery have been reached, Rs 1.21 lakh crores has been recovered. Gross non-performing assets have come down from 8.65 lakh crores to 7.90 lakh crores upto August 2019.

16. Facilitating Prudent decision making in banking sector

The government has provisioned for establishment of Internal Advisory Committee for each Bank to support decision making and prevent harassment for genuine commercial decisions by bankers. This provision enables for speedy credit offtake and improved feasibility of commercial operations. Central Vigilance Commission has issued directions that Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) in banks to classify cases as vigilance and non-vigilance. Decision of the IAC and bank CVO/ DA would be treated as final.

17. Easing cashflows and better planning - GST refund to MSMEs within 30 days

Ensuring unobstructed cashflows and growth of the MSME sector and for better planning and decision making all pending GST refunds due to MSMEs shall be paid within 30 days. In future all GST refunds shall be paid within 60 days from the date of application. It is hoped that the move will ease the working capital burden on MSMEs and benefit businesses. The sector is considered as the backbone of the economy and is one of the largest employment generators in the country. The reform would enable it to deal with consumption slowdown and liquidity constraints.

18. Tech-Saksham - making MSMEs competitive on a global scale

The project would focus on making MSMEs competitive, increase their contribution to country exports, and leverage cost efficiencies. With technology giants on board, the project will help MSMEs overcome challenges in adopting technology including awareness and cost of technology purchase or maintenance, resources and manpower required to run the technologies, return on investments, etc. This technological push would make the MSME sector much more competitive and thus lead to rapid growth in the sector.

19. Transparent One Time Settlement Policy

The government's initiative of permitting one-time settlement would be beneficial as it would prompt speedy recovery of loans and advances, improve liquidity, ease the flow of funds thereby promoting a continuous lending process. Hitherto, this route was seldom opted by the banks as they feared vigilance angle to it. With this bold reform, banks will issue improved transparent OTS policy to benefit MSME and retail borrowers in settling their overdues. This will be mutually beneficial to both banks as well as debtors, with higher recoveries and greater compliance to customers.

20. Boosting automotive sector

To spur the growth of automotive sector, the government decided to permit all the BS IV vehicles, purchased till 31st March 2020, to remain operational for the entire registration period. Further, revision of one-time registration fees has been deferred till June 2020 and additional 15% depreciation on all vehicles, to increase it to 30% acquired during the period from now till 31st March 2010.

21. Simplified KYC for foreign investors and Foreign Portfolio Investors

Simplified KYC procedure to improve market access for foreign investors including FPIs. The regulations would simplify and rationalise the existing regulatory framework for foreign portfolio investors in terms of easing the operational constraints and compliance requirements.

22. Supporting Foreign Portfolio Investments

The government ushered in a slew of reforms to encourage FPIs. Further, Offshore funds floated by mutual funds would be allowed to invest in the country after registration as FPIs. Among others, entities established in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) would be deemed to have met the criteria for FPIs. To attract more overseas funds into the market, central banks that are not members of the Bank for International Settlements would be eligible for registration as FPIs. The broad-based eligibility criteria for FPIs has also been done away with. The eligibility categories for FPIs have been reduced to two from three at present. Accordingly, FPIs will now be recategorized into two classes instead of three at present.

23. TDS on cash payments in excess of ₹1 crore

In yet another move to curb black money and promoting digital transactions, CBDT: Finance(No. 2)Act, 2019 has inserted a new sec in I-T Act,1961, to provide for levy of TDS at 2% on cash payments in excess of Rs 1 crore in aggregate made during the year, by a banking company/cooperative bank/post office to any person from accounts maintained with it by the recipient.

24. RuPay Card goes global – accepted in over 190 countries and launched in five nations including UAE, Bahrain and Bhutan

RuPay card continues to expand its reach globally. PM Modi had expanded its reach internationally, starting with Singapore, Bhutan and quite recently in Maldives, Bahrain and UAE. Making strategic partnerships to expand the reach and acceptance of the RuPay card outside India, today it is accepted at 4.4 crore merchants and 20 lakh ATMs across 190 countries. RuPay emerges as a challenger in a duopolistic industry as in just six years, RuPay now has more than 50% share in the country's debit-card market by volume. In 2013, RuPay's market share was just 0.6 per cent.

