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.

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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.

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(Courtesy: Agri reforms aimed at benefiting farmers, need investment from private sector: PM Modi at FICCI AGM
Source: Twitter/ Economic Times)

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POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

India is a proud democracy that ensures checks and balances, says Amitabh Kant

*Democracy is the lifeblood of India: A rebuttal by Amitabh Kant*

The Indian Express, December 11, 2020

New farm laws facilitate farmers to access flexible markets

*Protesting farmers are arguing for the perpetuation of colonial rule*

The Indian Express, December 12, 2020

Finance Ministry approves funds to boost capital expenditure of states

*Finance Ministry approves Rs 9,879 crore capital expenditure proposal of 27 states*

BloombergQuint, December 12, 2020

Farm laws to give farmers access to new markets and technology, says PM Modi

*Government committed to helping farmers: PM Modi*

The Hindu, December 12, 2020

FM reviews progress of various schemes to revive the economy amid pandemic

*Nirmala Sitharaman reviews progress of various schemes under 3 packages; banks sanction Rs 2.05 lakh crore to MSMEs*

The Financial Express, December 13, 2020

India will exceed Paris Agreement climate targets, assures PM Modi

*India will achieve Paris Agreement targets and exceed them, says PM Modi*

Business Standard, December 13, 2020

FM Nirmala Sitharaman holds pre-Budget consultations ahead of Budget 2021

*Budget 2021: Sitharaman holds pre-Budget consultations with top industrialists*

Livemint, December 14, 2020

Industry leaders divided over income tax issues for next Union Budget

*Pre-Budget consultation: Industry divided over revision of direct tax rates*

The Hindu BusinessLine, December 14, 2020

Industry leaders urge for adoption of aggressive privatisation and asset monetisation policy in FY22

*Pre-Budget meeting: India Inc tells Centre to boost non-debt receipts*

The Financial Express, December 15, 2020
Farmers’ protest inflicting a daily loss of Rs 3000-3500 crore
Farmers’ protest resulting in daily loss of Rs 3,500 crore: Assocham
The Hindu, December 15, 2020

Centre extends deadline to complete GST anti-profiteering probe
Government extends deadline for completing GST anti-profiteering probe till March 2021
BloombergQuint, December 15, 2020

Government releases seventh tranche of GST compensation to states
Centre releases seventh tranche of GST compensation payment
The Financial Express, December 15, 2020

Financial Stability and Development Council discusses measures to accelerate growth while maintaining financial stability
High-level FSDC deliberates on measures to accelerate growth momentum
Business Standard, December 15, 2020

Economy has gained momentum to achieve faster recovery than what was predicted earlier
Economic recovery will be faster than predicted: FSDC
The Hindu, December 15, 2020

Centre to launch ‘Brand India’ mission to promote quality products manufactured in India
Government all set to launch ‘Brand India’ mission
The Economic Times, December 16, 2020

Centre to give greater momentum to disinvestment proposals
Disinvestment will now gain lot of momentum, says Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
The Economic Times, December 16, 2020

Centre should come up with solutions that facilitate agrarian transition without hurting peasants
Government needs to ready solutions that will facilitate agrarian transition without hurting farmers
The Indian Express, December 16, 2020
India-US enter into an MoU to exchange information and experiences in electricity sector

**Electricity sector: Cabinet okays India-US MoU**
The Hindu BusinessLine, December 16, 2020

Inoculating the rest of the planet’s population may mean finding a way around an impasse over intellectual property

**Vaccinating billions means finding ways around a patent impasse**
The Times of India, December 16, 2020

Centre approves assistance for exports of sugar in 2020-21

**Cabinet approves Rs 3,500-crore aid for sugar exports in 2020-21**
The Financial Express, December 17, 2020

Cabinet approves Rs 1,700 crore more for Northeast power project

**Cabinet nod to revised estimate for Northeast power project**
The Indian Express, December 17, 2020

RBI Governor urges banks not to rely on collaterals for lending decisions

**Banks should focus more on cash-flow based lending, says RBI Governor**
Business Standard, December 17, 2020

Upcoming budget to accelerate public investments in infrastructure, says FM

**Broad-based revival: Budget to push infra spending, says FM**
The Financial Express, December 18, 2020

Centre has initiated bold reforms ensuring steady flow of foreign investments, says FM

**Bold reforms have ensured steady FDI flow even during pandemic: FM**
Business Standard, December 18, 2020
ECONOMIC TRENDS

Factory output rises due to manufacturing and electricity boost
Factory output growth rises to 8-month high of 3.6% in October
The Times of India, December 12, 2020

Economic indicators show signs of positive recovery
Recovery faster than expected; economic indicators encouraging: PM Modi at FICCI event
Livemint, December 13, 2020

Consumption of refined oil rises by 0.4% in November from previous month
India’s fuel demand climbs for third straight month in November
The Hindu BusinessLine, December 14, 2020

