Weekly Economic Roundup

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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)

The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal and the Minister of Economy of UAE, Mr. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri signing the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), in New Delhi on February 18, 2022. Source: PIB

100 Districts in the country become ‘Har Ghar Jal’ Under Jal Jeevan Mission

Source: @PIB_India|Twitter

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# DPG Weekly Economic Roundup
## Volume III, Issue 8

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POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

India initiates probe into subsidization of a chemical used in making of personal care products
India probing alleged export subsidization of a chemical by 3 countries
The Financial Express, February 12, 2022

Government is working to tighten the MGNREGA scheme as “tremendous leakages” are noticed for the past two years
Government to tighten MGNREGA scheme to plug ‘tremendous leakages’
The Financial Express, February 13, 2022

Government reduces effective duty on crude palm oil to control cooking oil prices and support domestic processing companies
Effective duty on crude palm oil cut to 5.5% to cool edible oil prices
Business Standard, February 13, 2022

Government issues ban on Chinese apps citing security reasons
India bans 54 Chinese apps that pose threat to the country
The Indian Express, February 14, 2022

Tax on crude palm oil imports cut to 5% from 7.5% as government attempts to help domestic refiners and consumers
India cuts tax on crude palm oil imports to help consumers, refiner
The Economic Times, February 14, 2022

Centre and the RBI are working in complete harmony on cryptocurrency issue
RBI and government on the same page on cryptocurrency: FM Sitharaman
Live mint, February 14, 2022

Production Linked Incentives Scheme for the automobile and auto components sector will lead to creation of additional jobs
PLI for auto to create 7.5 lakh additional jobs in 5 years, says official
Business Standard, February 14, 2022

Ministry of Finance releases grants to Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Sikkim for Urban local bodies
Grant of ₹1154.90 crore released to States for Urban Local Bodies
PIB, February 14, 2022
Net tax revenues to exceed the revised estimate by 4.5% due to increases in tax collections till January-end

**Net tax receipts may exceed revised estimate by ₹80,000 crore**
The Financial Express, February 15, 2022

NITI Aayog to seek waiver of GST while transferring an asset to a new entity

**NITI seeks GST waiver for 'rights to use' transfers**
Business Standard, February 15, 2022

Government will maintain scrutiny on apps of Chinese origin to prevent access to data of Indians "through illegal means"

**India to keep up heat on China apps accessing data illegally**
The Economic Times, February 15, 2022

Merchandise exports rise to $34.50 billion in January 2022 from $27.54 billion, Y-o-Y

**India's January trade deficit at $17.42 billion: Trade ministry**
The Economic Times, February 15, 2022

India can add USD 20 billion to its GDP by leveraging the production linked incentive schemes

**India can add $20 billion to GDP if import dependence on China is halved: Report**
The Financial Express, February 15, 2022

IT industry set to clock a revenue of $227 billion for FY22

**IT industry on the road to becoming $350 billion in revenue terms by 2026**
Business Standard, February 15, 2022

Exports from special economic zones witness a 31 per cent rise to $87.95 billion

**SEZ exports lag overall rate in April-November, shows government data**
Business Standard, February 15, 2022

More than nine crore rural households across the country receive clean tap water under Jal Jeevan Mission

**Over 9 crore rural households receiving tap water: Centre**
The Times of India, February 16, 2022
Indian economy is expected to grow at a fast pace due to various initiatives undertaken by the government in Budget 2022-23

**India economy to grow at quickest pace among large nations: Finmin report**
The Economic Times, February 16, 2022

NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe to host the first-ever open-to-all Hackathon event to facilitate an opportunity for innovators to think, ideate and code

**NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe launches the Fintech Open Hackathon**
PIB, February 16, 2022

Income earned from providing guest lectures to attract GST

**Income earned from providing guest lectures liable to 18 per cent GST: AAR**
The Economic Times, February 16, 2022

Union government introduces New India Literacy Programme to cover all the aspects of adult education

**Government approves new scheme of adult education during FY22-27**
Live mint, February 16, 2022

Centre considering to levy **GST** on entities that provide a mining platform for cryptocurrency assets

**Government likely to propose 18% GST on crypto mining, trading entities**
Business Standard, February 17, 2022

India obtains ten bids for exploration acreage

**India bags ten bids for eight oil and gas blocks in latest bid round**
Business Standard, February 17, 2022

Indian economy to undergo a reset by end of next year, will clock 9 per cent growth in FY2021-22 and around 8 per cent in FY2022-23

**Post-third Covid wave economic reset by year-end: Finance Ministry**
Business Standard, February 17, 2022

Union government notifies green hydrogen policy to aid the government in meeting its climate targets and making India a green hydrogen hub