25. Central Board for Direct Taxes' Startup Cell

CBDT constituted a Startup Cell to address the grievances of the startup ecosystem and better ease of doing business. The cell will work towards redressal of grievances and mitigate tax-related issues in case of startup entities. To mitigate genuine difficulties of startups and their investors, it has been decided that section 56(2) (viib) of the Income-Tax Act shall not be applicable to a startup registered with DPIIT. The move has been in consonance with the Startup India programme wherein the government has undertaken a slew of policy initiatives to build a strong, conducive, growth-oriented environment for Indian startups and thereby help generate lakhs of job opportunities in the country.

26. Withdrawal of Angel Tax provisions for Startups and their investors

To mitigate genuine difficulties of startups and their investors, government decided that section 56(2)(vii)(b) of the Income-tax Act shall not be applicable to a startup registered with DPIIT.

27. Issue of IT orders, notices, summons and letters through a centralized system

To address complaints of harassment, government approved the centralized issue of all IT orders, notices, summons and letters on or after 1st October, 2019. Henceforth documents with the system-generated Unique Document Identification Number will be non-Est in law. The move is also significant as it introduces responsible discretion of Tax Officials, putting an end to *Tax Terrorism*. The system also brings in transparency in the system and makes officials accountable for their actions.

28. 100% FDI now permitted under automatic route in contract manufacturing

100 per cent FDI under automatic route has been allowed in contract manufacturing to give a big boost to domestic manufacturing. True to the Make in India initiative the move will attract global companies in India looking to establish alternative manufacturing hubs and reposition India on the global map with the change in FDI norms.

29. 100% FDI under automatic route for coal mining

Changing FDI norms in the sector along with activities including processing infrastructure will help attract international players to create an efficient and competitive coal market and boost the ease of doing business. The move will also make way for updated technology and increase India's coal production.

30. Easing of local sourcing norms for FDI in Single Brand Retail

In single-brand retail trading (SBRT), the definition of 30 per cent local sourcing norm has been relaxed and online sales permitted without prior opening of brick and mortar

stores. Online sales will lead to the creation of jobs in logistics, digital payments, customer care, training and product skilling

31. Welfare of taxpayers - Sabka Vishwas Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme

To free as large a segment of the taxpayers from the legacy taxes as possible and provide one stop solution for Tax Dispute Resolution. The scheme also offers an opportunity to the taxpayers to pay the outstanding tax and be free of any other consequence under the law giving a major boost to government's fight against black money.

32. End of an era of impunity - Bringing back black money stashed abroad

India will start getting details of bank accounts held by its citizens in Switzerland from September, ending the era of impunity and corruption. The first automatic exchange of financial account information (AEOI) under Common Reporting Standard (CRS) would begin in the month of September.

33. Skill development centres in every district - Growth and employment top priority

Government has decided to constitute district-level Skill Planning Committees for youth that comprise industry-representatives and academia. The move is significant to enhance employability of the youth and resultant better job creation and prospects. With this factor high on agenda, two cabinet committees headed by the Prime Minister have been constituted. The Two panels focus on Investment & Growth and Employment & Skill Development thereby bringing about a parallel focus on two most crucial factors with reciprocal impact is evident of the government's resolve for triggering growth and jobs in the nations.

34. Protecting the interest of Depositors

To tackle the menace of illicit deposit-taking activities in the country and protect the interest of depositors, the government passed The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019. The move saves people from losing their hard-earned savings to fraudulent creditors who exploited regulatory gaps owing to lack of strict administrative measures.

35. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Code provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals. Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable

Parliament approves changes in insolvency and bankruptcy code

to fulfill their outstanding obligations to financiers. The previous law had already yielded dividends but people took misused litigation to block the insolvency proceedings. This amendment ensures that proceedings are undertaken in a strict time-bound framework and that no interpretations which are against the original intent of the Act prevail.

36. Fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to be given Kisan Credit Cards

In a major boost to the sector and welfare of farmers, the KCC facility will help fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to meet their short-term credit requirements of rearing of animals, poultry birds, fish, shrimp, other aquatic organisms and capture of fish.

