

# Weekly Economic Roundup



Volume 1, Issue 34 | September 11, 2020

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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.

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: Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched PSBs Doorstep Banking Services! Improved access for hasslefree and convenient Banking. A citizen friendly initiative Source: Twitter|@FinMinIndia

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### POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Higher contraction in GDP is the result of stringent lockdown <u>'High GDP contraction due to strict lockdown, economy witnessing sharp V-</u> <u>shaped recovery': Finance Ministry</u> The Indian Express, September 5, 2020

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs releases ranking of states based on implementation of Business Reform Action Plan <u>Ranking of states based on implementation of Business Reform Action Plan for</u> <u>the year 2019 declared</u> Press Information Bureau, September 5, 2020

India's commitment to reform is taken seriously by investors abroad, says FM <u>India's commitment to reform being taken seriously by foreign investors: FM</u> The Hindu BusinessLine, September 5, 2020

Draft proposal for third party data retrieval may allow access to information across sectors

Draft on architecture for third-party access to data released, NITI seeks views The Indian Express, September 5, 2020

India may register marginal positive GDP growth in FY21, says former RBI Governor

<u>Small positive growth may not be ruled out in FY21, says Rangarajan</u> The Financial Express, September 6, 2020

New Education Policy to take the country forward in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the youths in twenty first century, says the President <u>New Education Policy to make India a knowledge hub, says President Kovind</u> The Hindu BusinessLine, September 7, 2020

RBI allows simultaneous sale and purchase of government securities under Open Market Operations

<u>RBI announces OMO for sale, purchase of government securities of Rs</u> 10,000 crore

The Financial Express, September 7, 2020

Innovations in India aimed at scaling-up production of active pharmaceutical ingredients India scaling up production of active pharmaceutical ingredients: Kant

Business Standard, September 8, 2020

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KV Kamath committee identifies 26 sectors which require restructuring <u>RBI constituted KV Kamath committee names 26 sectors for restructuring</u> The Economic Times, September 8, 2020

Piyush Goyal urges for cost-effective solutions in the <u>logistics</u> sector <u>Goyal urges industry to work with Railways in reducing cost of logistics</u> Business Standard, September 9, 2020

Union cabinet approves amendments in the labour codes <u>Cabinet approves amendments to 3 Labour codes</u> The Economic Times, September 9, 2020

Centre launches new schemes to support MSMEs aimed at Aatmanirbhar Bharat

<u>Government launches new Aatmanirbhar Bharat schemes to support MSMEs,</u> <u>start-ups</u>

Business Standard, September 9, 2020

Government is taking initiatives to enable a strong skill development ecosystem

<u>Government's skill agenda is to create workforce to match global demands:</u> <u>PM Modi</u>

The Financial Express, September 10, 2020

NABARD to provide financial aid to support farmers amid the COVID-19 crisis <u>Nabard to disburse Rs 1.2 trillion crop loan for farmers this fiscal</u> Business Standard, September 10, 2020

Prime Minister launches Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana <u>PM Modi launches Rs 20,050-crore PMMSY scheme to boost fisheries sector</u> The Economic Times, September 10, 2020

FM inaugurates Doorstep Banking Services to be provided by Public Sector Banks

<u>FM Nirmala Sitharaman launches Doorstep Banking Services by PSBs</u> Livemint, September 10, 2020

Centre releases funds as part of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant <u>Centre releases Rs 6,195 crore to 14 states as devolution of taxes</u> Business Standard, September 11, 2020 Volume 1, Issue 34 | September 11, 2020



New Education Policy will sow the seeds for starting a new era, says PM Modi <u>PM Modi speech on NEP 2020 HIGHLIGHTS: I urge all stakeholders to come</u> <u>together to implement NEP by 2022: PM</u> The Indian Express, September 11, 2020

States should work with the Centre in the true spirit of cooperative federalism with regard to GST compensation

On GST compensation, the way out requires states to come forward to work with Centre

The Indian Express, September 11, 2020

Centre sets up a panel to assess the waiver of interest on interest <u>Government Forms Panel to Assess Waiver of 'Interest on Interest'</u> BloombergQuint, September 11, 2020



### ECONOMIC TRENDS

Experts caution the government against policies that may trigger inflationary conditions

Experts advise caution on stagflation fears amid 24% GDP contraction Business Standard, September 7, 2020

Domestic crude oil production registers a dip during April-July 2020 <u>Crude output dips 6.1% in FY21, gas hit harder</u> The Financial Express, September 7, 2020

Activity restrictions led to contraction in economic indicators during Q1 <u>An Expert Explains: Decoding GDP contraction</u> The Indian Express, September 7, 2020

Capital expenditure registers a drop of 47 per cent in July 2020 <u>After 40% rise in Q1, capital expenditure dropped in July, shows data</u> Business Standard, September 8, 2020

