



**Delhi Policy Group**

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



# Weekly Economic Roundup



Volume 1, Issue 31 | August 21, 2020

**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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Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

## 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: PM Modi addresses the nation on the 74th Independence Day from Red Fort, New Delhi*

*Source: PMO*

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## POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

PM announces launch of health ID for every Indian citizen under National Digital Health Mission, at 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebration

[PM Modi announces launch of National Digital Health Mission](#)

The Economic Times, August 15, 2020

Two crore families provided piped drinking water under Jal Jeevan Mission, says PM

[Two crore families provided with piped drinking water in last one year: PM Modi](#)

The Financial Express, August 15, 2020

Prime Minister stresses on a self-reliant farming society

[Prime Minister Modi wants self-reliant farmers for Atmanirbhar Bharat; focuses on agri reforms](#)

The Financial Express, August 15, 2020

PM focusses on eight crucial areas for building a self-reliant India in his Independence Day speech

[Eight focus areas in Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day address](#)

Business Standard, August 15, 2020

PM Modi emphasises on the need for self-reliance and 'making for the world'

[We must 'Make for the world' as we 'Make in India': PM Modi in I-Day speech](#)

Business Standard, August 15, 2020

Centre's initiative to boost productivity and economic progress

[PM Modi chairs meet to review preparations for master plan for multi-modal connectivity to economic zones](#)

The Financial Express, August 17, 2020

FM urges UAE to participate in India's National Infrastructure Pipeline project

[FM seeks investment from UAE for Rs 111 trillion National Infra Pipeline](#)

Business Standard, August 17, 2020

'Atmanirbhar' needs to focus on removing differences in production patterns and improving competitiveness in the manufacturing sector

[Why Informal India cannot be 'Atmanirbhar' India](#)

Business Standard, August 17, 2020

India needs spatial and temporal integration of agri-markets

[New agriculture infrastructure fund is a major step forward. Policymakers must have stable policies for them](#)

The Indian Express, August 17, 2020

Government spending on new projects hits in Q1 amid the COVID-19 pandemic

[Trade-off between lives, livelihoods, economy: Government's spending on new projects takes severe hit in Q1](#)

The Financial Express, August 18, 2020

Policies need to focus on agro-processing infrastructure and functioning of markets, says Y K Alagh

[Policymaking has to take the lead in addressing urban-rural disparities](#)

The Indian Express, August 18, 2020

Government set to privatise four public sector banks

[India may begin bank privatisation push by selling stake in four lenders this fiscal](#)

The Economic Times, August 18, 2020

Centre gives nod for exports of non-woven fabrics used to make masks and coveralls

[Government permits exports of certain non-woven fabrics used for making masks, coveralls](#)

The Economic Times, August 18, 2020

Centre increases Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane for FY21

[CCEA approves increase in sugarcane FRP by Rs 10 to Rs 285/quintal for 2020-21: Sources](#)

Financial Express, August 19, 2020

Cabinet approves setting up National Recruitment Agency to conduct Common Eligibility Test

[National Recruitment Agency to be boon for youngsters, will boost transparency: PM Modi](#)

The Times of India, August 19, 2020

Government announces a clutch of decisions to impart momentum to the economy

[Cabinet nod: Energy, infra, MSMEs are key gainers](#)

The Financial Express, August 20, 2020

Niti Aayog fast-tracks development of India's poverty index to rank states in accordance with measures adopted to pull people out of poverty

[Niti Aayog fast-tracks development of poverty index to rank states](#)

The Economic Times, August 20, 2020

Piyush Goyal urges pharma players to continue their contributions in making India self-reliant

[Indian pharma industry to play a major role in 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', says Goyal](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, August 20, 2020

Government proposes a single online compliance framework for companies

[Ease of doing biz: Government proposes unified compliance platform for India Inc](#)

Business Standard, August 21, 2020

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

Slump in power demand in first fortnight of August 2020

[Peak power demand declines to 5.65 per cent in first fortnight of August](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, August 16, 2020

Heightened global uncertainty and domestic financial stress perpetuate a subdued economy, says K M Birla

[Covid-19 set off once in-a-century crisis; economy may contract: K M Birla](#)

Business Standard, August 16, 2020

India's latest incentives to entice investments show positive signals

[Shifting supply chains: China's loss may be India's gain](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, August 17, 2020

Weak demand and high inventory levels pull down coal prices

[Coal prices to remain subdued this fiscal amid weak demand, high inventory](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, August 17, 2020

Total solar capacity addition in second quarter plummets by 86% Y-o-Y basis

[Solar capacity addition in Covid-hit second quarter fell to a six-year low of 205 MW](#)

The Economic Times, August 17, 2020

Rising unemployment among the salaried class to impact the economy

[Loss of urban salaried jobs likely to have debilitating impact on economy](#)

Business Standard, August 18, 2020

Major sectors witness maximum demand for skill development among migrant workers

[Construction, agriculture, electronics witness maximum demand for skill development](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, August 18, 2020

Unlocking frictions in nine key sectors likely to boost the economy

[India's road to economic revival: Unlocking frictions in these 9 sectors may significantly boost economy](#)

