

Daily Economic News Summary: 25 January 2019

1. Deadline For New FDI Policy In Ecommerce May Be Deferred

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

The government is considering extending the deadline of February 1 by when recently announced changes in the foreign direct investment policy for ecommerce are to take effect, said people with knowledge of the matter. “The government is considering giving an extension, but no final decision has been taken,” said a senior official. Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart have sought a deferment and industry sources said the government is weighing an extension of at least two months. Executives of Amazon and Flipkart have met senior government officials and asked for an extension and review of two key clauses.

2. Govt May Fix Trade Margins On Expensive Orphan, Cancer Drugs

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The government may fix trade margins on so-called orphan drugs used to treat rare diseases, a health ministry official said, promising partial relief for patients burdened with exorbitant treatment costs. The move, if successful, could hurt multinational pharmaceutical companies such as Sanofi Genzyme, Pfizer and Shire USA, who make these drugs. The health ministry has identified drugs to treat 21 rare diseases and 39 cancer drugs, the official cited above said on condition of anonymity, adding it has asked the department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) to examine the possibility of fixing their trade margins.

3. India's Most Respected Business Tycoons Turn Up For The Economic Times Family Business Awards

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

The Economic Times Family Business Awards, now in their second year, have established a benchmark in recognising outstanding performance and not just in terms of financial growth. They also reflect how well business families have managed themselves and their internal relationships, their companies, boards, CEOs and senior management. The Bajaj Group won the mega companies award. Metro Shoes won the emerging companies award.

4. US Ban May Offer India And China Feast Of Cheap Venezuelan Oil

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

A possible move by Donald Trump to hurt Venezuela's oil industry could prove a shot in the arm for the Xi Jinping and Narendra Modi administrations. If the US decides to deploy a slate of sanctions that it's said to have drafted against the Latin American nation, American refiners -- the No. 1 consumer of Venezuelan crude exports - would be forced to cease purchases. That may mean more supply becomes available for the OPEC producer's other big customers: China and India.

5. Global Business Leaders Raise Concerns Over E-Commerce Policy Changes In India

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

Several global business leaders have raised concerns over the evolving regulatory challenges concerning the e-commerce sector in India and said they want a stable policy regime to help this space achieve its robust growth and investment potential. Multiple business leaders attending the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting here said there are confusions in their mind in the backdrop of recent policy changes for e-commerce players having FDI in India. India's FDI policy allows 100 per cent foreign direct investment in marketplace model, but investors also want a stable policy and regulatory regime, a senior official of a leading online retailer said.

6. Reliance Industries Evolving From Integrated Energy Company Into Consumer Giant, Can Become India's Alibaba: UBS

Source: Firstpost ([Link](#))

Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries is evolving from an integrated energy company into a consumer giant like China's Alibaba and potentially could rival likes of Amazon and Walmart, says a report on 24 January. India's No.1 oil refining and petrochemical company plans to roll out its online shopping platform that will combine its retail arm's nearly 10,000 stores in over 6,500 towns as well as neighbourhood retailers with its fast expanding mobile phone network that already has 28 crore subscribers.

7. Finance Minister Piyush Goyal To Meet Heads Of Psbs Next Week To Discuss Credit Offtake, Bad Loan Position Of Lenders

Source: Firstpost ([Link](#))

Finance minister Piyush Goyal will meet the heads of public sector banks next week to discuss a host of issues including credit offtake and bad loan position of lenders, according to sources. Goyal, who has been given an additional charge of the finance ministry on Wednesday in the absence of Arun Jaitley, is scheduled to meet chiefs of the state-owned banks on Monday to review the financial performance of the banks. Among the key issues, the meeting will take up the matter of credit flow to MSMEs, agriculture and retail sectors.