

# Weekly Economic Roundup



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### Delhi Policy Group

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



# DPG Weekly Economic Roundup Volume 1, Issue 26 July 17, 2020

### **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.

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 the 15th India-EU Virtual Summit 2020, on July 15, 2020 Source: Press Information Bureau

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#### POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

PM Modi reiterates the need to maintain personal hygiene and follow social distancing norms

PM chaired review meeting on COVID-19 pandemic preparations

The Times of India, July 11, 2020

Prime Minister urges government departments and agencies to procure solar equipment from domestic manufacturers

Time we end import reliance for solar equipment, says PM Modi

The Indian Express, July 11, 2020

Aatmanirbhar package: Rs 60,000 crore to be disbursed to MSMEs FM Sitharaman reviews implementation of Aatmanirbhar package The Hindu BusinessLine, July 12, 2020

Centre to increase borrowing limits of states from 3 to 5 per cent of SGDP for

Finance Ministry writes to states on additional 2 per cent borrowing

The Economic Times, July 12, 2020

Government should pay remuneration to companies for obtaining nonpersonal data recommends panel

Panel suggests government pay companies for processed non-personal data The Economic Times, July 12, 2020

Centre searches options to fund the regional air connectivity scheme Government explores options to fund Udan scheme as airlines face low demand

Business Standard, July 12, 2020

India's first boost towards self-reliance to be achieved in manufacturing of urea with Chinese assistance

Atmanirbhar Bharat's first boost to be made in China; 5 new urea plants to make India self-reliant

The Financial Express, July 13, 2020

Government identifies sectors to promote Indian manufacturing Not against imports, have to import products where we have difficulty: Piyush Goval

The Economic Times, July 13, 2020



NITI Aayog Vice Chairman emphasises to accelerate progress in achieving SDGs by converting pandemic situation into opportunity

Convert pandemic situation into opportunity to meet sustainable development goals: Niti Aayog's Rajiv Kumar

The Financial Express, July 13, 2020

Reserve Bank of India turns net purchaser of US dollars in May 2020 RBI turns net purchaser of US dollar in May, buys \$4.363 billion Business Standard, July 13, 2020

Expert committee on Non-Personal Data Governance Framework seeks feedback on draft report submitted by the government appointed panel Government invites feedback on non-personal data governance draft report The Economic Times, July 13, 2020

Finance Minister highlights the need to ensure dissemination of information to farmers

FM Sitharaman stresses on subsidy releases for timely claim settlement under PMFBY

The Financial Express, July 14, 2020

Economic reforms and necessary stimulus undertaken to restart COVID-hit economy are profound

View: Economic reforms are sustained, deep and pronounced under PM Modi The Economic Times, July 14, 2020

India to expedite the process of bringing the economy back on track India will revisit existing business models to propel growth: NITI Aavog tells UN

The Hindu BusinessLine, July 14, 2020

Prime Minister Modi reviews India's economic situation amid the COVID-19 pandemic

PM Modi reviews state of economy with FM Sitharaman as India comes out of world's toughest coronavirus lockdown

The Financial Express, July 14, 2020

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship begins mapping global skills of youth to facilitate employment opportunities

Government mapping global skills requirements to help employees get work: PM Narendra Modi

The Economic Times, July 15, 2020



Former RBI governor urges Government to accelerate revenue generation of profitable firms to boost economic growth in the long run

Government should focus on spending on profitable firms to boost economy, ex-RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan

The Financial Express, July 15, 2020

Former RBI Governor urges Centre to focus on rural economy to boost economic growth

<u>India needs to leverage farm sector performance to push growth: Ex-RBI</u> Governor Subbarao

The Economic Times, July 15, 2020

Centre should give money to deprived amid the COVID-19 pandemic, says Abhijit Banerjee

Government should loosen purse string in short run to provide bigger funds to poor, says Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee

The Financial Express, July 15, 2020

PM emphasises on relevant skills in a rapidly changing business environment and market conditions

PM Modi: Mantra to stay relevant is to skill, re-skill & upskill

The Indian Express, July 16, 2020

India to own the world's first large 'Clean Railways' by 2030 Railways to become 100% electrified in next 3.5 years: Piyush Goyal Business Standard, July 16, 2020

Government imposes curbs on inbound shipments of power tillers and related components

Centre targets China with curbs on import of power tiller and components Business Standard, July 16, 2020

FICCI proposes various measures to help rehabilitate migrant workers

<u>Ficci proposes financial aid, support centres for rehabilitation of migrant workers</u>

The Economic Times, July 16, 2020

Extensive shutdowns in States threaten revival of the economy in post COVID-19 pandemic

Centre worried about the effects of micro lockdowns on macro recovery The Economic Times, July 17, 2020



#### **ECONOMIC TRENDS**

Index of Industrial Production contracts at a slower pace to 34.7% in May Unlockdown helps economic activities pick up, but factory output still in the negative

The Indian Express, July 11, 2020

Thermal coal imports decline in first quarter of FY21 Thermal coal imports at major ports drop 35% to 17.71 MT in Apr-June: IPA Business Standard, July 12, 2020

Nomura expects uptick in economic growth in second half of 2020 though it may vary across regions

Economic recovery to gather pace in H2-2020; stay negative on India: Nomura Business Standard, July 13, 2020

