

# 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 41 October 30, 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 interacting with the CEOs of leading oil and gas companies in the annual event organized by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through video conferencing, in New Delhi on October 26, 2020. Source: PM Modi website

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### POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Centre taking initiatives to double farmer's income Government taking steps to strengthen agriculture sector: PM Modi The Financial Express, October 24, 2020

Government provides relief to tax payers by extending date to file returns Deadline to file income tax return extended by a month till December 31 Business Standard, October 24, 2020

India opens up its space sector to foreign entities India to allow foreign companies too to make and launch satellites The Times of India, October 25, 2020

Government contemplating new reform ideas in health sector NITI looking at reform ideas in health sector, says member V K Paul The Economic Times, October 25, 2020

Lukewarm response from corporate sector for debt restructuring scheme RBI's debt restructuring scheme sees few takers in corporate world: Banks Business Standard, October 26, 2020

Government sets new deadline to credit benefits of loan interest waiver November 5 deadline to credit benefit of loan interest waiver The Economic Times, October 26, 2020

Centre to provide subsidised loans to boost production of ethanol Government mulls extending soft loans to grain-based distilleries for raising ethanol production capacity

The Economic Times, October 26, 2020

PM discusses with global energy leaders on strategies to boost investments in oil and gas value chain

Modi discusses post-pandemic world order for energy sector with top CEOs Business Standard, October 26, 2020

PM Modi urges to move towards responsible pricing of crude oil PM Modi calls for 'responsible' pricing of crude oil, create transparency Business Standard, October 26, 2020



New Education Policy provides a bright future towards exchanges between India and Europe

NEP 2020 gives impetus to learning of foreign languages: Shringla Business Standard, October 26, 2020

Centre to move in a calibrated way to privatise PSUs Government in no hurry for big PSU selloffs over market appetite The Economic Times, October 27, 2020

FM Nirmala Sitharaman expects Indian economy to grow the fastest by next year

Revival on, India will be fastest growing economy next year: FM The Hindu BusinessLine, October 27, 2020

Centre extends payment date under Vivad se Vishwas scheme Government extends deadline to make payment under Vivad Se Vishwas scheme till March 31

The Hindu BusinessLine, October 27, 2020

Rising expenditure to combat pandemic will impact fiscal position of states: RBI

COVID-19 to erode 3 years of fiscal consolidation gains of states: RBI The Financial Express, October 27, 2020

Centre to collaborate with states to make licenses easier for businesses Working with states to make licences for biz easier, says Piyush Goyal Business Standard, October 28, 2020

Centre releases updates on consolidated FDI policy Government unveils 'Consolidated FDI Policy' with curbs on China, other countries

The Hindu BusinessLine, October 28, 2020

Introduction of Farm Bill 2020 is a 1991 moment for Indian agriculture Central farm bills give states opportunity to liberate farmer from archaic systems

The Indian Express, October 28, 2020

Government eases procedures for commercialization of patented inventions Centre streamlines process to file for patented inventions on commercial scale The Hindu BusinessLine, October 28, 2020



Centre releases framework to help completion of infrastructure projects

<u>Government unveils comprehensive framework for project management</u>

The Economic Times, October 29, 2020

Initial measures taken by the government to control Covid-19 have paid dividends, says PM

We should assess our coronavirus fight against the metric of how many lives we are able to save: PM Narendra Modi

The Times of India, October 29, 2020

Cabinet Committee approves projects to improve the safety of select dams Cabinet approves Rs 10,000 crore project to improve dams in India Business Standard, October 29, 2020

Need for greater public participation in the banking sector, says FM Retail investors will get to own more of public sector banks, says Nirmala Sitharaman

The Hindu BusinessLine, October 29, 2020

PM Modi exudes confidence in achieving \$ 5 trillion economy by 2024

<u>Economic recovery faster than expected, confident of meeting \$5-trillion target</u>

<u>by 2024: PM Modi</u>

The Financial Express, October 29, 2020

Centre increases procurement price for three categories of ethanol Government hikes ethanol procurement price by Rs 1.95, nudges mills to blending

