

Editor's Desk

The month of September started with the Winning Spirit, Grit and Resilience of our Paralympians at the Tokyo Olympics. We brought home a record 19 medals. We continued to make significant progress on the vaccine front and Goa became the first state to vaccinate 100% of its eligible population. 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 outlined four priority areas, that included Reform of the Multilateral System, Counter Terrorism, the use of Digital and Technological Tools for achieving SDGs and Enhancing People to People exchange.

A number of structural and process reforms for the Telecom sector were also proposed.

Finally, the Government approved the long awaited [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 in Advanced Technologies.

Despite COVID-19 and related issues, we were ahead of our Exports targets. The Government of India has decided to budget Rs 56,027 crore in this Financial Year itself to clear the backlog of all pending export incentives (under MEIS and RoDTEP) which is long due to the exporters..

The Ministry of Civil Aviation released 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.

The PM dedicated [35](#) crop varieties with special traits to the Nation. 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's recent announcements for NBFCs and the Assam Government's EC policy, along with other related developments.

Enjoy!