

Daily Economic News Summary: 6 August 2019
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**1. Govt proposes guidelines for e-tailers, plans national e-commerce policy for sector's holistic growth**

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

To protect consumers' interest, the Centre has proposed guidelines for e-commerce firms that entail a 14-day deadline to effect refund request, mandate e-tailers to display details of sellers supplying goods and services on their websites and moot the procedure to resolve consumer complaints. The consumer affairs ministry has sought views of stakeholders on the draft guidelines on e-commerce by 16 September. Meanwhile, the government is planning to come out with a national e-commerce policy to facilitate achieving holistic growth of the sector. Among key guidelines, the e-commerce companies will also be required to ensure that personally identifiable information of customers are protected. That apart, e-commerce firms should be a registered legal entity under Indian laws and should submit a self-declaration to the ministry stating that it is conforming with guidelines.

**2. FM Nirmala Sitharaman may take sector-wise corrective steps to address slowdown**

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

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman huddled with top public-sector and private bankers on 5 August, the first of a series of meetings lined up with important stakeholders up to August 11, as the government sought to devise plans for critical sectors amid fears that the economy might be slipping into a protracted slowdown. As per the plan, the minister and top finance ministry bureaucrats will meet representatives of MSMEs on 6 July, auto sector on 7 July, industry associations on 8 July, stock market and investor community on Friday, and real estate and homebuyers on 11 July. The idea is to firm up swift corrective action plans for critical sectors to reverse the slowdown. The economic expansion already collapsed to a five-year low of 6.8% in FY19. It is forecast to only marginally improve in the current fiscal to 7%, provided private investors return and consumption expenditure rebounds.

### **3. Govt may impose countervailing duty on certain steel products from China, Vietnam**

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

The government may impose countervailing duty on certain kind of steel pipes and tubes from China and Vietnam for five years, a move to guard domestic players from cheap imports. This recommendation to impose the duty on 'Welded Stainless Steel Pipes and Tubes' was made by the commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR after concluding a probe in this regard. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) conducted the probe following a complaint from Stainless Steel Pipe And Tubes Manufacturer Association; South India Stainless Steel Pipe And Tubes Manufacturer Association; and Haryana Stainless Steel Pipe And Tube Manufacturer Association. In its final findings, the directorate concluded that the product has been exported to India from these two countries at subsidised value.

### **4. E-commerce giants halt operations for at least 72 hours in Kashmir**

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

Wary of the uncertainty around the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, online marketplaces and e-commerce giants have decided to halt operations for at least 72 hours. Sources said the e-commerce firms had been contemplating the decision over the past couple of days, but a call was finally taken after Article 370 was revoked on 5 August. Companies said a decision on the next step would be taken over the next few days. "The deliveries for J&K have been put on hold. We will resume operations in the region as soon as the situation on the ground permits," Snapdeal spokesperson said.

### **5. RBI imposes monetary penalty on eleven banks**

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

The Reserve Bank of India imposed monetary penalty on eleven banks for non-compliance with provisions of "Frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs". Individually, the penalty on 11 banks ranges from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 50 lakh. Overall, the combined penalty comes to Rs 8.5 crore. The likes of SBI, PNB and Bank of BarodaNSE 1.11 % among others have been penalised. "This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers," RBI said in a statement on 5 July.

## **6. Amazon has competition: Flipkart to start free video streaming service**

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

Walmart-owned e-commerce company Flipkart is launching a slew of technology-led initiatives to tap the next 200 million consumers online. These include introducing the Hindi version of the Flipkart app and 'Flipkart Videos', a curated range of movies, shows and entertainment series. It would also be showcasing specific products to customers based on their needs. These initiatives are expected to help Flipkart in its battle with rival company Amazon and competition from the yet to be launched e-commerce business of Reliance Industries. The company is introducing the Flipkart app in Hindi. The plan is to unveil it in other languages as well such as Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Bengali in future. Flipkart said its approach to solving the language barrier problem people face when they come online is by using technology. The key result of that is, the first in the industry 'audio- visual guided navigation' in Hindi. This enables easy onboarding for new consumers, through a step by step guide making it easier for them to shop.

## **7. 'One ration card' plan to be fast-tracked**

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

The government is planning to fast-track the implementation of 'one nation, one ration card' scheme, which allows beneficiaries to purchase subsidised grain at any fair price shop in the country. Food minister Ram Vilas Paswan is scheduled to hold a high-level review meeting on August 9 to assess the progress and give impetus to the scheme. The government has announced that it will implement this scheme across the country by June 2020. The scheme will especially benefit migrant labourers who are often on the move in search of jobs. In the current dispensation, rationcard holders can buy food grains and sugar only from a designated fair price shop in the card-issuing state.