Wholesale prices contract by 1.81 per cent in June due to decline in prices of crude oil

WPI inflation contracts for third consecutive month in June Livemint, July 14, 2020

Retail inflation registers an uptick due to increase in food prices Retail Inflation above 6% in June, economists expect further rate cuts The Economic Times, July 14, 2020

Former RBI Governor warns of unprecedented rise in NPA levels amid the pandemic situation

India's financial sector to see record levels of bad loans in six months: Rajan Livemint, July 15, 2020

Gap between the two price gauges remains at 7.9 percentage points in June Covid blues: Wedge between CPI, WPI widens

The Financial Express, July 15, 2020

A less optimistic picture on consumption emerges despite unlocking the economy

July data indicates consumption may be stagnating amid Covid-19 crisis Business Standard, July 15, 2020

Improved agricultural growth to propel India's economic recovery Agriculture GDP growth this year to beat 5-year average; rural India holds key to economic recovery

The Financial Express, July 16, 2020



Financial assistance to state-owned insurance companies, a positive move Capital infusion in 3 state-owned insurers 'credit positive': Moody's Business Standard, July 16, 2020

Power generation recovers as industries and commercial establishments open up

Electricity output recovers in first half of July as economy opens up Business Standard, July 16, 2020



#### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

India's foreign exchange reserves jumped by \$6.4 billion in the week ended July 03 on account of healthy inflow of FDI and FPI

FDI. FPI inflows propel forex reserves to record high of \$513.25 billion The Indian Express, July 11, 2020

Government to ease FDI norms to attract more investment and boost economic activity

To wean business away from China, eased FDI norms likely

The Times of India, July 12, 2020

Bilateral trade between India and the US stood at \$88,75 billion in 2019-20 US remains India's top trading partner in 2019-20

The Times of India, July 12, 2020

Centre allows exports of all non-woven fabric used to make personal protection equipment

Government lifts export ban on non-woven fabric used for making masks and coveralls

The Economic Times, July 13, 2020

Centre extends relief to the gems and jewellery sector

Government extends time for duty-free import of diamonds sent for certification

Livemint, July 13, 2020

Mexico reaffirms its multilateralist conviction to strengthen India-Mexico partnership

Mexico pitches stronger ties with India to reinvigorate WTO to strengthen multilateralism

The Economic Times, July 14, 2020

Exports to Latin America register an uptick, highest in five years

India's exports to Latin America increased to 13.2 billion dollars in 2019-20, the highest in the last five years

The Financial Express, July 14, 2020

Top business leaders of India and the US discuss possibilities of collaboration in key sectors

India, US CEOs discuss collaboration in agriculture, digital payments & services The Economic Times, July 15, 2020



India urges for continuation of moratorium on customs duties on e-commerce trade during the pandemic situation

India urges WTO members to reconsider moratorium on duties on ecommerce

The Financial Express, July 15, 2020

India's international trade plunges in June 2020 Exports fall 12.41%, imports by 47.5% in June The Financial Express, July 15, 2020

India registers a trade surplus of \$790 million in June 2020 India posts first trade surplus in 18 years as coronavirus hits imports Business Standard, July 15, 2020

Business leaders call for broader India-US FTA

Pivush Goyal-Wilbur Ross meeting: CEOs pitch for India-US free trade agreement

The Financial Express, July 16, 2020

Top global companies invest in key sectors in India Strong foreign investment flow from Google, Facebook despite coronavirus woes

The Economic Times, July 16, 2020

Strong Indo-US economic ties would transform India into a regional counterweight to China

The US needs to make India a bigger Trade partner Bloomberg, July 17, 2020

India pushes for signing a limited trade deal with the US India bats for inking limited trade deal with US during trade meet Business Standard, July 17, 2020

Chasm between exports and imports reflects contraction in domestic demand A demand problem

The Indian Express, July 17, 2020



#### INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Google to strengthen its presence in India's digital ecosystem

<u>Google plans to invest Rs 75,000 crore in India to boost digital economy</u>

Livemint, July 13, 2020

India emphasises the need for seed diversity for sustainable agriculture at the United Nations

Sustainable agriculture is fundamental to food security, need to bring seed diversity back: India at UN

The Economic Times, July 15, 2020

India-EU Summit will strengthen economic and cultural linkages, says PM Modi

<u>India-EU Summit will strengthen economic linkages with Europe: PM Modi</u> The Hindu BusinessLine, July 15, 2020

PM calls for more cooperation between democratic nations in the pandemic situation

Europe a natural partner, need action-oriented agenda for symbiosis: Modi Business Standard, July 15, 2020

India and EU commit for a mutually balanced and favourable trade and investment agreement

PM Modi calls for 'broad-based' ties with EU, laments weakening of rule-based global order

The Financial Express, July 16, 2020

Indian pharmaceutical industry capable of producing vaccines not just for India but for the entire world, says Bill Gates

<u>Indian pharma can produce Covid-19 vaccines for entire world: Bill Gates</u> Business Standard, July 17, 2020

Prime Minister Modi to deliver a virtual keynote address at the High-Level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council session PM Modi to address High-Level Segment of UN ECOSOC on Friday

The Financial Express, July 17, 2020

India and US to collaborate in areas of technology and digital commerce India, US likely to partner on 5G network: US-India Business Council head Business Standard, July 17, 2020



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