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ASSOCHAM NEWS & VIEWS

WEEKLY

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THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF INDIA

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Index of Eight Core Industries (Base: 2011-12=100) February, 2019

The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 125.8 in February, 2019, which was 2.1per cent higher as compared to the index of February, 2018. Its cumulative growth during April to February, 2018-19was 4.3per cent.

Coal

Coal production (weight: 10.33per cent) increased by 7.3 per cent in February, 2019 over February, 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 7.1 per cent during April to February, 2018-19over corresponding period of the previous year.

Crude Oil

Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98per cent) declined by 6.1 per cent in February, 2019 over February, 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 4.0 per cent during April to February, 2018-19over the corresponding period of previous year.

Natural Gas

The Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88per cent) increased by 3.8per cent in February, 2019 over February, 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 0.8 per cent during April to February, 2018-19 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Refinery Products

Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04per cent) declined by 0.8 per cent in February, 2019 over February, 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 3.0 per cent during April to February, 2018-19over the corresponding period of previous year.

Fertilizers

Fertilizers production (weight: 2.63 per cent) increased by 2.5 per cent in February, 2019 over February, 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 0.02 percent during April to February, 2018-19 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Steel

Steel production (weight: 17.92per cent) increased by 4.9 per cent in February, 2019 over February, 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 4.7per cent during April to February, 2018-19 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Cement

Cement production (weight: 5.37per cent) increased by 8.0per cent in February, 2019over February, 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 13.0per cent during April to February, 2018-19over the corresponding period of previous year.

Electricity

Electricity generation (weight: 19.85per cent) increased by0.7per cent in February, 2019over February, 2018. Its cumulative index increased by5.4per cent during April to February, 2018-19over the corresponding period of previous year.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

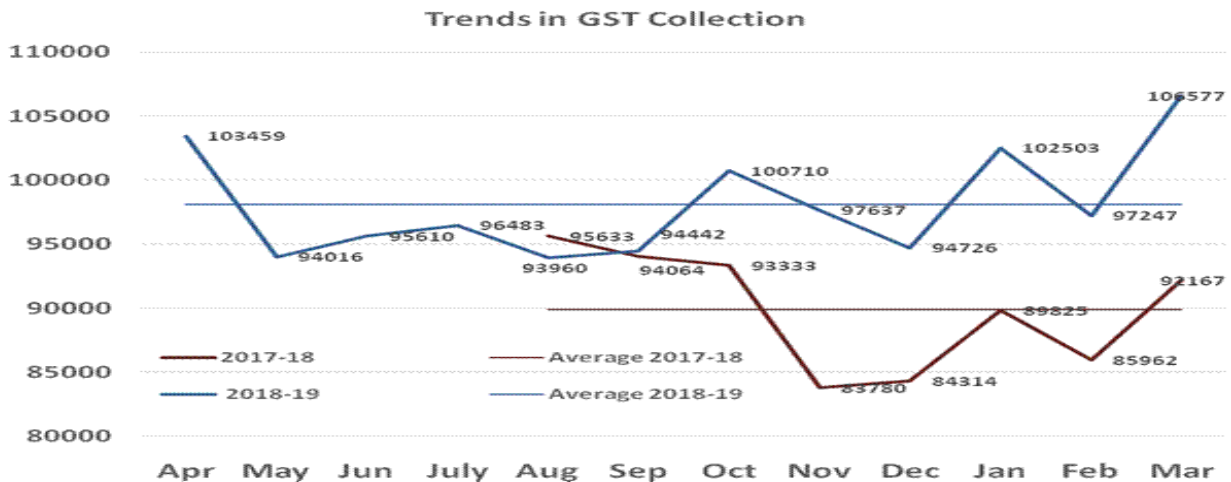
GST Revenue collection for March, 2019 crossed Rupees One Lakh Crore and recorded Highest Collections in the FY 2018-19

Total Gross GST revenue collected in the month of March, 2019 is **Rs. 1,06,577 crore** of which CGST is **Rs. 20,353 crore**, SGST is **Rs. 27,520 crore**, IGST is **Rs. 50,418 crore** (including **Rs. 23,521 crore** collected on imports) and Cess is **Rs. 8,286 crore** (including **Rs. 891 crore** collected on imports). The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed for the month of February up to 31st March, 2019 is **75.95 lakh**.

