

Editor's Desk

The month of September started with us seeing the grit and resilience of our Paralympians at Tokyo Olympics for bringing home a record number of 19 medals. On COVID-19 front, Goa became the first state for administering the first dose of Covid -19 vaccines to 100% of its eligible population. Third times India hosted the 13th edition of BRICS Summit on 09 September 2021. The theme for India's Chair ship was 'BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus'. India had outlined four priority areas which were- Reform of the Multilateral System, Counter Terrorism, Using Digital and Technological Tools for achieving SDGs and Enhancing People to People exchanges. A number of structural and process reforms in the Telecom sector were proposed.


Further, Government has approved [Production Linked Incentive](#) (PLI) Scheme [for Automotive & Components](#) and [Drone Industry](#) with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 26,058 crore to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities.

Despite COVID-19 and related issues, we were ahead of Exports targets. To [promote](#) it further, Government of India has decided to budget Rs 56,027 crore in this Financial Year itself in order to disburse all pending export incentives (under MEIS and RoDTEP) due to exporters. Benefits would be disbursed to more than 45,000 exporters, out of which about 98% are small exporters in the MSME category, providing massive relief to the exporters as it would have a multiplier effect and increase employment.

Ministry of Civil Aviation releases India's [airspace map](#) for drone operations, which is an interactive map of India that demarcates the yellow, green and red zones across the country.

PM dedicated to the Nation [35](#) crop varieties with special traits. Additionally, the [Ayushman Bharath](#) digital mission was launched with the aim to create a seamless online platform that will enable interoperability within the digital health ecosystem.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices ([MSP](#)) for all mandated Rabi crops to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for Lentil and Rapeseeds & Mustard.



[NITI](#) Aayog launched a report on measures to ramp up urban planning capacity in India. The report has been developed in consultation with concerned ministries and eminent experts in the domain of urban and regional planning. It presents a condensed outcome of the extensive deliberations and consultations conducted over a period of 9 months.

Lastly, The GST Council's 45th meeting was held in Lucknow under the chairmanship of the Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. [The GST Council](#) made several recommendations relating to changes in GST rates on supply of goods and services and changes related to GST law and procedure.

This issue of Policy Times focuses on several items including PLI schemes for Automotive and Drones, Government of India's efforts to boost exports, Summary & implications of 45th GST Council meeting, RBI recent announcements for NBFCs, Assam Govt EC policy along with other policy related developments.