

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 35 September 18, 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: PM Modi gives message to farmers on New Farm Bill 2020

Source: Twitter | @narendramodi

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POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Crisis converted into opportunity by reducing 125 to 45-60 days for completion of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

Converting crisis into opportunity: PM Modi inaugurates 1.75 lakh houses; time for making houses halved

The Financial Express, September 13, 2020

Prime Minister inaugurates three key projects related to petroleum sector PM Modi dedicates three petroleum sector projects in Bihar the nation The Times of India, September 13, 2020

Centre provides financial aid to farmers and MSMEs for Atmanirbhar Bharat Atmanirbhar Bharat report card: Rs 25k crore disbursed to farmers, Rs 1.18 lakh crore credited to MSMEs so far

The Financial Express, September 13, 2020

Twelve states opt for borrowing option to meet shortfall in GST transition GST: 12 states accept centre's Rs 97,000 crore borrowing option The Economic Times, September 14, 2020

Government proposes seven more bullet train projects Centre plans 7 more bullet train projects at Rs 10-trillion cost Business Standard, September 14, 2020

Finance Minister seeks additional funds under MGNREGS FM presents first supplementary demands; seeks additional Rs 2.35 lakh crore The Economic Times, September 14, 2020

Centre receives parliamentary nod to provide financial aid to lenders Government to infuse Rs 20,000 crore in India's state-run banks The Economic Times, September 14, 2020

FM introduces Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduces Bill on bilateral netting, to help banks

The Financial Express, September 15, 2020

New Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2020 introduced to ensure better management of cooperative banks

Banking Regulation Bill: A ray of hope for PMC Bank depositors

The Hindu BusinessLine, September 15, 2020



Centre working to ensure a comprehensive and legal framework to deal with data access

Government working on strong legal frameworks for data handling The Hindu BusinessLine, September 15, 2020

Fifteen states seek changes in three labour laws to improve ease of doing business

15 states seek approval for changes in three labour laws from Centre The Economic Times, September 16, 2020

Parliamentary Standing Committee calls for expansion of SIDBI Fund-of-Funds vehicle to support start-ups

'Indian startups should cut reliance on foreign funding sources like US and China'

The Indian Express, September 16, 2020

IT department to allow physical hearing under faceless assessment scheme Income tax dept framing rules to enable physical hearing under faceless assessment scheme

The Economic Times, September 17, 2020

COVID-19 pandemic weakens urban co-operative banks

Financial status of almost a fifth urban co-operative banks weak: Nirmala Sitharaman

The Financial Express, September 17, 2020

Lok Sabha passes New Farm Bill 2020

Lok Sabha passes The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

Press Information Bureau, September 17, 2020

New farm reforms to provide new opportunities to farmers, says PM Farm bills to boost farmers' income, forces trying to mislead them: Modi Business Standard, September 17, 2020

Farm sector reforms a revolutionary step to increase farmers' income, says Narendra Singh Tomar

Agriculture minister strongly defends the two farm sector reform Bills The Economic Times, September 17, 2020



Minimum Support Price for farmers will continue, says Agriculture minister Minimum support price mechanism for farmers will continue: Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar

The Economic Times, September 17, 2020

CBDT lays out guidelines for complete scrutiny under faceless assessment for FY21

CBDT lays out five parameters for compulsory selection of returns under faceless assessment

The Economic Times, September 18, 2020

PM Modi inaugurates Kosi Rail Mega project

PM dedicates Kosi rail mega bridge to nation, inaugurates several rail projects in Bihar

The Hindustan Times, September 18, 2020

PM Modi urges farmers to be careful about "misinformation" being spread at the behest of "middlemen"

PM Modi says farm reforms 'historic,' hits out at opposition The Times of India, September 18, 2020



ECONOMIC TRENDS

Index of Industrial Production registers a reduction in contraction in July 2020 Mild recovery: IIP drops 10.4% in July; bumpy road ahead The Financial Express, September 12, 2020