37. World's most advanced attack helicopter 'Apache' inducted into IAF

Giving a major thrust to Indian Air Force's combat capabilities, eight US-made Apache AH-64E attack helicopters have been inducted. The AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter will replace the Mi-35 fleet. Alongside the capability to shoot

IAF gets new firepower, inducts eight Apache attack helicopters

ARUN SHARMA
PATHANKOT, SEPTEMBER 3

IN A significant boost to India's combat capabilities, the Indian Air Force Tuesday formally inducted to its fleet eight latest-generation AH-64E(I) Apache attack helicopters. The helicopters, manufactured by Boeing, were part of a multi-billion dollar deal struck with the US government nearly four years ago, and were inducted at a function at the Pathankot Air Station.
Modified to specifically suit specific standards as demanded

tack helicopters. These have modern electronic warfare (EW) capabilities to provide versatility in a network-centric aerial warfare.
The IAF has signed a contract with Boeing and the US government for 22 Apache attack helicopters, the last batch of which will be delivered by March 2020.
This procurement will enhance the capability of the air force in providing integrated combat aviation cover to the Army strike corps, the IAF said in a statement. These tandem seating helicopters are day and night, all-weather capable and have high agility and survivability

An Apache during the induction ceremony of the attack helicopters into the Indian Air Force. *PTI*

fire and forget anti-tank guided missiles, air to air missiles, rockets and other ammunitions, it also has modern EW capabilities to provide versatility to helicopter in a network centric aerial warfare.

38. India's first ever "Bamboo Industry Park" announced

After ensuring holistic development of the bamboo sector by addressing complete value chain and establishing effective linkage of producers (farmers) with industry., the government has taken a strategic step to boost the sector further. In a major boost to the far-flung tribal belt region of Dima Hasao in Assam, India's first ever "Bamboo Industry park" has been approved. This would pave way for bamboo being utilized in a big way as a source of livelihood, self-employment and entrepreneurship and will reinforce the bamboo-related trade and industry.

39. Every farmer now a beneficiary under PM-Kisan Samman Yojana

Fulfilling a poll promise, PM-KISAN shall now be extended to all farmers. The revised Scheme is expected to cover around 2 crore more farmers, increasing the coverage of PM-KISAN to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries. For the first time since independence a massive amount to the tune of Rs. A massive amount of 87000 crore has been given directly into bank accounts of farmers.

40. Social security to 5 crore Small & Marginalized farmers

A landmark decision and first of its kind, taken in the first Cabinet meeting, the Government has offered pension coverage to crores of farmers. This is a path breaking scheme that will provide pension cover to our industrious farmers who toil day and night to keep our nation fed. This scheme, in addition to PM-KISAN monetary support, will ease economic burden and lead to greater efficiency and welfare.

41. Unprecedented support to sugar sector- Sugar Export Policy

Unprecedented subsidy support to sugar sector in the form of Sugar Export Policy during 2019-20 has been approved. This includes export subsidy at a rate of ₹10,448/- per Metric Tonne to sugar mills, lumpsum expenses subsidy on marketing, transport and freight for 60 lakh MT with a total expenditure for government to the tune of ₹6268 crore.

42. Water conservation on War footing – Formation of Jal Shakti Ministry

Aimed at providing clean drinking water as well as to fight India's water woes, the new ministry has been formed by merging the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

43. Jal Jeevan Mission to culminate into a mass movement

Addressing water woes of India where many households have no access to drinking water, Jal Jeevan Mission will focus on integrated demand and supply-side management of water. PM Modi has announced financial thrust of Rs. 3.5 Lakh Crore for Jal Jeevan Mission for Centre and States to work together. A dedicated fund called Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh has been announced for the mission.

44. Suvidha Sanitary Napkins – making women's health a priority

The government has been dedicated to holistic mental and physical health of women through initiatives like Ujjwala Yojana, ensuring dignity and safety though toilets under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and various measures for women entrepreneurship and professional growth. Adding another important

dimension and according high priority to women's health and hygiene and fulfilling a promise made during the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections, sanitary napkins will now be available for Re 1 at over 5000 Jan Aushadhi stores.

45. Social Justice - The Code on Wages, 2019 passed

The historic act removes discrimination against women ensuring equal wages. The law ensures minimum wage protection for over 50 crore workers both organized and unorganized. The bill enhances the coverage of workers manifold and also merges 13 central labour laws into a single code, which would apply to all establishments employing 10 or more workers.

