DELHI POLICY GROUP
Advancing India’s Rise as a Leading Power

DPG Weekly Economic Roundup
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ABOUT US

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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.

Cover Photograph:

MG-NREGS: Demand for work under rural scheme at six-month high in February - Source: @FinancialXpress|Twitter
Auto PLI scheme attracts investment proposals of ₹ 74,850 crores, 76% higher than the target estimate of ₹ 42,500 crores - Source: @PiyushGoyal|Twitter

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POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Russia-Ukraine crisis tilt the balance of risks upwards  
**RBI Deputy Governor: War fallout ‘may trigger re-calibration of forecasts’**  
The Indian Express, March 12, 2022

Government resumes work on direct benefit transfer system to contain rising fertilizer subsidy bill  
**Government to fast-track rollout of direct transfer system**  
The Financial Express, March 12, 2022

Government fertilizer subsidy bill to surpass revised estimate but higher tax revenues will help keep fiscal deficit close to the estimated 6.9 per cent level  
**Fertilizer subsidy may exceed RE by ₹10K crore; fiscal deficit to remain close to 6.9% in FY22**  
The Financial Express, March 13, 2022

Minister of Commerce and Industry urges startups to become self-reliant in energy needs  
**Shri Piyush Goyal calls upon the Startups to help India become self-reliant in Energy and Defence sectors**  
PIB, March 13, 2022

Government unlikely to change borrowing plan despite concerns of the impact of elevated oil prices  
**Centre not to change borrowing plan for H2FY23**  
The Financial Express, March 14, 2022

Government seeks Parliamentary nod for net additional spending in the third batch of supplementary demands for current fiscal year  
**Government seeks Parliament's nod for net additional spending of ₹1.07 trillion**  
The Economic Times, March 14, 2022

Indian oil companies to enter into agreements with **Venezuela** and Iran to resume supply of crude oil  
**India hopes for oil from Iran, Venezuela; higher OPEC output to cool prices**  
Business Standard, March 14, 2022

Investment in automobile and auto components increases by 76.11 per cent  
**Auto PLI scheme attracts ₹74,850 crore investment proposals**  
The Times of India, March 15, 2022
NITI Aayog VC Rajiv Kumar hails ARTPARK, a futuristic technology aimed at solving the critical problem of bringing connectivity to rural areas and enabling inclusive education and healthcare

Unlocking rural economy will make India a global leader: NITI Aayog
The Hindu, March 15, 2022

India to make investments in sovereign green bonds as it marks a shift to low-carbon economy

India government plans $3.3 billion sovereign green bond issuance
Live mint, March 15, 2022

Gross GST collections to be ₹1.8 trillion more than estimated in FY23

Gross GST receipts in FY23 seen at 12% higher than estimate
The Financial Express, March 15, 2022

Government to make necessary interventions to keep fuel prices under control

Government to take measures to provide relief to consumers from high fuel prices
Business Standard, March 15, 2022

Decline in tourist arrivals in the country rendered many unemployed during the first three waves of Covid-19

21.5 million people in tourism sector lost their jobs since Covid outbreak: Government
Business Standard, March 15, 2022

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana to be implemented to augment processing/preservation capacity, creating off-farm employment, leveraging domestic investment and increasing value addition to the economy

Investment in Food Processing Sector
PIB, March 15, 2022

Ministry of Commerce to operationalise a new online module to file electronic registration for interest equalisation scheme for exporters

Commerce ministry to start online module for filing registration for interest equalisation scheme
The Financial Express, March 15, 2022

Government not introducing cryptocurrencies as they are unregulated in India

No plans to introduce cryptocurrency: Government
The Economic Times, March 15, 2022
Spike in crude oil prices if sustained, to pose downside risks to growth estimates

**Costly crude poses downside risks to FY23 GDP: Finmin**
The Financial Express, March 16, 2022

GST compensation yet to be released to state governments for FY23

**GST: Centre yet to release ₹53,661 crores to states**
The Financial Express, March 16, 2022

Self-reliance is not the same thing as self-sufficiency, says NITI Aayog VC Rajiv Kumar

**Atmanirbhar Bharat not a closed economy, it's global: NITI Aayog V-C**
Business Standard, March 16, 2022

India’s 5G revenues are projected to hit $9 billion by 2026 and account for 37.7 per cent of its total mobile services revenues