Business Standard, October 29, 2020

Production-linked incentive scheme is revised to make it more industry friendly

Government revises PLI scheme for bulk drugs to boost local manufacturing Business Standard, October 29, 2020

Budget spending declines in September on Y-o-Y basis Cutting back: Budget spend down 26% in September The Financial Express, October 30, 2020

Government reforms could set the stage for sharp post pandemic economic recovery

<u>India Inc captains echo PM Narendra Modi's optimism on economic recovery</u> The Economic Times, October 30, 2020



NITI Aayog frames model act to reduce land related litigations NITI Aayog frames a model Act on conclusive land titles The Economic Times, October 30, 2020



#### **ECONOMIC TRENDS**

Wholesale onion prices show a declining trend as government takes measures to boost domestic availability

Onion price drop by up to Rs 10/kg in consuming markets on government action

Business Standard, October 25, 2020

Power consumption in September grows to 6.3% M-o-M and 6% Y-o-Y basis Power demand at 14-month high in September

The Financial Express, October 26, 2020

Nomura India Business Resumption Index rises to 83.5 signalling stronger recovery

Recovery momentum continues in October but at a slower pace: Nomura The Economic Times, October 26, 2020

RBI faces challenges in allowing steady flow of foreign capital and keeping stable currency

How Covid-19 disruptions and food inflation have worsened RBI's trilemma Business Standard, October 27, 2020

Festive season pushes double-digit growth in consumer goods industry Consumer goods makers get festive booster shot

The Economic Times, October 27, 2020

Slow economic growth in the medium term to impact key sectors, says Shankar Acharya

Through a crystal ball, darkly

Business Standard, October 27, 2020

States to reduce capital expenditure for current financial year too States cut FY20 capital expenditure by 0.6% of GDP, says RBI study Business Standard, October 28, 2020



Economic activity picks up due to revival in demand and business activity As demand picks steam in Sep, Indian economy's animal spirits' soar Business Standard, October 28, 2020

Wheels of the economy bouncing back to normalcy, says Piyush Goyal Core sectors bounced back to normal very fast: Piyush Goyal The Economic Times, October 28, 2020

Economic activity shows resumption as Jan dhan accounts rise 60 per cent Rise in Jan dhan accounts during the pandemic point to economic revival, say SBI economists

The Economic Times, October 28, 2020

Principal Economic Advisor exudes confidence regarding India's growth prospects

Most agencies underestimating India's growth in FY22: Sanjeev Sanyal Business Standard, October 29, 2020

Paddy procurement during kharif season shows uptick Paddy procurement rises 26% this kharif season at 17 million tonne Business Standard, October 29, 2020

Unemployment in urban areas declined in October-December guarter of 2019 Urban unemployment eased to 7.9% in October-December 2019: Government The Economic Times, October 29, 2020

Key infrastructure industries contract for seventh straight month pointing to uneven recovery

September eight core industries growth at -0.8% vs -7.3% in August The Economic Times, October 29, 2020

Fiscal deficit soars budget target in first half of FY21 Revenue stress: Fiscal deficit in first half soars to 115% of target Business Standard, October 30, 2020

Consultative approach adopted by the government will ensure economic growth

We've to finely balance deficit and the need for stimulus: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

The Hindu BusinessLine, October 30, 2020



Sales of masks in khadi fabric rise Khadi sales pick up on PM Modi's appeal, 1.9 million masks sold in 5 months Business Standard, October 30, 2020

Rural school education witnesses a surge in access to learning material amid the pandemic

100% rise in rural children with access to smartphones, says survey Business Standard, October 30, 2020



#### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Foreign exchange reserves register an uptick

<u>Forex reserves touch fresh record of \$555.12 billion</u>

BloombergQuint, October 24, 2020

Recovery in consumption pushes imports of coal in September 2020 Coal imports rise 12 per cent to 19 MT in September on improved consumption The Hindu BusinessLine, October 25, 2020

Foreign Portfolio Investments continue to increase as business activities show resumption