Power producers' outstanding dues rise in July Y-o-Y reflecting stress in the sector

Discoms' outstanding dues to power gencos rise 36% to Rs 1.29 trillion in July Business Standard, September 13, 2020

Chief Economic Advisor exudes confidence in decline of retail inflation with easing of lockdowns

Retail inflation to come down with easing of lockdowns: CEA Subramanian Business Standard, September 13, 2020

WPI turns positive in August reflecting recovery in producers' pricing power August WPI up 0.16%, turning positive for the first time after March The Economic Times, September 14, 2020

Income per household under MGNREGS doubles during current financial year MNREGS income per household nearly doubles to Rs 1,400 a month The Economic Times, September 14, 2020

CPI shows marginal decline in August Y-o-Y basis CPI inflation eases only a tad to 6.69% in August The Financial Express, September 15, 2020

Economic activity shows rising trend

India's economic activity almost at pre-lockdown levels but Covid looms: Nomura

The Economic Times, September 15, 2020

India will resume high growth trajectory post pandemic period, says CEA Government reforms will unleash growth wave for India: CEA The Hindu BusinessLine, September 15, 2020

Food security allowance given to children instead of midday meals during pandemic

9 crore kids got allowance in lieu of meals: Govt

The Times of India, September 15, 2020



Production of milk and egg continues to rise despite Covid-19 pandemic India's milk, egg production registers 6% increase despite coronavirus
Business Standard, September 16, 2020

Indian economy to move towards gradual recovery

<u>Shaktikanta Das sees economic activity stabilising in Q2; lists five things to do to revive growth</u>

The Financial Express, September 16, 2020

Protecting depositors' interest and preserving financial stability are prime concerns, says RBI Governor

<u>Prime concern is to protect depositors, ensure financial stability: RBI</u> Business Standard, September 16, 2020

Domestic toy industry gets major boost <u>Government extends mandatory BIS norms for toys</u> The Times of India, September 16, 2020

Power ministry is set to give more powers to consumers

<u>Power ministry rule book for discoms to make consumer king</u>

The Times of India, September 16, 2020

Central bank battle-ready with necessary measures to propel growth RBI battle-ready to meet economy's needs: Governor Shaktikanta Das Business Standard, September 17, 2020

Easing of lockdown restrictions pushes up petrol sales in India <u>Unlock impact: Petrol sales revive, up 7.1% on sequential basis</u> The Hindu BusinessLine, September 17, 2020

NPAs and Mudra loan witness a spike in the last three years

<u>Mudra loan disbursals & NPAs rise in tandem at PSBs over last 3 years</u>

The Indian Express, September 17, 2020

Festive season and increased demand of skimmed milk powder in international market provide relief to Indian dairy producers

<u>Festive demand, rising prices of milk products help dairy farmers see recovery after Covid lows</u>

The Indian Express, September 17, 2020



White collar jobs see substantial loss during May-August 2020 6.6 million white collar professional jobs lost during May-August: CMIE The Economic Times, September 17, 2020

As COVID-19 pandemic cases rise, Indian economy to plunge further India's economy heads for double-digit decline as virus spikes The Economic Times, September 18, 2020



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Private Equity-Venture Capital investments decline by 54% in August 2020 from previous month

August sees PE-VC investments worth \$1.9 billion across 75 deals

The Hindu BusinessLine, September 11, 2020

Coal imports decline due to subdued demand from consuming sectors like power and cement

India's coal import drops 35% in August on lower demand from power, cement players

The Financial Express, September 13, 2020

Cargo volumes decline for the fifth straight month in August 2020

Covid impact: Cargo handling at ports drops 17% to 245 million tonnes in April-August

Business Standard, September 13, 2020

India facilitates entry for Japanese firms to set up operations

India eyes investment from Japanese firms

The Economic Times, September 13, 2020

Exporters face financial crunch due to stoppage of Merchandise Exports from India Scheme benefits

