

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, LSR

We are the change

A solution or another worry?

With vaccine rollout beginning in some countries, the world ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic is looking to India for the large-scale production and supply of coronavirus vaccines as it enters 2021. As the pandemic hit the world in 2020, Indian pharma industry rose to the occasion and was able to manufacture and maintain supply chains even during the lockdown period, and exported medicines such as HCQ and paracetamol to more than 150 countries, keeping its image of "Reliable Pharmacy of the World". The world is again looking at India as a beacon of hope to manufacture and supply the huge number of vaccines needed to tackle the pandemic.

India contributes 60% of the vaccine production to the world. India is going to play a vital role in equitable distribution of vaccines around the world," Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) Secretary General Sudarshan Jain stated.

Farm laws : what's next?

- The Supreme Court has put on hold the implementation of the three farm laws that are at the centre of farmers' protests. The top court also formed a committee of experts to help in resolving the impasse.
- There is currently widespread farmer protest happening against the three reforms — Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act.
- Farmers have laid siege to Delhi even as Modi government scrambles to find an amicable solution. The eighth round of meeting between protesting farmer groups & the central government once again failed to reach any conclusion.
- The President gave his assent on September 27 to the three contentious agriculture Bills that were earlier passed by the Parliament. The opposition as well as long-time BJP ally Shiromani Akali Dal have termed these reforms as "anti-farmer".

America throttles

Two weeks after the storming of the US Capitol by the followers of his predecessor, in the middle of an out-of-control pandemic that has killed more than 400,000 Americans, Joe Biden — the 46th president of the US — tried to contain the blaze in his inaugural address. As aspiration, the speech was pitch perfect. Biden rightly took on the present of America's most serious domestic crisis since the Civil War. Coronavirus, the Capitol attack, economic loss, immigration, climate change and social injustice were confronted: We'll press forward with speed and urgency for we have much to do in this winter of peril and significant possibility. Much to do, much to heal, much to restore, much to build and much to gain. But what distinguished the speech beyond the essential was the sincerity with which it was delivered. Since the election, there has been a commingling of Biden's personal narrative of loss with the damage that America has suffered. When he spoke of the "empty chair" and relatives who have died, it was from the heart and not just the script.