**Government unveils green hydrogen policy to accelerate shift away from fossil fuels**
Live mint, February 17, 2022
Union Ministry of Tourism signs MoU with Alliance Air Aviation Limited to boost tourism
Government signs MoU with Alliance Air Aviation to boost tourism in India
Business Standard, February 17, 2022

India Ratings revises the outlook on state finances to “improving” in FY23 from “neutral”
States’ fiscal deficit to stand at 3.6 per cent in FY23: Ind-Ra
The Financial Express, February 18, 2022

Government makes gems and jewellery sector a focus area to help boost both domestic as well as export growth
Government focusing on making gem, jewellery sector self-reliant: Piyush Goyal
Business Standard, February 18, 2022

Jal Jeevan Mission achieves a milestone, provides tap water to every home of 100 districts in the country
100 districts in the country become ‘Har Ghar Jal’ under Jal Jeevan Mission
PIB, February 18, 2022

Gems & Jewellery sector is expected to register growth of 6.5% over the pre-Covid levels
Gems & Jewellery sector is expected to achieve export target of $40 Billion this year: Shri Piyush Goyal
PIB, February 18, 2022

Ministry of Power issues revised guidelines for EV charging infrastructure
Government of India to expand Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure across the nation
PIB, February 19, 2022

175.03 crore vaccine doses are administered so far under Nationwide Vaccination Drive
COVID-19 UPDATE
PIB, February 19, 2022
ECONOMIC TRENDS

Bank loans rise year-on-year at the end of the fortnight of January 28, 2022
*Festive season helps bank credit grow by 8.2% YoY, shows data*
Business Standard, February 12, 2022

Non-financial sector debt registers an increase
*Non-financial debt jumps 11.9 pc to ₹371 lakh crores in September quarter: Report*
The Financial Express, February 13, 2022

WPI registers an increase in January primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, crude petroleum & natural gas, basic metals, chemicals and chemical products, food articles
*India’s WPI inflation eases to 12.96% in January*
The Indian Express, February 14, 2022

Auto-debit payment bounce rate trends downwards since July 2021, as the second wave of the pandemic receded
*Auto-debit payment bounce rates in January lowest since August 2019*
Business Standard, February 14, 2022

Annual retail inflation registers an increase in January pushed up by rising prices of food and manufactured items
*India’s Jan retail inflation accelerates to seven-month high 6.01% YoY*
The Financial Express, February 14, 2022

Coal output registers an increase, Y-o-Y
*India’s coal production rises 6% to 79.60 million tonnes in January*
Business Standard, February 14, 2022

Retail sales suffer due to the restrictions imposed by states to curb the third wave of the coronavirus pandemic
*Retail sales in January hurt by Covid curbs, at 91% of pre-pandemic level: RAI*
Business Standard, February 15, 2022

Oil demand recovery to be swift in February following ease in Covid restrictions
*India’s oil demand to rebound in February as Covid related restrictions ease: Report*
Live mint, February 16, 2022
Aviation turbine fuel prices rise high following increase in rates, in line with a rise in international oil prices
Aviation turbine fuel prices climb to record high after 5.2% hike
Business Standard, February 16, 2022

RBI paper urges for continued policy support to the manufacturing sector for smooth and fast recovery to attain the long-term trend path
Manufacturing sector will need continued policy support: RBI article
Business Standard, February 16, 2022

Number of e-way bills generated for inter-state trade in goods under GST system is 14% higher during the first 13 days of February
E-way bills’ generation picks up, indicates spurt in consumption, GST receipts
The Financial Express, February 17, 2022

Indian hospitality companies bounce back in December quarter as occupancy levels at hotels improve and the wedding segment witnesses a comeback
Indian hospitality firms see strong recovery in Q3: Report
Live mint, February 18, 2022

Retail inflation for farm workers register an increase due to rise in food prices
Retail inflation for farm, rural workers rises to 5.49%, 5.74% in January
The Economic Times, February 18, 2022
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Exports of agricultural and processed food products are expected to exceed as government takes a series of steps in the promotion and development of exports

Exports of agriculture, processed food through APEDA may exceed USD 23.7 billion in FY22
The Financial Express, February 13, 2022

Strategic mission is a must to achieve USD 1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030
Multidimensional approach key for India to achieve $1 trillion exports by 2030: CII
The Financial Express, February 13, 2022

India showcased investment opportunities in emerging sectors including ICT, renewable energy, electric vehicles, drones, robotics and textiles for Japanese firms
India showcased investment opportunities for Japanese firms
The Economic Times, February 14, 2022

