

## Daily Economic News Summary: 13 June 2019

### **1. Mike Pompeo Pushes India For Access To Local Markets, Says Us ‘Open’ To Discuss Trade Issues**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has pushed for India to further open its economy and also “diversify” its energy portfolio, saying countries that have provided American companies access to their local markets have seen “real opportunity”. Speaking at the India Ideas Summit of US-India Business Council on 12 June, ahead of his visit to New Delhi later this month, he also said America is “open” to dialogue on trade issues. He added countries that have allowed US firms to have a “fair and reciprocal trade”, have seen America open up to them. “And I think they’ve seen real opportunity.” The top American diplomat’s remarks have come amid trade-related frictions between the US and several other countries, including Mexico, India and China. US President Donald Trump has been pursuing his trade policies aggressively and imposed tariffs on China, hitting billions of dollars of import of Chinese products.

### **2. India Gets \$42 billion FDI Inflows in 2018: UN Report**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

India received foreign direct investments worth USD 42 billion in 2018, helped by robust inflows in manufacturing, communication and financial services, a United Nations trade report said 12 June. In South Asia, FDI inflows increased by 3.5 per cent to USD 54 billion, said the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report 2019. So, India attracted over 77 per cent of the total foreign direct investments that came to the South Asian region. “Investment in India – the subregion’s largest recipient – rose by 6 per cent to USD 42 billion with strong inflows in manufacturing, communication, financial services and cross-border merger and acquisition activities,” said the report.

### **3. Govt Approves SEZ Amendment Bill To Replace Ordinance For Permitting Trusts To Set Up Units**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

A bill to amend the special economic zones law will be introduced in the ensuing session of Parliament to replace an ordinance promulgated in March which will allow trusts to set up units in SEZs. The introduction of the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was approved by the Union Cabinet in its meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, here 12 June. The bill will replace the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019, which was promulgated in March. The ordinance had paved the way for trusts to set up units in special economic zones (SEZs). “The Union Cabinet has approved to introduce a Bill, namely, the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019, ... to replace the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019. The Bill will be introduced in ensuing session of Parliament,” an official statement said.

### **4. Cabinet Approves Cybersecurity Pact Between India, Finland**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

The Cabinet on 12 June cleared signing of an agreement between India and Finland to enhance cooperation in the area of cybersecurity, an official statement said. “Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Finland in the area of cybersecurity,” the government statement said. The Cabinet was apprised of the MoU on the cooperation in the area of cybersecurity between India and Finland signed in January 2019. “The MoU intends to promote closer cooperation for exchange of knowledge and experience in detection, resolution and prevention of security related incidents between India and Finland,” the statement said.

### **5. Electronics Manufacturers Seek Ban On Television Imports From Vietnam**

**Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

The electronics manufacturing industry has asked the government to immediately ban imports of televisions from Vietnam, which saw a 25-times jump to Rs 1,500 crore within the last one year, and called for changes in the import duty structure. In similar letters dated June 11 to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, commerce minister Piyush Goyal and communications and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) said the government was losing close to Rs 1,000 crore in GST alone, owing to the current basic customs duty (BCD) regime, which was encouraging a grey market for colour televisions.

## **6. Nirav Modi Extradition Case: Uk Court Rejects Fugitive Diamantaire's Bail For Fourth Time Over Fears He Would Abscond**

**Source: Firstpost ([Link](#))**

The UK High Court on 12 June rejected Nirav Modi's bail application, his fourth attempt as the diamond merchant fights his extradition from Britain to India in the nearly \$2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case. In her judgment handed down at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Justice Ingrid Simler concluded there are "substantial grounds" to believe that the 48-year-old fugitive diamantaire would fail to surrender as he does possess the means to "abscond". Reiterating similar concerns as those raised by the lower court in the UK during previous bail hearings, Judge Simler ruled that after considering all the material "carefully", she had found strong evidence to suggest there had been interference with witnesses and destruction of evidence in the case and concluded it can still occur.

## **7. Over Rs 2.05 lakh cr Bank Frauds in 11 years; ICICI Bank, SBI and HDFC Bank Report maximum cases**

**Source: Firstpost ([Link](#))**

Of over 50,000 frauds that hit banks in India in the last 11 fiscal years, the ICICI Bank, State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank reported highest number of cases, according to an RBI data. Of the total 53,334 cases of frauds reported during 2008-09 and 2018-19 fiscal years, involving a whopping Rs 2.05 lakh crore, the highest of 6,811 were reported by the ICICI Bank involving Rs 5,033.81 crore. The state-run State Bank of India (SBI) reported 6,793 fraud cases involving Rs 23,734.74 crore followed by HDFC Banks which recorded 2,497 such cases involving Rs 1,200.79 crore, according to the data given by the central bank in response to an RTI query filed by PTI correspondent. The Bank of Baroda reported 2,160 fraud cases (involving Rs 12,962.96 crore), Punjab National Bank 2,047 frauds (Rs 28,700.74 crore) and Axis Bank had 1,944 fraud cases involving RS 5,301.69 crore public money.

## **8. Chandrayaan-2 Set To Take Off On 15 July, Land On Moon By 7 September**

**Source Livemint ([Link](#))**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 12 June unveiled plans for its second unmanned mission to the moon, in what would be another milestone in the country's space exploration programme. The lunar spacecraft Chandrayaan-2 is scheduled for lift off at 0251 hours on 15 July from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The announcement by Isro comes almost 11 years after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

approved the first lunar mission on 18 September 2008. Chandrayaan-2 will have three modules, Orbiter, Lander (Vikram), and Rover (Pragyan). These are designed to carry out various experiments, including mapping of the surface, minerals, chemical composition, detection sparse water molecules above the lunar surface and rock formations.

### **9. Govt Increases Minimum Import Price For Cashew**

**Source: Money Control ([Link](#))**

The government June 12 increased sharply the minimum import price for whole and broken cashew, making inbound shipments of the commodity costlier. "The minimum import price of cashew (broken/whole) enhanced," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. The import price for broken cashew was increased to Rs 680 per Kg from Rs 288 per kg. Similarly for whole cashew, it was enhanced to Rs 720 per kg from Rs 400 per kg earlier.

India exported 84,352 tonne of cashew kernels in 2017-18 as against 82,302 tonne during previous year. In value terms, exports went up almost 18 per cent to USD 911 million in 2017-18.

### **10. Due To Jio, India Is Home To World's 2nd Largest Internet User Base: Report**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

More than half the world's population is active on the internet, with India accounting for about 12% of them, retaining its second position, an annual report on internet trends by venture capitalist Mary Meeker said on 11 June. China has the largest base, accounting for 21% of all internet users globally, and the US comes third at 8%. The number of people active online in 2018 was approximately 3.8 billion, or 51% of the world's population. That compares with the previous year's 3.6 billion people, or 49% of the world's population. The growth in internet users in India was driven by cut-price data plans introduced by Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd and cheaper smartphones, the report said.