

FinMin: GatiShakti, PLI scheme to offset global headwind, boost growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 7 April

GatiShakti and Production-Linked Incentive Schemes will offset global headwinds and drive investment, resulting in high post-recovery growth for the Indian economy, a Finance Ministry report said.

Geopolitical conflicts and their consequent impact on food, fertiliser and crude oil prices cast a cloud on the growth outlook globally, according to the monthly Economic Review prepared by the ministry.

India may feel its impact although the magnitude will, of course, depend on how long the dislocations in energy and food markets persist in the financial year and how resilient India's economy is to mitigate the impact, it said, adding transient shocks may not have a big effect on real growth and inflation.

"Offsetting these potential headwinds, GatiShakti and Production Linked Incentive Schemes will drive investment, which will combine with supply chains strengthened by structural reforms taken in the past few years to deliver high post-recovery growth for the Indian economy," it said.

With growing evidence of improving labour force participation and declining unemployment rate and the government's unwavering commitment to provide continued support to the economically poor (the PM Gharib Kalyan Yojana was extended for another six months, up to the end of September 2022), the growth path ahead will likely be a more inclusive one, it said.

INSACOG testing sewage water samples to detect Sars-CoV-2

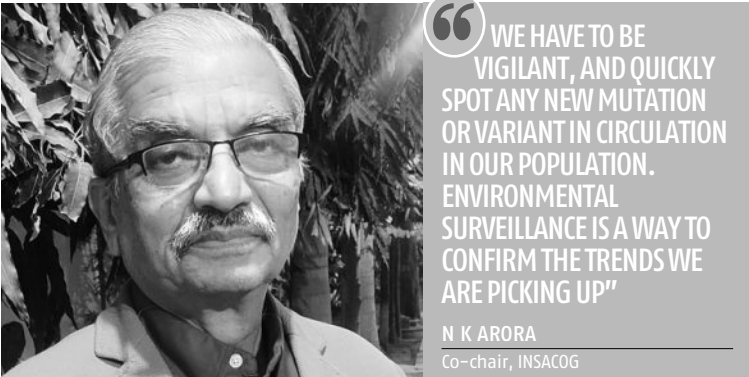
Over 55 sites activated across country; no case of XE found in India so far

SOHINI DAS
Mumbai, 7 April

With cases of symptomatic Covid-19 disease on the decline, the Indian Sars-CoV-2 Genomic Consortium (INSACOG) has started surveillance of sewage water samples across 55 sites to detect presence of the Sars-CoV-2 virus. INSACOG also clarified that so far no confirmed case of XE variant has been detected in India.

"This is called environmental surveillance, and India has done this during the polio campaign. Now, the learnings from the polio drive are being used to pick up the Sars-CoV-2 virus from sewage water samples," said NK Arora, co-chair, INSACOG. He added that very few countries in the world have the technology and capability to detect virus particles from sewage water. India was the first country in the world to do so for polio, Arora said.

The protocol has been set methodically and this is being used to see the



“WE HAVE TO BE VIGILANT, AND QUICKLY SPOT ANY NEW MUTATION OR VARIANT IN CIRCULATION IN OUR POPULATION. ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE IS A WAY TO CONFIRM THE TRENDS WE ARE PICKING UP”
N K ARORA
co-chair, INSACOG

virus circulation in the environment. Many people with Covid-19 infection are either asymptomatic, or have very mild influenza-like symptoms. Therefore, many are not opting for testing through RT-PCR anymore.

"We have to be vigilant, and quickly spot any new mutation or variant in circulation in our population. Also, environmental surveillance is a way to confirm the trends we are picking up in routine genomic sampling of indi-

vidual samples," Arora told *Business Standard*. It also helps to pick up dominant strains in the population, and any geographical trends in the infection scenario.

India's experience with polio has come in handy. Arora said for every symptomatic case of polio, there are 300-500 asymptomatic cases in the area. Similarly, for every symptomatic Covid-19 case, there are 8-10 asymptomatic Covid cases in the vicinity.

So far, no confirmed case of XE variant has been detected here, Arora said, adding that the INSACOG laboratory network works as a three-layer system. "It's a wheel-and-cogs-like structure. There are 10 core laboratories that confirm the detection of any variant. Any sample that has undergone genomic sequencing anywhere in the country is sent to INSACOG too routinely," he explained.

On Wednesday, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) declared results of the 11th genome sequencing by the civic body. One sample tested positive for the XE variant of Sars-CoV-2 virus and another has tested positive for Kappa variant, the BMC said.

The Union health ministry, however, said the sample which is being said to be 'XE' variant was analysed in detail by genomic experts of INSACOG, who have inferred that the genomic constitution of this variant does not correlate with the genomic picture of 'XE' variant.

Maharashtra latest state to raise electricity tariff

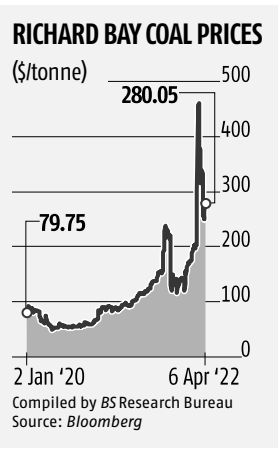
Higher coal, gas prices hit power companies across India

DEV CHATTERJEE
Mumbai, 7 April

With coal and gas prices hitting new highs, the Maharashtra electricity regulator has allowed all companies to raise power tariffs for the entire state. With this, Maharashtra joins a growing list of states to allow higher electricity tariff, citing the record high fuel prices.