**India’s 5G revenues are projected to hit $9 billion by 2026, says report**
Business Standard, March 16, 2022

India has received around 347 foreign investment proposals from neighbouring countries

**India approves investments worth over ₹13,000 crores from its neighbours**
Live mint, March 16, 2022

Indian Railways prepares national plan aimed to formulate strategies based on both operational capacities and commercial policy initiatives to increase freight

**National Rail Plan Vision – 2030**
PIB, March 16, 2022

Government aims at accelerating growth of the mining sector, as per the NITI Aayog’s Strategy for New India @ 75 Report 2019

**Centre aims 8.5 per cent growth in mining sector during 2018 - 23**
PIB, March 16, 2022

Government approves industrial nodes for development under Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor

**GREENFIELD INDUSTRIAL NODES**
PIB, March 16, 2022

Economic Survey projects increase in coal demand due to its affordability and increase in growth of industries using coal

**India needs 1.3 to 1.5 billion tonnes of coal by 2030**
PIB, March 16, 2022
Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal urges for domestic manufacturing, expresses disappointment upon import dependence of auto companies

Piyush Goyal asks auto cos to cut import dependence, increase innovation
Business Standard, March 16, 2022

Ministry of Commerce to likely extend the existing foreign trade policy (FTP) beyond March 31 this year

Commerce ministry may further extend foreign trade policy
The Economic Times, March 16, 2022

National Payments Corporation of India introduces UPI lite to facilitate small ticket transactions

NPCI launches on-device wallet feature for UPI users for small transactions
Business Standard, March 17, 2022

India’s merchandise exports reach almost USD 390 billion as of March 14 and is expected to cross USD 400 billion in the current financial year

Exports reach $390 billion as of March 14: Piyush Goyal
The Economic Times, March 17, 2022

Commerce Ministry recommends the continuation of anti-dumping duty to guard domestic players from cheap imports

Government recommends continuation of anti-dumping duty on Chinese Aluminium foil
Business Standard, March 17, 2022

PM Modi urges for a fast growing India as new world order shapes up in the backdrop

New post-pandemic world order shaping up, India needs to grow fast: PM Modi
Live mint, March 17, 2022

Industry leaders urge for petroleum products to be brought under the Goods and Services Tax regime to remove existing anomalies and to let businesses claim input tax credit

Industry bats for inclusion of jet fuel, natural gas in GST
Live mint, March 18, 2022

Ongoing geopolitical crisis pose downside risks to India’s macroeconomic and financial landscape

Economy faces spillovers from conflict; biz confidence up: RBI
The Indian Express, March 18, 2022
Direct tax collection numbers for current financial year stand at ₹13.63 lakh crore as against over ₹9 lakh crore in 2020-21
I-T department makes highest tax collection in its history in 2021-22
Inshorts, March 18, 2022

Indian media to grow from $28 billion to $100 billion by 2030
Media and entertainment projected to be $100-billion industry by 2030
Business Standard, March 18, 2022

Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage exceeds 181.04 crores
COVID-19 UPDATE
PIB, March 19, 2022
ECONOMIC TRENDS

Economist Ashima Goyal confirms threat of rising oil prices on Indian economy’s positive growth
Indian economy progressing well; high oil prices pose risks: Ashima Goyal
Business Standard, March 13, 2022

WPI remains in double digits for the 11th consecutive month
WPI inflation rises to 13.11% in February
The Economic Times, March 14, 2022

Unemployment rate for persons of age 15 years and above in urban areas declines in April-June 2021
Unemployment rate at 12.6% in April-June 2021: NSO survey
The Financial Express, March 14, 2022

Retail inflation breaches upper limit of RBI’s MPC, second time since June 2021
CPI inflation rises to 8-month high of 6.07% in February 2022
The Economic Times, March 14, 2022

Central sphere establishments more than double their contract workers’ count in four years till 2021
Number of central sphere contract workers jumps to 2.43 million in 4 years till 2021
The Financial Express, March 15, 2022

Supply chain disruptions of Chinese goods to have limited direct impact on Indian consumers
Chinese supply disruption unlikely to hit consumers, says survey
Business Standard, March 16, 2022

Moody’s lowers India’s growth forecast for 2022 from 9.5% due to India’s vulnerability to high oil prices
Moody’s cuts India’s growth forecast to 9.1% for 2022
Live mint, March 17, 2022