Pandemic lockdown inflicts losses worth Rs 15.5 lakh crore <u>Covid-19 impact: Rs 15.5 lakh crore corporate loans come under stress</u> The Indian Express, September 8, 2020

Cash starved states increase borrowings during the pandemic <u>Covid-19 aftermath: States' borrowings soar 51% to Rs 2.97 lakh crore so far</u> <u>this fiscal</u> The Financial Express September 8, 2020

The Financial Express, September 8, 2020

The year 2020 to be the year of rural growth <u>Rural spending overtakes urban; rural growth seen as the only silver lining in</u> <u>mid term</u> The Economic Times, September 8, 2020

Employees Provident Fund Organisation settles 9.4 million claims during April-August 2020

EPFO settles 9.4 million claims of formal sector workers since Covid-19 outbreak

Business Standard, September 9, 2020



Unemployment set to rise during current economic contraction <u>CMIE: 'Slump in growth starts showing: About 21 million salaried jobs lost in</u> <u>Apr-Aug'</u>

The Indian Express, September 9, 2020

Local lockdown impact: Fuel demand posts biggest decline in August 2020 <u>Covid effect: India's fuel demand dips most since April</u> The Financial Express, September 10, 2020

Rise in rural workforce strain MGNREGS funds <u>MGNREGS funds fast drying up as demand surges amid Covid-19 pandemic</u> Business Standard, September 11, 2020

The latest attempt at loans restructuring is to reverse the approach in taking bad loans

Loan restructuring: This time is different Business Standard, September 11, 2020



### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Central Board of Indirect Taxes to roll out faceless assessment facility in all ports <u>Customs to roll out pan-India faceless assessment for all imports by Oct 31</u> Business Standard, September 6, 2020

Exports of farm produce increase substantially in Q1 Y-o-Y basis <u>Rice, sugar push up Q1 farm exports by 23%</u> The Economic Times, September 7, 2020

India to conduct probe into dumping of medicines from China <u>India initiates probe against alleged dumping of Vitamin C from China</u> The Financial Express, September 7, 2020

Low consumption of palm oil leads to fall in inbound shipments India's palm imports drop from 10 month high on weak demand The Hindu BusinessLine, September 8, 2020

India to ban imports of Chinese silk amid rising border tensions <u>Banarasi saris made from Chinese silk, no more: After strike on apps,</u> <u>government plans to cut silk imports</u> The Financial Express, September 9, 2020

India to raise surveillance on copper and aluminium imports in a bid to push for economic self-reliance <u>India moves to 'screen' copper, aluminium imports with an eye on China</u> The Hindu BusinessLine, September 11, 2020

India to gain significantly from trade agreement with the US, says Piyush Goyal India-US trade deal: Have given very good and balanced offer to America, says Piyush Goyal

The Financial Express, September 10, 2020

India keen to sign a free trade agreement with the US, EU, UK and Russia, says Piyush Goyal

FTA talks with Russia, US, EU on, trade policy not planned around one nation: Piyush Goyal

The Economic Times, September 10, 2020

Exports rise during the first week of September 2020 Y-o-Y basis India's exports in September first week jump 13% to \$6.12 billion Business Standard, September 10, 2020



### INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Japan to extend subsidy to its companies planning to move their factories from China to India <u>Exiting China: Japan to offer sops to its firms that move to India</u> The Financial Express, September 5, 2020

India's first bullet train might be delayed by five-years <u>India's bullet train faces 5-year delay: High costs, Japan firms not so keen</u> The Indian Express, September 6, 2020

International Solar Alliance designs a plan to implement One Solar One World and One Grid policy

International Solar Alliance signs MoUs with NTPC, MNRE and World Bank Business Standard, September 8, 2020

India and ADB sign an agreement to build a high-speed 82 KM Delhi-Meerut corridor

ADB, government ink \$500-million loan pact for Delhi-Meerut corridor The Indian Express, September 9, 2020

India, France and Australia hold dialogue on priorities and challenges in multilateral institutions

India, France, Australia hold trilateral dialogue on economic, strategic challenges in Indi-Pacific

The Hindu BusinessLine, September 9, 2020

India and Japan to continue the steady progress in bilateral economic cooperation

Modi, Abe re-affirm progress in bilateral ties, bullet train project The Hindu BusinessLine, September 10, 2020

India needs more stimulus to support vulnerable households and businesses, says IMF

<u>Covid crisis: IMF says further fiscal stimulus warranted in India</u> The Financial Express, September 10, 2020

India's ranking slides down on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 India slips 26 spots to 105th position on economic freedom index: Report Business Standard, September 10, 2020



G20 member countries discuss ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market

Continue to work together against problems resulting from coronavirus: Gangwar to G-20 members

The Economic Times, September 11, 2020



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