



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## Weekly Economic Roundup



Volume II, Issue 8 | February 19, 2021

Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)



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## DPG Weekly Economic Roundup

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### ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and is independently funded by a non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

Since 2016, in keeping with India's increasing global profile, DPG has expanded its focus areas to include India's regional and global role and its policies in the Indo-Pacific. In a realist environment, DPG remains mindful of the need to align India's ambitions with matching strategies and capabilities, from diplomatic initiatives to security policy and military modernisation.

At a time of disruptive change in the global order, DPG aims to deliver research based, relevant, reliable and realist policy perspectives to an actively engaged public, both at home and abroad. DPG is deeply committed to the growth of India's national power and purpose, the security and prosperity of the people of India and India's contributions to the global public good. We remain firmly anchored within these foundational principles which have defined DPG since its inception.

### DPG Weekly Economic Roundup

DPG Weekly Economic Roundup covers developments related to India's economy, compiled from open source media.

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Shruthi Mohan Menon at [shruthi@dpg.org.in](mailto:shruthi@dpg.org.in).

Delhi Policy Group is an independent and autonomous, not for profit think tank which focuses on strategic issues of critical national interest.

### Cover Photograph:

*(Photograph)*

*Courtesy: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressing at the Valedictory Function of India- Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE), through video conferencing, in New Delhi on February 19, 2021*

*Source: Press Information Bureau*

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## POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Reforms introduced in Budget 2021 to help India become \$5-trillion economy  
[Union Budget 2021-22: Reform measures in Budget to help India become \\$5-trillion economy, says CEA Subramanian](#)

The Financial Express, February 13, 2021

Agri cess proposed in the Budget 2021 to be distributed to states for improving APMC infrastructure

[Rs 30,000 crore via agri cess will go to states to improve APMC infra: FM](#)

Business Standard, February 15, 2021

Reforms to lay a path for India to become one of the top economies in the coming decades

[India will be 'one of top economies of world in coming decades': Sitharaman hints at more reforms](#)

The Financial Express, February 14, 2021

Right incentive, good infrastructure and proper institutional support could change Indian agriculture

[Agri-market freedom, water accounting could address few problems of agriculture in India](#)

The Indian Express, February 15, 2021

Centre releases 86% of total estimated GST compensation

[States, UTs get 16th instalment of GST shortfall compensation](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, February 15, 2021

RBI forms expert committee for Urban Cooperative Banks

[RBI sets up panel for strengthening UCBs](#)

The Financial Express, February 16, 2021

Centre considering to invite independent experts for privatisation of state-run companies

[India considers new panel to quicken privatization of state firms](#)

BloombergQuint, February 16, 2021

Government announces liberalisation of policies governing acquisition and production of geo-spatial data

[Centre liberalises mapping policy, allows free access to geospatial data](#)

Business Standard, February 16, 2021

Former RBI Governor urges for increased investments to stimulate growth  
[Growth stimulating investments with clear road map on fiscal consolidation crucial now: Dr Rangarajan](#)

The Financial Express, February 16, 2021

Government should give preference to employment creation than investment, says Bimal Jalan

[India's high priority for now should be to grow at 7-8 pc: Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan](#)

The Financial Express, February 16, 2021

FM Sitharaman explains priorities of the government to RBI Board

[FM Sitharaman explains government priorities in post-Budget address to RBI](#)

Business Standard, February 17, 2021

FM Sitharaman emphasizes on timely implementation of announcements related to the capital market

[FM addresses Sebi; calls for timely implementation of Budget announcements](#)

Business Standard, February 17, 2021

Union Cabinet gives nod to PLI scheme to boost local manufacturing of telecom and network equipment

[Government approves over 12,000-crore PLI scheme for telecom equipment](#)

Livemint, February 17, 2021

Government gives permission to projects in the food processing sector

[Centre approves projects worth ₹363 crore in food processing sector](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, February 17, 2021

India's approach to contain COVID, an inspiration for the world, says PM Modi

[India's fight against COVID-19 is inspiring the world: PM Modi](#)

Business Standard, February 17, 2021

National employment policy to be revived soon

[Five job surveys to set the ball rolling for employment policy](#)

Livemint, February 17, 2021

RBI issues directives for Housing Finance Companies

[RBI issues directions for Housing Finance Companies](#)

BloombergQuint, February 17, 2021

Resilience displayed by tech industry amidst the ongoing global crisis, a shining example of "New India"

[Build institutions that will outlive this century: PM Modi to startups](#)

Business Standard, February 18, 2021

Centre working towards increasing tax share of natural gas in the energy basket

[Government committed to bring natural gas under GST regime, says PM Modi](#)

Business Standard, February 18, 2021

Centre exempts 2.5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess on import of gold

[Government exempts gold imported by jewellery exporters from agriculture cess](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, February 18, 2021

RBI promulgates measures to improve governance standards of digital payment products

[RBI directs lenders to formulate e-payments policy](#)

Livemint, February 18, 2021

Centre committed to implement reforms for Discoms

[Policy and regulatory framework for Discoms in the offing: PM](#)

Business Standard, February 18, 2021

India's inflation target band up for review as MPC's term is coming to an end

[India's inflation target band up for review: FM Nirmala Sitharaman](#)

Business Standard, February 19, 2021

15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission recommends sound mechanism of funds allocation to enhance governance

