

Daily Economic News Summary: 5 April 2019
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1. New Government To Announce The Proposed Industrial Policy: Suresh Prabhu

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

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu 4 April said the proposed new industrial policy has been finalised and the new government would announce that. "We have finalised the industry policy. I am sure that the new government will announce that soon," Prabhu said at CII's Annual session 2019. Though the ministry has sent the final proposal of the policy to the Cabinet, but it was not taken up for consideration. It aims at promoting emerging sectors and modernising existing industries. It will also look to reduce regulatory hurdles, cut paper work and support emerging and new sectors. The ministry has planned to set up an elaborate machinery including a steering committee for effective implementation of the policy.

2. Indian Businesses Prepare To Enter Kazakh Market

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

New Delhi -Indian businesses are exploring to invest in a slew of sectors including infrastructure and energy in resource rich and Central Asia's biggest state Kazakhstan. Ambassador of Kazakhstan Bulat Sarsenbayev, Deputy Chairman of JSC National Company "Kazakh Invest" Marat Birimzhan, Director of the Regional Representative Office of the JSC Sovereign Welfare Fund "Samruk-Kazyna" Iskander Baitasov, as well as the Chairman of the Kazakh company "AlageumGroup" Yerkebulan Ilyasov held meetings with Indian entrepreneurs.

3. RBI Monetary Policy: Reserve Bank Cuts Repo Rate By 25 Bps To 6%

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 4 April cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6 per cent in the first bi-monthly monetary policy meet of the financial year (FY) 2019-20. It was the first back-to-back rate cut by the central bank since the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was formed in late 2016. In its last policy meet (February) and the first under Governor Shaktikanta Das, the central bank had lowered the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) or 0.25 per cent to 6.25

per cent and changed the policy stance to neutral from calibrated tightening, adopted in October policy meet last year.

4. District-Level ‘Ease Of Doing Business’ Ranking To Be Launched Soon: Suresh Prabhu **Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))**

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu said district level ‘ease of doing business’ ranking will soon be launched to ensure that smaller towns and districts become more business-friendly and have broad-based growth. Back-ground work for ranking districts has already started and a committee has been formed for this purpose, Prabhu said at an interaction at the CII Annual Session 2019 on 4 April. The Minister also the proposed new industrial policy, that targets an annual Foreign Direct Investment inflow of \$100 billion, has been finalised and is likely to be announced by the new government. The Minister also the proposed new industrial policy, that targets an annual Foreign Direct Investment inflow of \$100 billion, has been finalised and is likely to be announced by the new government.

5. Fitch Denies India An Upgrade For The 13th Year In A Row **Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

Fitch Ratings on Friday retained its sovereign rating for India at the lowest investment grade of BBB-, with a stable outlook, having denied the country an upgrade for 13 years now. “A weak fiscal position continues to constrain India’s sovereign ratings. In this regard, the next government’s medium-term fiscal policy will be of particular importance from a rating perspective,” Fitch said in a statement, which remained in sync with its earlier stance. Fitch said although official GDP data suggest growth averaged 7.5% in the five years through FY19, which is more than twice as fast as the historical ‘BBB’ peer median of 3.6%, the country’s general government deficit has hit around 7% of the GDP against the ‘BBB’ median of 1.9% and off-Budget financing has gained in importance

6. Government Tightens Check Against Chinese E-Comm Players Escaping Taxes **Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

India has started a major crackdown on online purchases of goods from Chinese e-commerce platforms that were escaping customs duty and goods and services tax, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said. After shooting letters to the tax officers and customs officers, the government is now asking the post office and courier companies to monitor shipments from China. The government had stopped import of goods through Mumbai and is now looking to

start similar crackdown across India and other ports including Chennai and Kolkata, said people aware of the development.

7. Amazon Vendor Cloudtail Looks To Exit Food Space

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

Amazon's largest Indian vendor Cloudtail is preparing to exit the food segment as the US company's fully owned food-only retailing arm has stepped up selling local output on Amazon. in, said two industry executives aware of the development. Cloudtail is enrolling independent vendors to sell imported food products that Amazon Retail India (ARIPL), the subsidiary of the US major, cannot trade on its marketplace. Licence norms permit sales of only locally produced and packed foodstuff through both offline and online channels.