



The month that was...	VPC Sectors
<p>COUNTRY, FINANCE, MACROECONOMY, POLICY AND POLITICS</p>	<p>LIFESTYLE – FASHION – BEAUTY & PERSONAL CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luxury leather accessories brand Da Milano will strengthen its airport store count with the opening of a new store at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad. Reliance Brands’ multi-brand luxury handbag boutique Luxe Bridge has opened its first Chennai store inside Royapettah’s Express Avenue Mall. The store specialises in luxury women’s handbags from international brands including Marc Jacobs, See by Chloé, Michael Kors, and Coach, among others. Onitsuka Tiger has launched a fifth mono-brand store in India at the premium retail and lifestyle hub, Ambience Mall, Gurugram. With a retail space of over 102 square meters, Onitsuka Tiger has launched the kids collection for the first time in India. The British accessories brand Kurt Geiger has partnered with Reliance Brands’ Genesis Luxury to launch in India and the brand plans to open its first India store in Delhi this autumn followed by Mumbai. US-based fashion brand Bebe has re-entered the Indian market through a new partnership with Mikaya Brands and recently opened an accessories store in Ahmedabad ahead of a country-wide retail expansion. Seraphine, the London based maternity fashion label plans to unveil its first store at Select Citywalk Mall, New Delhi, by April end to showcase its stylish range for new moms and moms-to-be. Reliance Retails’ fashion and lifestyle retailing business crossed the Euro 1.28 billion mark in FY 2018-19. As of March 2019, there were total of 676 of its Trends stores in the country. The Indian Retail Market is estimated to have clocked ~ Euro 680 billion in 2018. With a CAGR of 11%, it is expected to reach ~ Euro 1,932. After food & beverages, the fashion retail market was the second contributor at ~ Euro 46 billion. The men’s shirt market accounts for 28% of the total men’s wear market, and ~ 11% of the fashion retail pie at ~ Euro 5.1 billion. Reliance Industries owned Reliance Retail is in talks to acquire the iconic 259-year-old toy brand Hamleys. Hamleys is currently owned by a Chinese fashion wear company, C.Banner, and is currently distributed by Reliance in India. Select Citywalk, a popular shopping destination, is planning to introduce 10 new brands in FY2019-20 in the fashion, beauty and curated food categories. The management team of Select Citywalk is in talks with Tom Ford Beauty, Aveda Hair Care, Kiehl’s in the beauty space and in the fashion space, Ted Baker, Onitsuka Tiger, Polo Ralph Lauren, Under Armour, amongst others. New Era, a sports and lifestyle brand has collaborated with Indian cricket player Rohit Sharma for an exclusive collection of caps. H&M India, which launched its online store last year, has now expanded its digital presence in the country by signing a deal to sell its products on e-commerce platforms Myntra and Jabong. Reliance Industries has started to remove its own clothing, footwear, and lifestyle brands from e-commerce marketplaces such as Flipkart and Amazon as it gears up to launch its own business to the customer e-commerce platform. Hong Kong-based garment manufacturing company, Epic Group, is planning to enter India and set up its first manufacturing unit in Ranchi spread across a built-up area of ~ 20,000 sq. mt. It plans to source 90% of its raw material from India. Nykaa opened a Nykaa Luxe store in New Delhi and Bengaluru. The new Nykaa Luxe store marks the brand’s latest launch as it works towards reaching a total of 90 brick-and-mortar retail stores by 2020. SUGAR Cosmetics, one of the fastest growing colour cosmetics brands in the country has opened its exclusive brand outlet in Bengaluru. SUGAR Cosmetics has accelerated growth in both retail and online channels and has expanded their overall product range to nearly 230+ products. L’Oréal India is on the lookout for local companies in the skin and make-up segment as it looks to strengthen its portfolio to cater to a wider consumer base in the country. Multi-brand beauty retailer Nykaa has launched the UK based haircare brand Herbal Essences in India.
<p>Total Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections grew to 12.33 billion euro in February 2019, compared to 10.87 billion euro in February 2018.</p>	
<p>Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI) increased to 2.93% in February 2019 from 2.76% in January 2019. Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) as per new series (combined) rose to 2.57% in February 2019 from 1.97% in January 2019.</p>	
<p>Merchandise exports from India grew 8.85% year-on-year to US\$ 298.47 billion and merchandise imports rose 9.75% year-on-year to 406 billion euro during April 2018-February 2019.</p>	
<p>The Fiscal Deficit is expected to ease to 3.4% of GDP in 2018-19 (Revised Estimates), from 3.5% in 2017-18.</p>	
<p>The growth of Gross Value Added (GVA) at constant (2011-12) basic prices for agriculture and allied sectors, industry sector and services sector are estimated at 2.7%, 7.7% and 7.4% respectively for 2018-19.</p>	