46. One Nation One Ration Card – seamlessly access entitlements

In line with the philosophy of One Nation One Tax, One Nation One Constitution, One Nation One Mobility Card, government rolled out the One Nation One Ration Card system. Linking all the ration cards all over the country with Aadhar cards and organizing food grain distribution mechanism in its entirety through Point of Sale (PoS) machine has added a new meaning to public delivery. It would enable beneficiaries to get their quota of grains from any ration shop of their own choice across the country. While inter-operability will enable easy access to the people, integrating the entire public distribution system with the Depots online system (DOS) will bring in further transparency and curb corruption.

47. Sustainable modernization

Project Sustainable Resolution (SU.RE) of Ministry of Textiles launched with an aim to promote Sustainable Fashion. SU.RE stands for 'sustainable resolution' — a five-point agenda for the industry to move towards fashion that contributes to a clean environment. Thirty leading brands & companies have signed on to Project SU.RE and made Indian apparel industry's first & largest commitment towards environment-friendly fashion. The five point agenda includes developing a complete understanding of the environmental impact of the garments industry, develop a sustainable sourcing policy for prioritizing and utilizing certified raw materials, making the right decisions across the value chain by selecting sustainable and renewable materials, communicating sustainability initiatives effectively to consumers and media, shifting a significant percentage of the supply chain to a sustainable chain by the year 2025 among others.

48. Modi govt goes big on afforestation

As India faces the consequences of climate change, the Modi government acts swiftly and made a massive decision to promote forestry activities and boost afforestation across the nation and released a fund of Rs 47,436 crore. The fund being transferred would be in addition to State Budget. The State budget for forests shall remain unaffected. Also, it is expected that all State Governments will utilize this fund for the enhancement of forestry activities to achieve the objectives of the Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs).

49. Government approves proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy

In a decision that would give boost to the ocean energy in India, government approved a proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy. Accordingly, the energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion etc. shall be considered as Renewable Energy and shall be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).

50. Building capacity of teachers - NISHTHA launched

Project NISHTHA launched to build capacities of 42 Lakh government teachers across the country. NISHTHA is the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world. The main objective of the NISHTHA programme is to equip and motivate the teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking among students. The massive training programme will increase awareness among the teachers and help them develop their skills on various aspects related to inclusive education, competency-based learning and testing, learning outcomes, learner-centred pedagogy, ICT in teaching-learning including Artificial Intelligence, pre-school, pre-vocational education and school-based assessment.

The NISHTHA programme will also help the teachers to get more awareness regarding school safety and security, personal-social qualities, health and well-being including yoga as well as about initiatives in school education such as the library, eco-club, youth club, kitchen garden, environmental concerns and school leadership qualities.

51. The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019 passed

The Bill provides for reservation of teaching positions in central educational institutions for persons belonging to: (i) Scheduled Castes, (ii) Scheduled Tribes, (iii) socially and educationally backward classes, and (iv) economically weaker sections. The move will pave the way for filling up 3 lakh vacancies in the Government (Central and State) Educational institutions by direct recruitment in Teacher's Cadre. This decision is also expected to improve the teaching standards in the higher educational institutions by attracting all eligible talented candidates belonging SCs/STs/SEBCs/EWS.

52. Digital platform for employment opportunities

With the Digital India campaign sweeping the nation the government has launched employment portals to reach out to youth digitally. E-Rozgar Samachar has been launched to spread awareness about job opportunities, the e-Journal is expected to meet emerging challenge of young readers switching to electronic modes of communication. Also, for youth aspiring to build a career in the aviation sector, government of India launched an Aviation Jobs Portal. The portal aims to provide a common platform for job seekers to register their job interests across various civil aviation sub-sectors.

53. Transgender community gets its due with Protection of Rights Bill 2019 approved

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 has been approved. The Bill provides a mechanism for social, economic and educational empowerment of transgenders. The community that has been neglected for long shall get its due.

54. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019

Placing safety above everything the cabinet approved Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019 which lays down the important provisions for the operational safety and workplace conditions for the organized and the unorganized workers.

55. Uniform system of registration for all Child Care Institutions

The facility of online registration of Child Care Institutions across the country was launched providing a centralized system where all the information will be readily available about the CCIs in the country. With the new online registration process there will be transparency in the system now and it will be possible to offer greater care and protection to the children.