The Financial Express, August 18, 2020

Lockdown leads to dwindling sales of milk products

[Sale of dairy products down due to demand slump after coronavirus-induced lockdown](#)

The Economic Times, August 18, 2020

Economists estimate a contraction in GDP in the range of 13.6-35% in Q1 of FY21

[Economists agree on massive GDP contraction, differ widely on the extent](#)

Business Standard, August 19, 2020

Unemployment among salaried individuals surges during April-July 2020

[18.9 million salaried people lost jobs since April, 5 million in July, says CMIE](#)

Business Standard, August 19, 2020

Telemedicine service achieves remarkable penetration since its implementation in Nov 2019

[Health Ministry's 'eSanjeevani' telemedicine service records 2 lakh tele-consultations](#)

The Economic Times, August 19, 2020

Turnover of auto component sector contracts in FY20

[Auto component sector contracts 12% to Rs 3.49 lakh crore in 2019-20](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, August 19, 2020

Local lockdown impact: Consumer confidence dips in August 2020 by 1.6 percentage points

[Consumer confidence slips amid job losses, COVID-19, economic fallout; further nosedive likely](#)

The Financial Express, August 19, 2020

Majority of migrant workers received free food grain under Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme

[90% target met as 2.5crore migrants got free grain](#)

The Times of India, August 19, 2020

Solid waste management is the next goal of Swachh Bharat mission

[Swachh Bharat report card: 72 lakh urban toilets built; next stage, water treatment, toilet waste disposal](#)

Financial Express, August 20, 2020



Subscriber base of Employees Provident Fund Organisation surges during April-June 2020

[EPFO: Subscriber base up by 8.47 lakh in April-June](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, August 20, 2020

Centre provides financial aid to MSMEs under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme

[Over Rs 1 lakh crore worth of loans disbursed under ECLGS until Tuesday](#)

The Economic Times, August 20, 2020

Lockdown impact: Hospitality industry operating at much less than its capacity  
['Only 17% of restaurants open, industry operating at 8-10% of pre-COVID levels'](#)

The Indian Express, August 20, 2020

Retail inflation for farm and rural workers ease to 6.58 % and 6.53 % respectively in July 2020

[Retail inflation for farm, rural workers drops in July](#)

The Financial Express, August 20, 2020

Companies record 2.9 per cent salary hike, slowest growth in 18 years

[Salary pains: Wages rise at slowest pace in 18 years in listed firms; these sectors hit hardest](#)

The Financial Express, August 21, 2020

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Merchandise exports register an improvement in July 2020

[Signs of recovery? Trade contraction narrows sharply to 28.4% in July](#)

The Financial Express, August 15, 2020

Poor demand leads to decline in gold imports during April-July 2020

[Gold imports dip 81% in April-July to \\$2.47 bn, silver imports down 56.5%](#)

Business Standard, August 16, 2020

India's exports of seafood decline by 7.39 % amid the COVID-19 pandemic

[COVID impact: Sluggish demand hits India's seafood exports in 2019-20](#)

The Hindu BusinessLine, August 17, 2020

Anti-dumping duty on caustic soda extended by another three months

[Government extends anti-dumping duty on caustic soda from China, Korea](#)

The Financial Express, August 17, 2020

Indian seafood exporters expect demand from the West to rise in the coming months

[US, Europe demand for Indian seafood to rise from September: Exporters](#)

The Economic Times, August 18, 2020

Agricultural exports rise to Rs 25,553 crore in March-June 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic

[India's farm exports rise 23.24% in March-June 2020 despite pandemic](#)

The Economic Times, August 18, 2020

India and Bangladesh agree to explore new areas of cooperation

[India, Bangladesh explore new areas of cooperation in advanced tech, AI, ecology & vaccines](#)

The Economic Times, August 19, 2020

India, Japan and Australia to launch a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative to reduce dependency on China

[India-Japan-Australia supply chain in the works to counter China](#)

The Economic Times, August 19, 2020

Solvent Extractors Association of India urges Centre to allow import of crude palm oil only

[Edible oil industry body SEA urges government to allow import of only crude palm oil](#)

The Economic Times, August 20, 2020

India must make sure the participation of both business and technology experts to become a trading hub

[View: How India can return to its past as a great trading power](#)

The Economic Times, August 21, 2020

## INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Unemployment rate to rise in India due to COVID-19

[6.1 million youth may lose jobs in India due to Covid-19: ADB-ILO report](#)

Business Standard, August 19, 2020

World Bank projects a steeper contraction of Indian economy for the current fiscal

[World Bank sees higher GDP fall in India than 3.2% it projected for FY21](#)

Business Standard, August 19, 2020

Global merchandise trade registers a historic fall in the second quarter of 2020

[World Trade Organisation goods trade index hits record low, detects some recovery signs](#)

The Economic Times, August 19, 2020

World Bank urges India to undertake necessary steps to reverse the current economic slowdown

[India needs to maintain reform momentum to spur private investment: World Bank](#)

The Economic Times, August 20, 2020



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