<u>FPIs remain net buyers in October so far, pump in Rs 17,749 crore</u> Business Standard, October 25, 2020

Oil and gas sector may witness surge in investments in the near future, says PM India may see \$206 bn investment in oil and gas in next 8-10 years
Business Standard, October 26, 2020

Rising freight charges to impact outbound shipments: Federation of Indian Export Organizations

Exporters raise concerns over rising freight charges, container shortage Business Standard, October 26, 2020

India initiates probe into alleged dumping of low-density polyethylene

India initiates probe into alleged dumping of low-density polyethylene from
6 countries

The Financial Express, October 26, 2020

US urges India to remove excessive tariff on pecan imports

<u>US senators seek removal of high tariff on import of pecans from India</u>

The Economic Times, October 27, 2020

Government seeks waiver of TRIPS provisions to enable timely and equitable availability of vaccines

Goyal pitches for waiver of TRIPS provisions at WTO to fight Covid-19 The Hindu BusinessLine, October 27, 2020

Centre extends anti-dumping duty on Fluoroelastomers imports

<u>India extends anti-dumping duty on imports of Fluoroelastomers from China</u>

The Economic Times, October 27, 2020



Continuous drop in export volumes to Europe leave engineering exporters worried

Engineering exporters concerned about volume amid 'worsening' COVID-19 scenario in Europe

The Economic Times, October 27, 2020

SCO countries should explore partnership to enhance trade and investment Explore trade, investment partnerships critical for speedy recovery from pandemic: Piyush Goyal to SCO

The Economic Times, October 27, 2020

Government to penalise shipping companies engaged in unethical practises Centre may penalise shipping companies for spike in freight rates Business Standard, October 28, 2020

India and UK sign agreements to boost jobs and investments in both countries India, UK ink pacts on infrastructure, financial services and sustainable finance The Economic Times, October 29, 2020

PUBG Corporation to shut down all servers in India on October 30 Curtains down on PUBG Mobile in India with server shut down Livemint, October 30, 2020



#### INTERNATIONAL SCENE

India has the power to shape the global agenda and define collective future Covid-19: India has potential to shape global agenda, says WEF's Schwab Business Standard, October 26, 2020

India and US stress on greater data sensitivity to facilitate knowledge economy India points out to the US need for greater data sensitivity

The Hindu BusinessLine, October 26, 2020

India urges for short-term cut in annual budget for 2021 and 2022 Covid-19 economic impact: India favours WTO budget cut to ease members' financial strain

The Hindu BusinessLine, October 26, 2020

Substantial decline in global FDI flows due to economic fallout Global FDI flows fell 49% in first half of 2020 due to COVID-19: UNCTAD The Financial Express, October 27, 2020

Department of Post and United States Postal Service sign agreement related to digital postal shipments

<u>India Post, US Postal Service sign pact for electronic exchange of customs data</u> The Economic Times, October 28, 2020

NTPC and Japan Bank sign agreement to move towards a greener environment

NTPC ties up with Japan Bank for International for Rs 3,500-crore loan Business Standard, October 28, 2020

India announces \$ 1 billion Line of Credit for Central Asian countries to widen connectivity and energy partnership

India extends \$ 1 billion Line of Credit to Central Asia for connectivity & other development projects

The Economic Times, October 28, 2020

FM led Indian delegation in the UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman leads Indian delegation in 10th Round of Ministerial UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue

Press Information Bureau, October 28, 2020



India and UK agree to set up bilateral Sustainable Finance Forum to drive deeper cooperation on sustainable finance India, UK to set up bilateral Sustainable Finance Forum

The Hindu BusinessLine, October 29, 2020

Resurgence in Covid-19 cases halts global economic recovery Global economic rebound at risk from rising coronavirus cases The Hindu BusinessLine, October 29, 2020

Remittances to India to decline in 2020, says World Bank Covid-19: Remittances to India to drop by 9% in 2020, says World Bank Business Standard, October 30, 2020

Suresh Kumar appointed new envoy to Pakistan India names new envoy to Pakistan The Times of India, October 30, 2020



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