56. Historic decision- Rate of contribution under the ESI Act reduced

The Government of India has reduced the rate of contribution under the ESI Act from 6.5% to 4%. Employers' contribution reduced from 1.5% while employees'

contribution reduced 1%. The ESI Act provides for medical, cash, maternity, disability and dependent benefits to the insured persons funded by the contributions made by the employers and the employees. The move will encourage people to come to formal sector and get social benefits.

57. LaQshya – A family WELFARE scheme

Government has launched "LaQshya" (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative) to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities. It seeks to improve quality of care provided to pregnant mothers in Labour Room and Maternity Operation Theatres. The scheme aims to reduce maternal and new-born mortality & morbidity due to complications. To improve Quality of care during the delivery and immediate post-partum care, stabilization of complications and ensure timely referrals, and enable an effective two-way follow-up system would be primary objectives of the scheme. The move would also ensure availability of optimal and skilled human resources as per case-load and prevalent norms through rational deployment and skill upgradation.

LaQshay would enhance satisfaction of beneficiaries visiting the health facilities and provide Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) to all pregnant women attending the public health facility.

58. Government approves The Public Premises Amendment Bill, 2019

The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 has been passed. The Bill amends the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and provides for eviction of unauthorised occupants from public premises in certain cases.

59. Sustainability a core principle – Nation to be free from single use plastic

Working on its commitment to green goals, the government has resolved to rid the nation of single use plastic. While a nationwide campaign to shun single-use plastic as part of an ongoing clean India mission has begun, Indian Railways and Air India have announced plans to stop the use of single-use plastics on its services from 2nd October. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech on August 15, had urged people and government agencies to "take the first big step" on October 2 towards freeing India of single-use plastic.

60. Motor Vehicle Amendment Act,2019

The Act amends the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide for enhanced road safety. Making the law stringent, the Act increases the minimum compensation for hit and run cases. The amendments mainly focus on issues relating to improving road safety, citizens' facilitation while dealing with the transport department, strengthening rural transport, last-mile connectivity and public transport, automation and computerization and enabling online services. The Act also safeguards the good Samaritans and also provides for cashless treatment in the golden hour. The new law also allows the Centre to ask manufacturers to recall vehicles in case of defects that cause harm to the environment.

61. Atal Community Innovation Centre launched

Atal Community Innovation Centre – a new initiative seeks to encourage the spirit of innovation in areas that lack the required infrastructure and facilitate a positive ecosystem. The purpose of ACIC is to enable establishment of a socially inclusive innovation ecosystem as well as to encourage equitable distribution of necessary infrastructure for stimulating innovation across the country.

62. Repealed 58 obsolete laws and introduction of the Repealing and Amending Bill

Repealing of 58 obsolete laws and introduction of the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019 in Parliament. An important step towards ease of doing business and improving the productivity of systems.

63. Digitization of Waqf properties

All waqf properties are being digitized for better accountability and transparency. A lot of illegal occupation of waqf properties is also noted, which will be addressed by this move.

64. Efficient resolution inter-state water disputes

Water disputes have been a contentious issue in India and was a cause of civil unrest and disharmony among states. The Inter-State River Water disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed to streamline adjudication of disputes through constitution of single tribunal with several benches working under strict timelines for speedy resolution.

65. Fit India Movement

To make India healthy and fit, the Prime Minister launched a people's movement similar to the massively successful Swachh Bharat campaign. PM Modi reiterated that fitness has been integral to our culture and that technology has hampered our physical activity. He urged the citizens to change lifestyles and make fitness a part of daily routine and hoped that the movement would become a national goal and its aspiration.

66. Eat Right India campaign launched

Government has launched a campaign to promote 'eat right movement' in the nation. To combat the increasing disease burden and lifestyle diseases, The Eat Right India movement is a crucial preventive healthcare measure to trigger social and behavioural change through a judicious mix of regulatory measures, combined with soft interventions for ensuring awareness and capacity building of food businesses and citizens alike. The movement will be aligned with government's flagship public health programmes such as POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anemia Mukt Bharat, Ayushman Bharat Yojana and Swachh Bharat Mission.

67. Bolstering sports in the country

Widening the scope of 'Khelo India' program, the Government will set up National Sports Education Board (NSEB). The board would be catalyst to support sports persons and also popularize sports at all levels. foreign

68. Boost to India's tourism and culture

10 historical monuments in the country will remain open till 21:00 hours for visits of common public. The government is developing 17 iconic tourism sites as world-class tourist centres to improve the flow of domestic and foreign tourists to these destinations.