[15th Finance Commission could catalyse accountability, effective governance at grassroots](#)

The Indian Express, February 19, 2021

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

Retail inflation eases due to declining vegetable prices

[Retail inflation eases to 4.06% in January](#)

Livemint, February 12, 2021

Industrial production enters positive growth territory in December 2020

[Industrial production grows 1% in December, enters positive territory after a month](#)

The Financial Express, February 12, 2021

GDP growth expectations getting stronger due to various reforms

[Expectations of GDP growth in Q3, Q4 becoming strong: PHDCCI](#)

The Economic Times, February 13, 2021

Smartphone market registers decline in CY2020, Y-o-Y

[India smartphone market declines 1.7% in CY2020 after years of growth: IDC](#)

Business Standard, February 15, 2021

WPI rises to 2.03% in January 2021 compared to 1.22% in December 2020

[WPI inflation rises to 2.03 pc in Jan on costlier manufactured items, food prices ease](#)

The Economic Times, February 15, 2021

Bank credit and deposits witness growth in fortnight ended January 29, 2021

[Bank credit grows by 5.93% to Rs 107 trillion, deposits by 11.06%: RBI data](#)

Business Standard, February 15, 2021

Movement of goods across the country shows upward trend

[As recovery strengthens, logistics indicators scale new highs](#)

BloombergQuint, February 16, 2021

FMCG sector registers growth in Q2 of FY21

[FMCG Sector Grows For Second Straight Quarter, Says Nielsen](#)

BloombergQuint, February 16, 2021

Growth in non-food credit registers a decline during fortnight ended Jan 29, Y-o-Y

[Non-food credit growth slips below 6%: RBI data](#)

The Financial Express, February 17, 2021

Huge variation in GDP performance among Indian states

[The best and worst-performing states of India](#)

BloombergQuint, February 18, 2021

Domestic air passenger traffic declines in January

[India's domestic air passenger traffic down 40% to 7.7 million in January](#)

Business Standard, February 18, 2021

Reasons for rise in fuel prices in India

[Petrol touches ₹100/litre in some cities, here's why it's so costly](#)

Livemint, February 19, 2021

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Exports of passenger vehicles rise by 1.15% in January 2021

[Passenger vehicle exports recover marginally in January 2021](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, February 14, 2021

Investments by FPIs in February show positive sentiments in Budget 2021

[FPIs invest Rs 22,038 crore in February so far amid post-Budget cheer](#)

Business Standard, February 15, 2021

IT industry to witness growth in exports to USD 150 billion

[Indian IT industry to grow by 2.3% in FY21 despite contraction in tech spends: Nasscom](#)

The Times of India, February 15, 2021

Exports exhibit positive growth leading to total exports of USD 27.45 billion in Jan 2021

[India's Exports rise 6.16% in January, trade deficit narrows](#)

BloombergQuint, February 15, 2021

India's exports to the US suffer a blow due to Covid-19 pandemic

[India's exports to US decline 11.3% in 2020, register record growth in December](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, February 16, 2021

UAE, India's third largest trading partner, bolstered by increased investments

[Dubai shines as India-UAE ties grows stronger](#)

The Economic Times, February 17, 2021

Union Cabinet clears Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement between India and Mauritius

[Government clears signing of India-Mauritius free trade pact; over 300 domestic items to get concessional market access](#)

The Financial Express, February 17, 2021

India's cargo traffic declines to 542.13 million tonnes

[Cargo traffic at 12 major ports falls for 10th month in January](#)

The Economic Times, February 17, 2021

Long-awaited mini trade deal between India and US is off the table

[Mini US deal off the table, will try 'fresh package', says Piyush Goyal](#)

The Indian Express, February 18, 2021

Foreign portfolio investments record highest inflows since 2015

[Pumping in \\$33.8 billion so far this fiscal, FPIs' holding at record \\$592.5 billion](#)

Business Standard, February 18, 2021

Three 'Bs' to help expand people to people engagement and strengthen economic ties between India and Singapore

[Buddhism, Bollywood, Business can expand people-to-people engagement between India, Singapore: Piyush Goyal](#)

The Financial Express, February 18, 2021

PE/VC investments decline in January 2021

[PE/VC investments drop by 35% in January to \\$1.6 billion: EY-IVCA data](#)

Business Standard, February 18, 2021

Government initiates anti-dumping investigation on import of plastic processing machines from China

[India begins anti-dumping probe into plastic processing machine imports from China](#)

The Economic Times, February 18, 2021

## INTERNATIONAL SCENE

World Bank report sheds light on the links between road crashes, poverty, inequality, and vulnerable road users in India

[Over 75% of poor households in India reported a decline in income as a result of road accident, says World Bank Report](#)

The Economic Times, February 13, 2021

Usha Rao-Monari appointed as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP

[India's Usha Rao-Monari appointed as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP](#)

The Economic Times, February 18, 2021

PM Modi pitches for special visas for health workers

[Modi pitches for more collaboration on health among neighbouring countries](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, February 18, 2021

Outlook for merchandise trade to depend on evolution of virus and dissemination of vaccines

[Aided by strong Q4 recovery, decline in 2020 global trade less severe than earlier forecast: WTO](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, February 19, 2021

Circular Economy can be a key step in addressing the ecological strain on our planet: PM

[PM addresses India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon \(I-ACE\)](#)

Press Information Bureau, February 19, 2021



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