India witnesses a rise in women holding board positions during 2012 and 2020
India sees 8.6% rise in percentage of women on boards between 2012 and 2020
The Financial Express, December 14, 2020

Pending dues of discoms to generation companies show a marginal increase in October from previous month
Discoms’ overdues remain flat in October
The Financial Express, December 14, 2020

Wholesale price inflation rises for the fourth consecutive month
At 1.55%, November WPI reaches nine-month high
The Economic Times, December 14, 2020

Retail inflation shows marginal decline due to considerable easing in vegetable prices
Retail inflation eases marginally to 6.93% in November
The Economic Times, December 14, 2020

Female labour force participation rate shows a decline during pandemic
Female workforce shrinks in economic shocks
Business Standard, December 14, 2020

Farmers’ agitation leads to disruption in supply chains and logistics
Farmers’ protest may impact economic recovery: CII
The Hindu BusinessLine, December 15, 2020
Less than half of households in five states use clean fuel 
**Less than 45% of households in five states use clean fuel for cooking:**
Government survey
The Economic Times, December 15, 2020

Third instalment of PM-KISAN scheme to be delayed due to on-going farmers’ protest 
**PM-KISAN disbursals may be delayed**
The Economic Times, December 16, 2020

India drops by one position among 189 countries in HDI 2020 
**India slips a spot in UN’s human development index, ranks at 131 now**
Business Standard, December 17, 2020

Economy showing clear signs of revival and needs to be sustained 
**Economy seeing clear signs of revival: FM**
The Hindu BusinessLine, December 17, 2020

Corporate advance tax jumps by 50% in Q3 
**Advance tax collection zooms nearly 33% to Rs 1.41 trillion in December quarter**
Business Standard, December 17, 2020

Revised GDP estimates suggest a smaller contraction for the full year 
**A look at revision in GDP estimates and reasons, risks to those projections**
The Economic Times, December 18, 2020
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

India urges EU to remove non-tariff barriers to enhance bilateral trade
India asks EU to remove non-tariff barriers, standards to increase trade
The Economic Times, December 12, 2020

Forex reserves surge by USD 4.525 billion in the week ended December 4
Forex reserves surge to record $579.3 billion
The Indian Express, December 13, 2020

Centre to impose new tariffs on imports of solar modules from April 1, 2022
Solar module imports to face 40% customs duty, cells 25%
Livemint, December 14, 2020

Uneven trade scenario leads to shortage of containers
Trade imbalance causes container shortage; freight rates hit the roof
Business Standard, December 15, 2020

Vegetable oil imports fall in November
Vegetable oil imports slip 2% to 11.02 lakh ton in November on lower refined palm oil shipments
The Economic Times, December 15, 2020

Exports dip by 8.74% while imports decrease by 13.32% in November
Exports decline for second month in a row, trade deficit at ten-month high
Business Standard, December 16, 2020

Agriculture and pharmaceutical exports record significant growth even during pandemic
Agriculture, pharmaceutical exports growing during pandemic, says Commerce Secretary
The Economic Times, December 17, 2020

India and Bangladesh seal seven agreements to expand cooperation in diverse areas
PM Modi-Sheikh Hasina meet: India, Bangladesh ink 7 pacts; restore cross-border rail link
Livemint, December 17, 2020
Private equity and venture capital investments decline to $ 41.1 billion during Jan-Nov
PE-VC investments fell by 8% in January-November
The Hindu BusinessLine, December 17, 2020

Not joining world’s largest trading bloc a mistake, says Montek Singh Ahluwalia
Pulling out of RCEP a mistake, India should join bloc as soon as possible:
Montek Singh Ahluwalia
The Financial Express, December 17, 2020

Foreign investors remain net buyers of Indian equities starting November
Foreign inflows into Indian Equities cross Rs 1 lakh crore in 33 trading sessions
BloombergQuint, December 17, 2020

Foreign inflows and local revival may drive IPO boom in 2021
Foreign inflows, local revival may drive IPO boom in 2021
Livemint, December 18, 2020
INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Covid-19 disproportionately affected women and youngsters

*Covid wiped out 81 million jobs in Asia-Pacific; women, youngsters affected: ILO*

Business Standard, December 16, 2020

Pandemic exposes weaknesses in economic and social systems: UNDP report

*COVID has exposed inequalities in short time; human should work with not against nature: UNDP report*

The Financial Express, December 16, 2020

India signs a loan agreement with World Bank for poor and vulnerable households impacted by Covid-19

*India signs $400 million loan agreement with World Bank for social protection programme assistance*

The Economic Times, December 16, 2020

India and New Development Bank sign loan agreement to support MGNREGS and rural infrastructure

*Reviving economic recovery: India, NDB sign $1 billion loan agreement*

The Hindu BusinessLine, December 16, 2020