69. Organized Group A status to Railway Protection Force

Government approved the status of Organized Group A to RPF, improving the career progression of eligible officers and ensuring the consequential benefits. The RPF plays a crucial role in safeguarding railway property and preventing crimes in one of the most significant areas. The move accords much needed motivation to the force personnel.

70. Boosting tribal welfare and their economy

'Go Tribal' campaign launched to promote the use of tribal products. 'Tribes India' goes global to step up their exports. The campaign will leverage the immense potential in our tribal community and economically strengthen them.

71. Government launches 'e-governance initiatives for ST Welfare schemes'

As part of the scheme the government has launched e-governance initiatives for welfare schemes for scheduled tribes in the form of two digital portals — DBT Tribal and NGO Grants Online Application and Tracking System. The move is expected to bring the implementation of welfare schemes for scheduled tribes (STs) under the purview of e-governance, with greater efficiency and transparency.

72. Boosting Infrastructure in hill states

Government approved the construction of Metro rail project in Jammu & Kashmir boosting connectivity within the region. It will be light rail system metro, again the first of its kind in the country. The metro rail would have low footprint (pollution less), with less noise, great comfort, with artistic and creative appeal and a blend with the surrounding picturesque topography.

73. FAStags revolutionizing toll collection system in India

Paving way for digitized transportation system, FASTags are now available on e-commerce platform. New vehicles are already sold with FASTags, now existing owners will have to upgrade too and by end of the year as FASTags shall be made mandatory across all toll plazas in the country. FASTags are also now available on e-commerce platform for easy access. This would ensure seamless traffic and prevent congestion at toll plazas and enable greater transparency by going cashless.

74. Reforms in Medical Education governance

Putting in place an alternative mechanism for Medical Council of India, Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019 supersedes of MCI for a period of two years and

bringing transparency, accountability and quality in the governance of medical education in the country.

75. Massive expansion of medical infrastructure

Approval for addition of at least 15,700 medical seats. 75 200-bedded hospitals approved to be built in areas under-served currently with no medical college. Preference will be given to Aspirational Districts. This would lead to an increase in the availability of qualified health professionals, improve tertiary care in the government sector, utilise the existing infrastructure of district hospitals and promote affordable medical education in the country.

76. Strengthening Judicial apparatus

Government has approved the increase of judges' strength in the Supreme Court from existing 30 to 33 in addition to Chief Justice of India though The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill 2019. The move to increase the strength of judges by 3 or 10 per cent comes against the backdrop of rising cases in the top court which stand at nearly 60,000.

77. Massive action against corruption in the bureaucracy

In line with the commitment to combat corruption the government has taken action against over 49 officials. Recently 22 tax officials accused of corruption and other malpractice were compulsorily retired. Previously, action was taken against 27 officials from tax and customs departments. The government has from the very beginning been committed to the combat corruption and usher in transparency.

78. India's courageous foray into deep space

Setting a major milestone in space exploration and emerging as a dominant world player, India's Chandrayaan-2 mission is another endeavour to establish India as a dominant space power. The Orbiter has already been placed in its intended orbit around the Moon and shall enrich our understanding of the moon's evolution, map minerals, water molecules in the polar regions, using its eight state-of-the-art scientific instruments. the Mission's success criteria were defined for each and every

phase of the mission and so far 90 to 95% of the mission objectives have been accomplished and will continue to contribute to Lunar science.

79. Preparing scientists for tomorrow

To kindle curiosity among children and increase awareness on India's space program PM Modi had announced a Space Quiz on Chandrayaan-2. The winners witnessed live landing of Chandrayaan-2 from ISRO headquarters with the PM. As India progresses to the next phase of development and space explorations, the initiative to engage children indicates a movement towards making our future generations partners in growth and development of the nation and develop aspirations to make India a leader even in space technology and exploration.

80. Institutionalizing space economy – Launch of New Space India Limited

New Space Company Ltd. that will serve as the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation to tap the benefits of research and development carried out by ISRO was launched. The company will spearhead commercialization of various space products, including production of launch vehicles, transfer of technologies and marketing of space products.

