

Eligible participants to the bid	Limited bidding & only registered vendors could participate.	Any vendor of the platform can participate in the bid as long the product matches the bid.
Monitoring of product delivered or service provided	Huge delay in delivery of products and delay in payment.	Real-time monitoring to ensure on-schedule delivery of products and services.

◉ New guidelines for reforms in Public Procurement & Project Management

- ▶ The government procures non-routine Goods, Services and Works like construction of highways, buildings, hiring of consultants etc. from GeM.
- ▶ The GFR 2017 guidelines provide three methods for selection and evaluation of bidders viz Least Cost System, Quality-cum-Cost Based Selection (QCBS) and Single Source Selection (SSS) for different categories of procurement.
- ▶ The Government issued new guidelines for procurement and project management in October 2021. The key changes in the procurement process are as follows:
 - **QCBS for Works and Non-consultancy Services:** The revised guidelines now allow QCBS for the selection of bidders for works and non-consultancy services as well (where estimated value of procurement does not exceed ₹ 10 crore). The maximum weight for non-financial parameters is 30 per cent.
 - **Fixing of Evaluation/ Qualification and Scoring Criteria under QCBS for Works and Non-consultancy Services:** In order to ensure quality, the procuring entities now have the freedom to amend the specifications based on their requirements and make any criteria used in evaluation as mandatory.
 - **Stringent deadlines for making payments:** The new guidelines stipulate timely release of payments of 75 per cent or more of bills raised within 10 working days of the submission of the bill. The remaining bill payment is to be made after final checking within 28 working days. The procuring entity is also liable to pay interest if the payment of bills is delayed by over 30 working days.
 - **Single bid rejection:** The new rules stipulate public authorities to consider single bid as valid provided that the procurement was satisfactorily advertised, sufficient time was given for submission of bids, the qualitative criterion were not unduly restrictive and prices are reasonable in comparison to market values.
 - **Fixed Budget based Selection for Consultancy Services:** Under this method, the cost of consulting services shall be specified as affixed budget in the tender document itself. Because of the basic and repetitive nature of the consultancy work, its budget can be reasonably approximated.

◉ Direct Tax measures by CBDT during 2021-22

■ Ease of compliance for taxpayers

- Most of the processes and compliance requirements have been shifted to online platforms and the need for the taxpayers to physically visit the Income Tax Offices has been eliminated or minimized.
- A new e-filing portal was launched in 2021 with improved features such as a new taxpayer friendly portal integrated with immediate processing of ITR return, pre-filled returns etc.
- The time limit for re-opening of assessment has also been reduced from six years to three years.
- A relief by way of tax exemption to trusts has been provided by the Finance Act 2021 by increasing