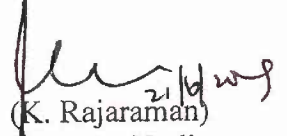


No. A-45011/2/2019-Admn.III  
Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
(Department of Economic Affairs)  
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New Delhi, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

The undersigned is directed to circulate herewith the unclassified portion of Monthly Summary on important policy decisions in respect of Department of Economic Affairs for the Month of May, 2019.

  
(K. Rajaraman)

Additional Secretary to the Government of India  
Tel No. 23093230/5012

To

1. All Members of the Union Council of Ministers, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. Secretary to the President of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Secretary to the Vice-President of India, 6, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi.
4. Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, New Delhi.
5. Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, PMO, South Block, New Delhi.
6. Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
7. Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. All Members of Niti Aayog, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Secretaries to all the Ministries/Departments, Government of India, New Delhi.  
PPS to Secretary (EA), PPS to Secretary (Revenue), PPS to Secretary (Expenditure), OSD to MOS (F).
10. Chief Economic Adviser, DEA.
11. Additional Secretary (Shri A. Giridhar) Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
12. Additional Secretary (FB&ADB), DEA
13. Dr. C.S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, DEA
14. Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Adviser, DEA
15. All Heads of Divisions in Department of Economic Affairs.  
JS(Budget)/JS(C&C/UN&OMI)/JS(IPF)/JS(FM)/Adviser(IER)/JS&FA(Finance)/CAAA.
16. Ms. Rajasree Ray, Adviser, DEA.
17. Dr. Shashank Saksena, Adviser (FSRL), DEA
18. Shri Arun Kumar, Adviser, DEA
19. Guard File – 2019.

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Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
(Department of Economic Affairs)

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**Subject: Monthly Summary on important policy decisions pertaining to Department of Economic Affairs for the month of May, 2019.**

**1. Macro-economic Overview**

1.1 *Headline inflation based on Consumer Price Index* (New Series- Combined) in April, 2019 was 2.9% as compared to 4.6% in April, 2018. Inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) stood at 3.1% in April, 2019 as compared to 3.6% in April, 2018.

1.2 India's *merchandise exports* during April 2019 were valued at US\$ 26.1 billion as compared to US\$ 25.9 billion during April 2018, exhibiting a *growth of 0.6%*. India's *Imports* during April 2019 were valued at US\$ 41.4 billion which increased by 4.5% over the level of imports valued at US \$ 39.6 billion in April 2018. India's oil imports during April 2019 were valued at US\$ 11.4 billion which was 9.3% lower as compared to US\$ 10.4 billion in April 2018. The *trade deficit* for April 2019 was estimated at US\$ 15.3 billion as against the deficit of US\$ 13.7 billion during April 2018.

1.3 India's *trade deficit* increased to US\$ 183.5 billion (6.5% of GDP) in 2018-19 from US\$ 162.1 billion (6.1% of GDP) in 2017-18. Net invisible receipts were higher in 2018-19 mainly due to increase in net services earnings and private transfer receipts. Net FDI inflows in 2018-19 increased to US\$ 30.9 billion from US\$ 30.3 billion in 2017-18. Portfolio investment recorded a net outflow of US\$ 10.6 billion in 2018-19 as against an inflow of US\$ 22.1 billion a year ago. In 2018-19, there was a depletion of US\$ 11.7 billion of the foreign exchange reserves.

1.4 India's *Foreign exchange reserves* stood at US\$ 420.0 billion as on 24th May, 2019, showing an increase of US\$ 7.1 billion over the level of US\$ 412.9 billion as on 29th March 2019. The *average monthly exchange rate of rupee* (reference rate) for the month of May 2019 was Rs. 69.77 per US dollar as against Rs 69.47 per US dollar in April 2019.

1.5 As per the Quick Estimates released by the CSO (based on new series of 2011-12), the *Index of Industrial Production (IIP)* recorded a growth of (-) 0.1% in March-2019 as compared to the growth of 5.3% in March -2018. On a cumulative basis, for the period April- March, 2018-19, the industrial growth was 3.6 % as compared to the growth of 4.4 % during April- March, 2017-18. Eight Core Industries registered a growth of 2.6 % in April- 2019 as compared to 4.7% in April - 2018. The *growth of core industries* during April- March, 2018-19 is 4.3 % as compared to 4.3% during April-March, 2017-18.

**2. Other important Developments**

2.1(a) SEBI vide its circular dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019 has issued the framework for the process of accreditation of investors for the purpose of Innovators Growth Platform. The guidelines cover aspects like eligibility, procedure for accreditation, validity of accreditation etc.

(b) Discussion on BIT issues was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019 with Mauritius side through Teleconference. Discussion on BIT issues was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019 with Tajikistan side through Digital Video Conference. Discussion on BIT issues was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 with Kyrgyz side through Digital Video Conference.

(c) DEA participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) Working Group on Investment in Bangkok, Thailand from 8-9<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

(d) DEA participated in the Inter-Sessional meeting of the Working Group on Investment Regional Cooperation and Economic Partnership (RCEP) held between 28-31st May 2019 at Thailand.

## **2.2 Following Meetings were held during the month of May, 2019:**

- a. Finance Secretary led an Indian delegation to attend the Annual Meeting of ADB held on May 1-4, 2019 in Nadi, Fiji.
- b. Finance Secretary had a meeting with Ms.Gita Gopinath, Chief Economist of IMF on May 17, 2019 at New Delhi.
- c. A meeting regarding Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary on May 6, 2019 at New Delhi.
- d. Shri Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary chaired a meeting to discuss RDNA for Odisha Cyclone "Fani" held on May 14, 2019.
- e. Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Adviser participated in the second meeting of the Framework Working Group scheduled on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 in Brussels.

## **3. Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**

In particular, use of ICT in submission of Information is being encouraged.

## **4. Non-Compliance of ACC directions/orders**

Nil

## **5. FDI proposals cleared during the month and awaiting approval in the Department**

Cleared	:	00
Awaiting Approval in the Department	:	08

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