81. Creation of Gaganyaan National Advisory Council

As we suit up to place our astronauts in space, the government has constituted Gaganyaan National Advisory Council with members from different institutions and industries. The Council comprises of Secretaries of Department of Space, Science and Technology, DRDO, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Principal Scientific Advisor to PM, Senior Officials from Armed Forces, Indian Coast Guard, Former Chairman of ISRO, Member of Space Commission, Former Director of Aeronautical Development Agency, Former Indian Astronaut, Directors of Premier Academic and Research Institutions and Heads of various Indian Industries. The Council deliberates on several important issues on aspects of Gaganyaan and the efforts made in the fast track mode and Institutional mechanisms put in place by ISRO.

82. Defence Space Research Agency

Modi government approved a new body to develop space warfare weapon systems to strengthen the national security capabilities of India among the world nations. The organization is also charged with finding and implementing defence applications for

India's entire spectrum of space technologies. The organization would also formulate a strategy to protect India's interests in space, including addressing space-based threats. As India explores uncharted territories, the government is undertaking steps to enhance space resilience and ensure strategic approach in the domain.

83. Reaching new heights in transparency - Independent Vigilance Cell set up in Defence Ministry

An independent vigilance cell will be made functional under Chief of Army Staff (COAS). Accordingly, ADG(Vigilance) will be placed directly under COAS for this purpose. It'll have 3 Colonel-level officers (one each from Army, Air Force & Navy. Over the last five years with steps like Defence Procurement Policy – 2016, the government has ushered in transparency and accountability in its functioning.

84. PM Modi hikes scholarships for wards of armed forces personnel

With welfare of our forces who lay their lives to protect the nation and its people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hiked the scholarship amount given to their wards as the first cabinet decision of the second term. Approving changes to the 'Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme' under the National Defence Fund (NDF) scholarship fund has been raised and children of state police officials who died in the line of duty during terror or Naxal attacks have been included.

In first decision, PM Modi approves hike in scholarships for wards of armed forces personnel

The NDF was established in 1962 to take charge of the voluntary donations in cash and kind received for promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilisation.

85. India hosts the UNCCD - COP14

Over 3,000 participants from 196 countries are participating in United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification – the Conference of the Parties (COP14). The Parties to the Convention agreed on the actions each will take over the next two years and beyond to get us on a sustainable development path. With India taking over the leadership role in COP14, the world will now look upto to the country to provide a fillip in the fight for degradation and desertification. Delhi declaration is expected to provide a roadmap for the world in its bid for land neutrality.

86. International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Government decided to launch the International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure at the upcoming UN General Assembly. The secretariat for the multilateral body will be headquartered at New Delhi. Upfront corpus of ₹480 crore approved for the period till 2023-24. The CDRI will serve as a platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure. It will bring together technical expertise from a multitude of stakeholders. In doing so, it will create a mechanism to assist countries to upgrade their capacities and practices, with regard to infrastructure development in accordance with their risk context and economic needs.

87. International respect and worth - Bahrain releases 250 Indians

The release of 250 Indians detained in Bahrain's prison asserts government's stand that every India, be it in any corner of the world, is a VIP in the eyes of the government. PM Narendra Modi's first visit Making rapid strides in international relations and bon-homie, PM Narendra Modi's visit to Bahrain was the first since independence. Bahrain's gesture of pardoning 250 Indians serving sentences there, is evident of how the world perceives India as an emerging global giant and a reliable partner.

88. Aggressive international engagements to safeguard national interests

At G20 Summit, PM had 9 bilateral meetings, 8 pull-aside meetings, 2 trilateral meetings, and 1 BRICS meeting. Successful meetings in G7 Summit were held in France, where India led two sessions on Climate, Biodiversity, Oceans & Digital Transformation.

89. Welfare of Diaspora

As a means Aadhar cards will be issued to Non-Resident Indians with Indian passports on their arrival without waiting for 180 days. Indian equities are made available to the

NRIs seamlessly. NRI Portfolio Investment Scheme to be merged with Foreign Portfolio Investment Route.

90. Taking soft diplomacy to newer heights

Prime Minister's award for Outstanding Contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga was announced by the government. Of four recipients of the 2019 award, one was an Italian woman, another a Japanese cultural organization.