Palm oil imports register a decline
India's January palm oil imports dip over 29% to 5,53,084 tonnes: SEA
The Economic Times, February 14, 2022

India and Australia ink a letter of intent at the 4th India – Australia Energy Dialogue to work towards reducing the cost of new and renewable energy technologies and scaling up their deployment to reduce emission globally
India, Australia ink letter of intent on new and renewable energy technology
The Financial Express, February 15, 2022

India’s total trade with Australia touches $17.8 billion for the financial year 2021-22
Indo-Australian trade crosses pre-pandemic levels, pact likely soon
Business Standard, February 15, 2022

Oilmeal exports decline due to fall in shipments of soyabean and rapeseed meal
India Jan oilmeal export dips 65% to 1.76 lakh tonnes: SEA
The Economic Times, February 16, 2022
Reserve Bank of India turned net seller of the US currency in December 2021 in the spot market
**RBI becomes net seller of US dollar in December; sells USD 2.92 billion**
The Financial Express, February 16, 2022

Gems and jewellery exports register an increase, Y-o-Y
**Gems and jewellery exports up 6.5 pc to USD 32.37 billion during April-Jan:**
GJEPC
The Financial Express, February 16, 2022

India and Germany to strengthen quality infrastructure, reduce technical barriers to trade, enhance product safety and strengthen consumer protection
**India, Germany sign work plan for collaboration to strengthen quality infra**
Business Standard, February 16, 2022

India-UAE CEPA to be signed virtually is a pathbreaking pact which will unleash the economic potential between India and the UAE
**CEPA to unleash India-UAE economic potential, boost trade to USD 100 billion: India’s envoy**
The Economic Times, February 17, 2022

India and UAE conclude the first bilateral trade accord, sign the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
**UAE and India sign historic trade pact, marking a new era of economic cooperation**
PIB, February 18, 2022

India and UAE sign the historic Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement CEPA aimed at boosting the merchandise trade between the two countries to US$ 100 billion over next five years
**India and UAE sign the historic CEPA aimed at boosting goods trade to US$ 100 billion over next five years**
PIB, February 18, 2022

PM Modi and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi agree on roadmap for a future-looking partnership and strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with opportunities for greater depth and breadth of cooperation
**Joint India-UAE Vision Statement - Advancing the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: New Frontiers, New milestones**
MEA, February 18, 2022
Indian traders contract to import a record 100,000 tonnes of soyoil from the United States
India makes record US soyoil purchases as drought parches South America
The Economic Times, February 18, 2022

Foreign exchange reserves decline during the week ended February 11
Forex reserves down by $1.763 billion to $630.19 billion
The Economic Times, February 18, 2022
INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Union Cabinet gives nod to the setting up of a G20 Secretariat, responsible for implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements required to steer India’s upcoming G20 Presidency

Cabinet approves setting up of G20 Secretariat ahead of India's Presidency

Business Standard, February 15, 2022

India to exhibit investment opportunities in millets, organic farming, horticulture and dairy to investors worldwide

India to Showcase its Agriculture and Food Processing prowess at EXPO2020 Dubai

PIB, February 16, 2022

WTO paper urges to exempt developing nations from being taken to the WTO’s dispute settlement panel for undertaking Covid-time measures

‘Developing nations should not be dragged to WTO disputes on taking steps to deal with pandemic’

The Financial Express, February 16, 2022

FM Nirmala Sitharaman shares insights on India’s policy response to pandemic at the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting

Nirmala Sitharaman pitches for expeditious, equitable distribution of vaccines to aid global recovery

The Financial Express, February 17, 2022

FM Nirmala Sitharaman participates in a virtual session on ‘sustainable financing and infrastructure’ at the ongoing G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, supports the efforts being made for scaling up the sustainable finance instruments

Need to bridge global infra funding gap, develop innovative financing mechanisms: Sitharaman at G20 meet

The Financial Express, February 18, 2022

FM Sitharaman urges multilateral financial institutions to step up funding to low and middle-income countries to bolster their preparedness to deal with any pandemic in the future

Tackling pandemic: Multilateral bodies need to provide more funds, says FM Nirmala Sitharaman

The Financial Express, February 18, 2022
Leading foreign universities start preliminary discussion with the GIFT City authorities and the regulator to establish facilities at the IFSC

Foreign universities plan to set up shop at Gandhinagar-based GIFT IFSC

Business Standard, February 18, 2022

The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank sign loan agreement to help increase farmers’ resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes

Govt. of India, World Bank sign loan agreement of $115 million for implementation of “Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development” (REWARD) Project

PIB, February 18, 2022