

Editor's Desk

Policy Times A monthly newsletter of GPA Policy Cell

August 2021

The first month of a new quarter has not only brought a new hope for the Indian economy ravaged by the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic but a galvanised government fresh from a massive Cabinet reshuffle is stepping on the paddle to push growth. Stormy Monsoon Session of the Indian Parliament began on 19th July 2021 with major news of hack-in of phones using Pegasus spyware. At the same time Government of India is attempting multiple reform initiatives through new legislations and amendments to existing ones in the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament. The Centre has pushed the reform accelerator further in to put the economy from recovery to growth trajectory by way of accelerating its efforts towards asset monetisation and privatisation of the Public Sector Enterprises.

Some of the major policy initiatives attempted in the month of July'21 by different Ministries of Government of India include, expanded the definition of MSME segment to include Retail and Wholesale trades and access of cheaper funds to State Agencies/APMCs, National & State Federations of Cooperatives, Federations of Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Federations of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. Additionally, Ministry of Steel has announced measures to boost manufacturing of speciality steel in the country through Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. Besides, Government has also brought out rules on operation of drones.

The key economic indicators have not yet shown the path Indian economy will take in coming months, but things would become clearer when July data on industrial production, inflation, purchase managers index comes. But overall a good beginning to a new quarter after an almost wasted two months of the previous quarter, which saw peaking of Covid infections and rise in deaths.