91. Highest civilian honour for the Indian PM

The countries of United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, and Maldives have all awarded their highest civilian awards to the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recognition of his service to the world peace as well as strengthening the cultural and economic ties between the countries.

92. Pro-people and participatory governance – MEA launches Dashboard

Government's Performance "Smartboard" is a visual display of the most important information needed to achieve objectives of the Ministry and providing information on citizen centric services on a click. The MEA Performance Smartboard can be said to be an integration of three types of Dashboards- Operational (for monitoring in real time), Tactical (for analysis and benchmarking) and, Strategic (for tracking achievement of strategic objectives).

The Ministry has been proactive in establishing citizen centric approach and transparency in operations. Easy accessibility via social media has been evident of the ministry's pro-people approach.

93. India reaffirms neighbourhood first policy

Showing his commitment to "Neighbourhood First" approach to foreign policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first world leader to travel to Sri Lanka after the horrific Easter terror attacks. PM Modi enunciated that terrorism is a "joint threat" that needs collective and focussed action. The visit is a sign of India's affirmation of solidarity with Sri Lanka. PM's recent visit to Bhutan is also a move to strengthen our neighbourhood first policy. The two countries signed 10 Memorandum of Understandings in the field of space research, aviation, IT, power and education and launch of RuPay card. The two countries unveiled e-plaque of the interconnection between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Druk Research and Education Network.

94. PM Modi launches Act Far East Policy for Russia

Reaching new heights of cooperation through trust and partnership the government launched 'Act Far East' policy. The move affirms that India will walk shoulder-to-shoulder with Russia in its development of the Far East. Among several other important measures, a Memorandum of Intent was signed to open a full-fledged maritime route between Russia's eastern port city and Chennai on India's eastern seaboard giving impetus to cooperation between the two nations. India is entering a comprehensive energy cooperation with Russia to reduce India's dependence on traditional fuel suppliers. The deal sends a strong signal to oil exporting cartels and also balances India's growing energy needs.

95. Unprecedented $1 billion line of credit for Russia's resource-rich Far East

Giving impetus to the development of economic diplomacy and growth of ties between the two nations, the move is a unique case of India providing a special credit line to a region in another country.

96. Reinvigorating the education sector

The government has rolled out the draft New Education Policy 2019. The NEP seeks to the restructure both higher and school education with a focus on delivering better education, nurturing students' skills, and preparing them to deal with real-world problems.

97. Greater connectivity - Linking all unserved & remote villages through GramNet

New innovations of Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) - XGSPON, C-Sat-Fi & CiSTB have been launched. The technology will empower people, especially in rural and remote areas as telephone and Wi-Fi facilities will be available in all corners of the country on any mobile phone. It will bring people in remote areas to mainstream by connecting them through satellites, where fiber is difficult to be laid and internet is not available. The innovations also aid in fulfilling the rapidly increasing demands of high network speeds emanating from the new dimensions of user applications

98. Technology for Society

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Google Inc signed a statement of intent to rollout "Build for Digital India", a program that will give engineering students a platform to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions to address key social problems.

99. Community radios to be launched in every district

Government of India approved to establish Community Radio Stations in every district of the country. Two additional dedicated frequencies are allotted for running Community Radio - 89.6 and 90.0 MHz.

100. World's first Bio-metric seafarer identity document

India Launches World's First Ever Facial Bio-Metric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document that will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy. India had made a presentation on this technology at ILO.

Public Policy Research Centre

Public Policy Research Centre (PPRC) is a research organization established under Dr Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, which is a public charitable trust. The Centre aims at constructively impacting the policy formulation process with emphasis on good governance practices, efficient implementation mechanisms and evidence-based policy-making including policy-audit and evaluation, in the larger interest of the nation.

Public interest is of paramount importance in a democracy. No democratically elected government can perform its duties as the custodian of public good without evidence-based research. Solid research is a prerequisite of sound policy formulation and design making. Dispassionate and objectively conducted research enhances democracy as it can reduce the ability of those with vested interests to influence the public policy debate. The idea behind PPRC is to undertake structured research and carry field-study projects to explore constructive solutions on important policy issues in an institutionalized manner, through discussions, debates, seminars, study circles and brainstorming sessions. Since its inception, PPRC has worked on several short-study projects as well as full length research products and has come out with occasional papers, study reports, research-tools and similar publications.