Weekly Economic Roundup
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.

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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: Showing healthy signs of revival, India’s exports grew 17.27% to $14.22 billion during March 1-14 as compared to the year-ago period, according to the commerce ministry’s preliminary data

Source: Economic Times | Twitter

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POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Crony capitalism and profiteering not consistent with ethical wealth creation

*Indian private sector wealth creators need a mindset change: Krishnamurthy Subramanian*

The Economic Times, March 13, 2021

Former RBI Governor cautions against drastic changes in India’s monetary policy framework

*Drastic changes in monetary policy framework can upset bond market: Rajan*

The Economic Times, March 14, 2021

Fin tech companies to be given necessary opportunities, says FM

*Not shutting all options on cryptocurrency, says Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at India Today Conclave*

India Today, March 15, 2021

RBI expresses scepticism and seeks a ban on cryptocurrencies

*RBI sticks to its stand on cryptocurrencies, wants them banned*

The Economic Times, March 15, 2021

Last instalment of total estimated GST compensation shortfall for the year 2020-21 released

*Finance Ministry releases entire Rs 1.10 lakh crore estimated FY21 GST shortfall to states*

BloombergQuint, March 15, 2021

FM Nirmala Sitharaman introduces Bill to amend the Insurance Act, 1938

*Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduces Bill to facilitate hike in insurance FDI*

The Financial Express, March 16, 2021

Employment under MGNREGA rises to 363 crore person days

*40% more jobs generated in current fiscal under MGNREGA: Government*

The Economic Times, March 16, 2021

Not all banks are going to be privatised, interest of workers will be protected

*Privatisation of Banks: Government will take care of employees, says FM Nirmala Sitharaman*

Livemint, March 16, 2021

Centre gives nod to setting up of Development Finance Institution to fund infrastructure projects
Cabinet okays development finance institution for infrastructure
Livemint, March 17, 2021

Cabinet approves closure of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India
Cabinet nod to closure of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation
Business Standard, March 17, 2021

Government to retain inflation targeting band set by the RBI
India favors retaining RBI’s inflation targeting band
The Economic Times, March 17, 2021

Around 16.5 lakh people benefited due to employment generation programme of the government
Job creation in India: 16.5 lakh benefited under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana
The Financial Express, March 17, 2021

Resilient infrastructure must to mitigate the effects of a disaster
Cooperation must for ensuring resilience of global systems, says Prime Minister Modi
The Economic Times, March 17, 2021

Centre constitutes committee responsible for overall execution and monitoring of Startup India Seed Fund Scheme
Government forms experts committee for Startup India Seed Fund Scheme
The Financial Express, March 17, 2021

Efforts in progress to attract investments for development of rail infrastructure and improving passenger amenities
Railways will continue to be national asset, no one can privatise it
Livemint, March 18, 2021

Lok Sabha passes Bill authorising the government to draw funds from Consolidated Fund of India
Lok Sabha passes Appropriation Bill, finishes two-thirds of budget exercise
Business Standard, March 18, 2021

Net direct tax collection stood at Rs 9.18 trillion, exceeds revised Budget target
Direct tax mop-up betters estimate for the first time in four years
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana aims at protecting the economic interests of farmers
In letter to farmer, Modi says govt. wants to ease farmers' journey from 'seed to market'
The Hindu, March 18, 2021

Rajya Sabha passes the Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2021
Rajya Sabha passes Bill to hike FDI cap in insurance to 74%
BloombergQuint, March 18, 2021

Government announces "Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernisation Programme"
New scrapping policy: mandatory fitness test for vehicles, incentives for owners
The Indian Express, March 19, 2021
ECONOMIC TRENDS

Index of Industrial Production slips to negative territory
IIP for January contracts 1.6%, slips back into negative zone
The Economic Times, March 12, 2021

Retail inflation registers an uptick in February 2021
Retail inflation climbs to 5.03% in February
The Economic Times, March 12, 2021

CEA urges for more focus on growth as India aspires to increase its dominance in the global economy
Chief Economic Advisor Subramanian bats for growth over inflation
Business Standard, March 13, 2021

WPI rises for the second consecutive month
WPI inflation rises to 4.17% in February on costlier food, fuel, power
Business Standard, March 15, 2021

CEA explains the rationale behind government’s policy response to the pandemic
CEA Krishnamurthy Subramanian explains the economic rationale behind Modi government’s policy response to Covid
The Economic Times, March 15, 2021

Economic recovery shows signs of procrastination amid a second wave of Covid-19
Inflation, Covid raise fresh growth concerns; investment, consumption demands turn weaker
The Financial Express, March 16, 2021