Demand for work under MGNREGS rises, influenced by factors such as rainfall, availability of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside the scheme
MG-NREGS: Demand for work under rural scheme at six-month high in February
The Financial Express, March 17, 2022
Prices of affordable housing decline aided by policy support from the government

Affordable segment’s share in housing sales falls to 43% in 2021: Report

Business Standard, March 18, 2022
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Russia expresses interest to expand sales networks of Russian companies in India
Russia urges India to deepen investments in its oil and gas sector
Business Standard, March 12, 2022

Forex reserves register a gain for the week ended March 4
Currency assets boost forex reserves to $631.9 billion
The Indian Express, March 13, 2022

Higher demand leads to a surge in gold imports
Gold imports surge to USD 45 billion in April-Feb this fiscal
The Financial Express, March 13, 2022

India and Russia to consider floating rate arrangement for purchase of crude oil at a discounted rate
India and Russia explore payment options for crude
Live mint, March 14, 2022

Exports increase in February due to healthy growth in sectors including engineering, petroleum and chemicals
Exports up 25.1% to $34.57 billion in Feb; trade deficit widens to $20.88 billion
The Economic Times, March 14, 2022

Palm oil imports decline in February due to higher prices while sunflower oil imports drop because of disruptions in supplies from the Black Sea region
India’s February palm oil, sunflower oil imports drop month-on-month
Business Standard, March 14, 2022

Russia-Ukraine crisis accelerates FPI outflows, causing a spike in global commodity prices
FPI outflows exceed 2008 global financial crisis as Fed policy move nears
Business Standard, March 14, 2022

Cash levels among investors rise to nearly 6%, as investors ramp up cash holdings
Investors dump stocks, move to cash as growth outlook weakens: BoFA
Business Standard, March 15, 2022

India attempts to establish itself as a dominant wheat exporter amid the Russia-Ukraine crisis
India acts to seize gap in wheat export market left by Ukraine war
The Economic Times, March 16, 2022
India is boosting fertilizer imports to ensure supplies for the current sowing season

India boosts fertiliser imports from Canada, Israel as Russian supply disrupted
The Economic Times, March 16, 2022

Bilateral trade in goods is projected to increase from the current USD 60 billion to USD 100 billion annually within five years of implementation of the India-UAE CEPA

India-UAE trade pact: Bilateral trade projected to touch $100 billion in 5 years
Business Standard, March 16, 2022

Investments in private equity and venture capital are 24 per cent higher in February 2022 than investments in January 2022

PE/VC investments in Feb 2022 up 2.3 times year-on-year: IVCA-EY report
Business Standard, March 16, 2022

Exporters’ body FIEO urge for a freight subsidy scheme for MSMEs to reduce the impact of a spike in shipping costs

Exporters seek freight subsidy to tide over Ukraine war impact
The Financial Express, March 17, 2022

Crude oil imports rise to 4.86 million barrels per day in February

India’s oil imports surge in February as refiner’s boost runs
Live mint, March 18, 2022

Wheat exporters in India to benefit amid the supply shortage due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis

Russia-Ukraine war effect: Wheat exporters to reap a $5-billion windfall
The Financial Express, March 18, 2022

Russia exports 360,000 barrels a day of oil to India in March

Russian oil exports to India quadrupled in March as Europe shuns cargoes
Business Standard, March 18, 2022

Foreign exchange reserves decline due to a fall in the foreign currency assets

Forex reserves decline USD 9.65 billion to USD 622.27 billion
The Financial Express, March 18, 2022
INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Sri Lanka purchased 40,000 metric tonnes of diesel and petrol from Indian Oil Corporation to meet urgent energy requirements, to approach the IMF and seek financial support

*Sri Lanka reaches out to IMF for help as FM Rajapaksa departs for New Delhi to sign fresh bailout package with India*

The Financial Express, March 15, 2022

India to provide financial aid package to Sri Lanka to facilitate emergency purchases of food, medicines and essential items

*India, Sri Lanka to finalize $1-billion line of credit on Thursday*

The Hindustan Times, March 16, 2022

Ukraine crisis to impact global growth and lead to inflation

*Ukraine crisis could cut 1% off global growth this year: OECD*

The Hindu, March 17, 2022

Global impact of Ukraine war to impact Indian economy

*Global economic fallout of Ukraine war to impact Indian economy negatively: IMF*

Live mint, March 17, 2022