

Policy vs. Paranoia: India's Budgetary Response to COVID-19

A Conversation with CSOs from Several States



Friday, 29th May 2020 (3.30 pm - 5.30 pm) | Webinar



People's Budget Initiative

ABOUT THE WEBINAR

The COVID-19 pandemic has emerged as a multidimensional crisis in India. While the epicenter of the crisis is in the health sector, it has grown into a colossal humanitarian calamity with the marginalised sections of the country's population getting severely affected. The scale and nature of this crisis calls for timely and bold policy measures by the Union and State Governments.

In this context, it is important to develop an informed understanding of the budgetary and institutional measures taken by the Central and State Governments until now, and identify the areas where course corrections are required.

We also need to understand and develop pro-people positions on some of the macro fiscal issues that will have a huge bearing on future budgetary spending by the Union and State Governments this year as well as in the next few years, viz. the case for increased magnitudes of public borrowing, the need for equitable taxation policies, and the need for greater fiscal decentralisation in the country.

CSOs engaging with the budgetary response to the pandemic in different sectors or different States and those focusing on the implications of the measures for some of the most disadvantaged sections of the population have useful insights to share. These insights and perspectives can help us develop an agenda for the kind of budgetary policies we should advocate for at the current juncture and in the coming years.

In this context, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), which serves as the Secretariat of the *People's Budget Initiative (PBI)* network, is organising a webinar on Friday, 29th of May from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

The key objectives of the webinar will be to:

- Discuss India's fiscal response to the ongoing crisis;
- Discuss the institutional reforms being introduced in key sectors; and
- Learn from CSOs from several States about State-specific policy initiatives as well as issues and challenges.

The **structure of the webinar** will be as follows:

- Welcome and introduction;
- An analysis of India's budgetary response to the ongoing crisis;
- Responses and views of CSO leaders from several States;
- Opinions of policy experts and leading activists;
- Interventions from the audience; and
- Summing up.

(For more information, please write to us at: info@cbqaindia.org)