

## **Editorial Note**

Greetings to all the readers and well-wishers of the **Journal of Development Economics and Management Research Studies (JDMS)**. Covid-19 has once again devastated the economy more vigorously than the first wave. The epicenter of the second wave started first in the western part of India and then spread over to south India leading to lockdown declared by each State. In the first wave, the Government of India has brought national lockdown. In the second wave, the lockdown was for more number of days and the spread was found at the village level in the country. It has impacted in all the sectors and pushed down the GDP by 7.3 percent. This is the worst contraction that India has experienced after the independence. The trajectory behind this downturn in the economy is obviously seen from the increasing unemployment and decline in the domestic consumption due to closing down of industries, MSMEs, business units etc. However, the RBI Annual Report observed that, 'The prospects for the Indian economy, though impacted by the second wave, remain resilient, backed by the prospects of another bumper rabi crop, the gathering momentum of activity in several sectors of the economy till March, especially housing, road construction, and services activity in construction, freight transportation, and information technology (IT),'...."The recovery of the economy from the COVID-19 will critically depend on the robust revival of private demand that may be led by the consumption in the short-run but will require acceleration of investment to sustain the recovery." This is proved with the record increase in the GST collection by Rs.1 lakh crore consequently from the January 2021.

In India, on 09.07.2021 the total active Covid cases are 4,58,727, the total discharged are 2,88,284 and the total death toll is 4,05,939. The State and the Central Governments have taken measures to put vaccines to all the people. A new policy of 'centralised procurement of vaccines, in terms of 'dynamic mapping model' for vaccination was announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 21.06.2021. According to this policy, the Central Government will directly procure 75 percent of the vaccine manufactured by the companies and allocate to the States to be administered at free of cost. The States cannot procure vaccines. The private hospitals are permitted to procure the remaining 25 percent and will administer at the price fixed by the Government i.e., Rs 780 for Covishield, Rs 1,410 for Covaxin and Rs 1,145 for Sputnik V. 70.31m people are fully vaccinated in our country as on 09.07.2021.

The relief package of the State and Central Governments have witnessed a subtle change when compared to the first wave. The State Governments are struggling to meet the growing public expenditure as the health expenditure is ever expanding. The prices of petrol and diesel are record high and the Government expresses its inability to reduce the taxes. Its impact is vividly seen on the people, the industry and the economy. We invite scholarly articles from people across the field as per the guidelines given in this website.

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