The Government has settled **Rs. 17,261 crore** to CGST and **Rs. 13,689 crore** to SGST from IGST as regular settlement. Further, **Rs. 20,000 crore** has been settled from the balance IGST available with the Centre on provisional basis in the ratio of 50:50 between Centre and States. The total revenue earned by Central Government and the State Governments after regular and provisional settlement in the month of March, 2019 is **Rs. 47,614 crore** for CGST and **Rs. 51,209 crore** for the SGST.

The collection during March, 2019 has been the highest since introduction of GST. The revenue in March, 2018 was **Rs. 92,167 crore** and the **revenue during March, 2019 is a growth of 15.6%** over the revenue in the same month last year. The **revenue for the last quarter in the year 2018-19 is 14.3% higher** than the revenue collected during the same period last year. The monthly average of GST revenue during 2018-19 is **Rs. 98,114 crore** which is 9.2% higher than FY 2017-18. These figures indicate that the revenue growth has been picking up in recent months, despite various rate rationalization measures.

The Chart below shows trends in revenue during the current year as compared to the last year.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Indian Advance Pricing Agreement regime moves forward with signing of 18 APAs by CBDT in March, 2019

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into 18 APAs in the month of March 2019, which includes 03 Bilateral APAs (BAPAs). With the signing of these APAs, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT in the year 2018-19 stands at 52, which includes 11 BAPAs. The total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT as of now stands at 271, which inter alia includes 31 BAPAs.

The BAPAs entered into during the month of March 2019 were with the following treaty partners:-

- Australia – 1
- Netherlands - 1
- USA – 1

The BAPAs and Unilateral APAs (UAPAs) entered into during the month of March 2019 pertain to various sectors and sub-sectors of the economy like anti-friction bearings, risk management solutions platforms, BPO, IT/ITeS, ATMs, industrial and institutional cleaning and hygiene products, etc.

The International Transactions covered in all these Agreements, inter alia, include the following, -

- contract manufacturing
- provision of software development services
- back office engineering support service
- provision of back office (ITeS) support services
- provision of marketing support services
- payment of royalty for use of technology and brand
- trading
- payment of interest

The progress of the APA scheme strengthens the Government's resolve of fostering a non-adversarial tax regime. The Indian APA programme has been appreciated nationally and internationally for being able to address complex transfer pricing issues in a fair and transparent manner.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Exchange Rates of conversion of Foreign Currencies notified for Imported and Export Goods

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), and in super-session of the notification of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) No.24/2019-CUSTOMS (N.T.), dated 20th March, 2019 except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such super-session, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) hereby determines that the Rate of Exchange of conversion of each of the Foreign Currencies specified in Column (2) of each of Schedule I and Schedule II annexed hereto, into Indian currency or *vice versa*, shall, with effect from 5th April, 2019, be the rate mentioned against it in the corresponding entry in Column (3) thereof, for the purpose of the said section, relating to Imported and Export Goods.

SCHEDULE-I

Sl.No.	Foreign Currency	Rate of exchange of one unit of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees	
		(1)	(2)
		(3)	
		(a)	(b)
		(For Imported Goods)	(For Exported Goods)
1.	Australian Dollar	50.00	47.75
2.	Bahraini Dinar	188.00	176.15
3.	Canadian Dollar	52.35	50.45
4.	Chinese Yuan	10.40	10.05
5.	Danish Kroner	10.50	10.15
6.	EURO	78.55	75.65
7.	Hong Kong Dollar	8.90	8.55
8.	Kuwaiti Dinar	233.05	217.35
9.	New Zealand Dollar	47.85	45.65
10.	Norwegian Kroner	8.15	7.85
11.	Pound Sterling	92.00	88.70
12.	Qatari Riyal	19.45	18.25
13.	Saudi Arabian Riyal	18.90	17.70
14.	Singapore Dollar	51.60	49.80
15.	South African Rand	5.00	4.70
16.	Swedish Kroner	7.55	7.25
17.	Swiss Franc	70.10	67.40
18.	Turkish Lira	12.55	11.80
19.	UAE Dirham	19.30	18.10
20.	US Dollar	69.45	67.75

SCHEDULE-II

Sl.No.	Foreign Currency	Rate of exchange of 100 units of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees	
(1)	(2)	(3)	
		(a)	(b)
		(For Imported Goods)	(For Export Goods)
1.	Japanese Yen	62.75	60.40
2.	Korean Won	6.25	5.85

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Highlights of the First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2019-20 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Reserve Bank of India

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its meeting today (April 4, 2019) decided to:

- **reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.0 per cent from 6.25 per cent with immediate effect.**

Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25 per cent.

The MPC also decided to maintain the neutral monetary policy stance.

These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

Download the link: [First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2019-20 .pdf](#)