UPI payments witness rapid adoption, registers positive growth
SBI, Paytm Payments Bank, PhonePe lead in UPI transactions in February
Business Standard, March 16, 2021

Repo in corporate bonds shows a positive growth
The repo in corporate bonds is slowly picking up pace, shows data
Business Standard, March 17, 2021
Second wave of Covid-19 pandemic to delay market expectations on the timing of policy normalisation

Risk of a second wave of Covid-19 in India has risen materially: Nomura

The Economic Times, March 17, 2021

Diesel consumption increases by 7% in first fortnight of March, Y-o-Y

Diesel sales top pre-Covid levels by 7%, but LPG slips

The Times of India, March 17, 2021

Domestic air passengers register a decline in February, Y-o-Y

7.8 million domestic air passengers in Feb, 36.71% lower than last year: DGCA

Business Standard, March 17, 2021

KV Kamath expresses optimism that economic reforms will push up India’s sovereign rating

Economic reforms to drive India sovereign rating, says K V Kamath

The Economic Times, March 18, 2021

Rising economic growth to spare India from debt trap

High economic growth will spare India from debt trap, say experts

Business Standard, March 18, 2021

Indian economy to show positive growth backed by investments in private sector

Worst over, economy will only move upwards: Shaktikanta Das

The Economic Times, March 18, 2021

Total number of bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana register an uptick

Jan Dhan accounts surge to 42 crores with total balance at ₹1.4-lakh crores

The Hindu BusinessLine, March 19, 2021
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Imports of palm oil register decline due to drop in demand
India’s February palm oil imports down 27% yr/yr to 9-month low
The Economic Times, March 13, 2021

India’s foreign exchange reserves register an uptick
India FX reserves cross Russia to become world’s 4th biggest
BloombergQuint, March 15, 2021

Cargo traffic contracts by 9% in February, M-o-M
February port volumes slip on month-on-month basis
The Financial Express, March 15, 2021

India’s oil imports from the US rose by 48% in February
US becomes India’s second biggest oil supplier, Saudi falls to fourth spot
Business Standard, March 15, 2021

FTA partners raise concerns over India’s new rules to increase non-tariff barriers
FTA partners upset over India’s new rules to trace goods’ origin
Livemint, March 15, 2021

Exports register a marginal increase of 0.67% in February 2021, Y-o-Y
Exports in February rise marginally, trade deficit widens
The Hindu BusinessLine, March 15, 2021

India’s exports show healthy signs of revival during first fortnight of March
India’s exports during March 1-14 up 17% at USD 14 billion
The Economic Times, March 16, 2021

Appropriate measures must to prevent more disruptions in the supply chain, says Parliamentary Panel
Take steps to contain further deterioration in exports, imports: Parliamentary Panel
The Economic Times, March 17, 2021

India’s imports from China during January-December 2020 stood at $ 58.71 billion
China was India’s top imports source despite LAC crisis
The Economic Times, March 18, 2021
India and the US to discuss ways to set up local manufacturing facilities for defence equipment

First visit from Biden administration: Make in India, China to figure in talks

Livemint, March 19, 2021
INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Development of skill-intensive industries earlier than usual is worrisome
*Precocious growth in India’s skill-intensive sectors worrying: Paul Krugman*
Business Standard, March 16, 2021

Deliberate policy needed to foster industries in India
*India should not go back to licence raj regime: Nobel prize-winning economist Paul Krugman*
The Economic Times, March 16, 2021

PM expresses support for new partnership between India and Finland to promote mobile technology and digital education
*Modi expresses support for new digital partnership with Finland*
The Hindu BusinessLine, March 16, 2021

**US Treasury** Secretary and FM Nirmala Sitharaman discuss collaboration for a strong global recovery from COVID-19 pandemic
*Yellen and FM Sitharaman discuss global economic outlook*
Business Standard, March 16, 2021

Centre gives nod to bilateral exchange programmes in the field of sports and youth affairs between India and Maldives
*Cabinet approves MoU between India and Maldives on Cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs*
Press Information Bureau, March 16, 2021

IOC Phinergy Private Limited to manufacture Aluminium-air systems in India
*‘Boost to e-mobility’: Indian Oil partners with Israel’s Phinergy to manufacture metal-air batteries*
Livemint, March 18, 2021

USAID and US International Development Finance Corporation to finance investment in renewable energy solutions by Indian SMEs
*USAID, DFC announce $41 million financing for renewable energy in India*
The Financial Express, March 18, 2021

UNCTAD expects India’s GDP to grow at 5% in 2021
*UNCTAD sees India growth at 5% in 2021*
The Economic Times, March 19, 2021