

Daily Economic News Summary: 7 May 2019

1. E-Comm Policy, Data Localisation Figure In Indo-US Meet; GSP Not Discussed

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Issues like India's draft e-commerce policy, data localisation, high import duties imposed by America on steel and aluminium figured during the meeting between visiting US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu in New Delhi on 6 May, sources said. The other matters which were discussed between the leaders include the US concerns on medical devices, personal data protection bill of India, RBI's public credit registry, data localisation for payment companies, visa issue, airport ground handling operations by US Airlines, IPR and airline passenger safety system/data, they added.

2. Mastercard To Invest \$1 Bn In India, Plans To Make Country Global Tech Node

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Global card payments major Mastercard on 6 May said it will invest USD 1 billion (about Rs 7,000 crore) in India in the next five years and plans to make the country a global technology node for its platforms. The company has already invested USD 1 billion in the Indian market in the last five years. The most crucial thing about this investment is that Mastercard is building India as a global technology node for its global platforms, he said. This investment will help foster innovation and increase Mastercard's speed-to-market capabilities and value-added services.

3. Policy To Boost Exports On Anvil As Trade Deficit Hits New High Of \$176 Bn

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has set up a working group to look into export promotion policy, the impact of free trade agreements (FTAs) signed by India, tariff concessions vis-à-vis non-tariff barriers faced by exporters, and facilitating e-commerce exports. "We are looking into issues faced by exporters amid intense competition in the international market. The idea is to look at our policies comprehensively from the perspective of export, manufacturing, and trade facilitation," a CBIC official said

4. BigBasket gets \$150 million In Funding, Becomes The Latest Unicorn

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Mirae Asset-Naver Asia Growth Fund (Mirae-Naver), a leading investor operating in global growth markets, the UK Government's development finance institution, CDC Group, and Alibaba Group said on 6 May they have led a \$150-million round of fundraising for Supermarket Grocery Supplies (SGSPL), which owns the Bigbasket brand. The round values Bigbasket at over \$1 billion, according to the company, making it the newest Unicorn out of India. Business Standard first reported the deal on March 28. The financing round, which Mirae-Naver has led through one of its funds, marks the group's largest investment in India.

5. Airtel, Hughes Communications to Combine VSAT Operations in India

Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))

Telecommunication services provider Bharti Airtel (Airtel), and Hughes Communications India (HCIL), a subsidiary of Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Hughes), on 7 May said they have agreed to combine their VSAT (satellite communications system that serves home and business users) operations in India. The transaction is subject to approvals by relevant authorities, Airtel said in a statement. As per the agreement, Hughes will have majority ownership in the combined entity and Airtel will have a significant shareholding, it said without sharing any deal size. HCIL is the leading broadband satellite service operator in India. It provides a comprehensive range of broadband networking technologies, solutions, and services for businesses and governments.

6. Food Corporation of India To Sell 10 Million Tonne Of Wheat To Bulk Consumers This Fiscal

Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))

The government is offering wheat at a base price of Rs 2,080 per quintal for three main wheat-producing states-Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, while for other states the freight charges at Ex-Ludhiana will be added to the base rate. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), the government's nodal agency for procurement and distribution of grains, will sell wheat through an e-auction under the open market sale scheme (OMSS) throughout the fiscal except during procurement period in wheat growing states, it added.

7. Govt To List Skilled Jobseekers, Connect Them With Employers

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The skill development and entrepreneurship ministry is setting up a national skills registry to match trained job seekers and apprentices with employers. The move comes against the

background of a heightened debate over the lack of jobs in the country. The registry will initially capture data of nearly 20 million trained people and will build in a system to match them with around 20,000 companies and organisations, the ministry said. The national database, which is being developed by technology firm IBM, will not only contain records of people trained by 22 ministries and departments of the Union government but will also integrate all state skills missions.

8. Govt Tells EV Makers to Localize Manufacturing To Qualify For Subsidies

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Control units, chargers and AC units are among a slew of components that electric and hybrid vehicle manufacturers must build locally to qualify for subsidies under a government scheme to encourage the adoption of such vehicles. The latest draft guidelines on Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles Scheme (FAME) list components that need to be built locally, with specific deadlines. FAME, which was introduced on 1 April 2015, entered its second phase (FAME-2) in April 2019.

9. FinComm To Meet RBI Governor, Bank Officials During Mumbai Visit On May 8-9

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

The 15th Finance Commission will meet RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and representatives of banks and financial institutions during its two-day visit to Mumbai beginning May 8, according to an official statement. The commission, chaired by N K Singh, will discuss issues concerning macro-economics, financial stability and cost of borrowing of the Centre and states with the Reserve Bank. The other issues which are expected to come up during the deliberation include market driven borrowing cost and debt trajectories of states.

10. NITI Aayog Invites Proposals To Evaluate 28 Centrally-Sponsored Schemes

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

In line with government's commitment to evaluate all centrally-sponsored schemes before fresh appraisals, the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) under NITI Aayog has invited proposals for consultants to evaluate 28 umbrella centrally sponsored schemes under 10 sectors. The exercise is expected to be completed before the start of 20th Finance Commission post March 2020. In order to rationalise the available resources based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission for the achievement of the National Development Agenda, the

government had made the approval of the schemes co-terminus with the Finance Commission cycle.