Exporters facing huge liquidity challenges due to stoppage of MEIS benefits of over Rs 10k crore: FIEO

The Financial Express, September 14, 2020

FDI inflows by Chinese firms into India reduced by one third in FY20 from previous year

Chinese companies now invest nearly half of what they invested 3 years ago in India, reveals FinMin

The Financial Express, September 15, 2020

More than 1600 companies have received \$1 billion FDI from China in the last five years

Over 1,600 Indian cos received USD 1 billion FDI from China during April 2016-March 2020: Government data

The Economic Times, September 15, 2020



Merchandise exports decline to \$22.70 billion in August 2020

Exports shrink for 6th month in a row on falling shipments of petroleum, gems & jewellery

The Financial Express, September 15, 2020

India has emerged as an attractive investment destination

<u>India received \$20 billion in FDI during COVID-19 pandemic: Foreign Secretary Shringla</u>

The Financial Express, September 15, 2020

Government to tighten customs rules on import of electronic items

<u>Curbing FTA abuse: Government to tighten scrutiny of imports from September 21</u>

The Financial Express, September 16, 2020

Readymade garment exporters hope revival of demand Garment exports begin to see revival, September fall lowest in 5 months Business Standard, September 16, 2020

India has initiated an anti-circumvention investigation to consider extension of anti-dumping duties

India to probe circumvention of anti-dumping duty on imports of axle for trailers from China

Business Standard, September 16, 2020

Gulf Cooperation Council imposes anti-dumping duty on import of ceramic tiles from India

GCC has imposed anti-dumping duty on Indian ceramic tiles: Piyush Goyal The Financial Express, September 16, 2020

Centre gives nod for export of critical medical equipment <u>Government lifts ban on export of PPE suits, face masks, hand sanitisers</u> The Financial Express, September 16, 2020

Trade deficit between India and China declines to \$5.5 billion in Q1 India-China trade deficit fell to \$5.5 billion in Q1: Government to Parliament Business Standard, September 17, 2020



Ministry of Commerce and Industry initiates probe on import of sodium hydrosulphite

Government initiates anti-dumping investigation on sodium hydrosulphite from China, South Korea

The Hindu BusinessLine, September 17, 2020

Centre to provide production-linked incentive to boost local manufacturing of key chemicals

Rs 25000 crore plan to cut dependence on China for key chemicals The Economic Times, September 18, 2020



INTERNATIONAL SCENE

ADB appoints new Country Director for India

<u>Asian Development Bank appoints Takeo Konishi as Country Director for India</u>

The Economic Times, September 14, 2020

ADB estimates a decline by 0.7% in Asia's economy

<u>Asia's economy will shrink for first time since 1960s, ADB says</u>

The Hindu BusinessLine, September 15, 2020

Australia propels efforts to boost trade with India

<u>Australia eyes trade with India as China spat exposes dependence</u>

The Hindu BusinessLine, September 16, 2020

India enhances Indian Ocean outreach

<u>India joins Djibouti Code of Conduct: Enhances Indian Ocean outreach</u>

The Economic Times, September 16, 2020

India ranks 116 out of 174 countries in human capital index India ranks 116 in World Bank's human capital index The Financial Express, September 17, 2020

India will join hands with G-20 nations to make world a better place India will work with G-20 nations to make world a better place: Javadekar Business Standard, September 17, 2020

Services trade activity index declines during Q1 World Services trade volume fell by 4.3% in Q1 of 2020: WTO The Hindu BusinessLine, September 17, 2020

Pandemic caused recession to last longer, says Carmen Reinhart Global economic recovery may take 5 years: World Bank chief economist The Hindu BusinessLine, September 17, 2020

Global commercial services trade shows signs of better recovery compared to merchandise trade

World commercial services trade shows resilience despite momentum loss: WTO

Business Standard, September 18, 2020



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