On April 4, Karnataka allowed higher tariff for its customers who will pay an additional 35 paise per unit effective April 1. Telangana raised its tariff by 50 paise per unit after a gap of five year, while Andhra Pradesh also raised the power tariff up to ₹1.57 per unit across six different slabs.

In a circular dated April 5, the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission said the demand of electricity is increasing and power generating companies are facing shortage of domestic coal. Further, the MERC said cost of imported coal has also increased manifold since March 2020. "All these factors have led to increased power purchase expenses of distribution licensees and there is possibility that the surplus maintained so far in the FAC (fuel adjustment charges) stabilisation fund will get exhausted and additional charges will have to be recovered from consumers according to the FAC mechanism," the MERC said.



In March 2020, the Maharashtra electricity regulator had determined the tariff for customers for five years when Richard Bay coal prices — the global barometer for the fuel — was hovering at \$64-72 a tonne. Since then, the coal prices have gone up by 300 per cent.

The MERC said the fuel adjustment charges payable by each category of consumer will be rounded to nearest 0, 5, 10, and beyond paise per unit. "Thus, if FAC leviable is 1 or 2 paise, then it is rounded to 0 paise and if it is 3 and 4 paise, then it is rounded to 5 paise and likewise," the MERC said.

Based on rising coal prices, Tata Power, which depends on imported coal to supply power to Mumbai, is likely to raise its electricity tariff by ₹1.10 a unit, while Adani con-

sumers are facing a marginal hike of ₹0.15 to ₹0.25 a unit, according to industry sources. Both companies will have to apply to MERC for revised tariff for approval.

When contacted, an Adani Electricity spokesperson said the company has ensured long-term planning with an objective to provide tariff visibility to its consumers. "Our tariff shall remain most competitive with FAC impact on our consumers being mitigated through 100 per cent domestic coal supply and power supply from renewable energy sources," the Adani Electricity spokesperson said.

A Tata Power official said the MERC directives will be followed, and there will be no FAC in the near future. "We are completely prepared to provide 24x7 power to our customers as we obtain power from a variety of (pooled) energy sources that help us keep our tariffs low. As on date we have one of the lowest tariff rates in Mumbai. The current situation is transient in nature, and we will manage it in the best interests of our customers," the Tata Power spokesperson said.

Ratings firm Fitch warned that rising electricity prices will affect the already-weak financial profiles of distribution companies in India that have been unable to pass on the increased costs to customers on a timely basis.

India-Israel FTA talks to gather pace next month

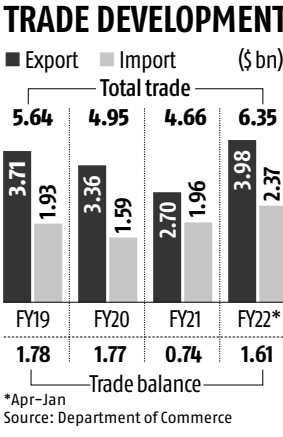
SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 7 April

Talks between India and Israel to explore the possibility of a free trade agreement (FTA) are expected to gain momentum as early as next month, people aware of the matter said.

Discussions and negotiations for an FTA with Israel have been going on for over a decade. However, over the last six months, leaders from both nations have shown enough interest to resume talks to expand bilateral trade ties.

After preliminary discussions between the countries at the end of last year, the process of exchanging items of interest, trade and tariff data had started. "Preliminary discussions had started, but the outbreak of Omicron delayed the talks. Meanwhile, Israel was also having discussions with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for an FTA. Now that Israel and UAE have concluded the agreement (last week) and (we) will have to complete the procedure of implementation of our trade deal with UAE from 1 May, India will then once again try to engage with Israel," one of the persons cited above said.

While external affairs minister S Jaishankar had, in October last year, said that both countries intend to conclude negotiations by June, the official cited above said



that as of now there is no clarity. "We would like to re-engage with Israel and see what are the gains in trade, after which we need to finalise the modalities. Once there is clarity (on whether there will be a broader trade deal to an early harvest trade agreement), then we can launch the negotiations. A timeline will be fixed once both countries finalise the modalities," the official told *Business Standard*.

"FTAs are being signed for strategic reasons also and may not look only at the economic gains. In the case of Israel, the deal isn't significant in terms of economic/commercial gains but because Israel is now a key country for India as we are procuring defence equipment from them," Biswajit Dhar, professor at Jawaharlal University said.

'Bandhan endeavours to be a holistic financial services group'

KARNI S ARHA, managing director, Bandhan Financial Holdings, talks about the reason behind the acquisition of IDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) — the largest deal in the segment so far — in conversation with Manojit Saha. Edited excerpts:

What is the reason behind the acquisition of IDFC AMC?

Within financial services, asset management is one segment which is growing at a healthy pace. Even if you look at the trend of the past decade, it has a normal run between 15 per cent and 17 per cent. It is likely to continue in the same range for the next 10 years. India is a good market for the growth of the asset management industry.

As a business, we like this segment. Size and scale are a big requirement in this segment to be able to get an opportunity to buy an asset of this size and of this pedigree. IDFC has been around for a long time. It is among the top 10 largest mutual fund (MF) companies. It is a well-entrenched brand.

The management is brilliant. We are going to continue with the management. We like the future of the asset management industry. We wanted some size and scale and a good management. It made a very strong case for an acquisition like this.

IDFC AMC has lost market share in the past year. How do you plan to address that?

The market-share drop is temporary in nature. It is a reflection of the interest



rate, equity market, and the overall business environment. We are confident that this franchise will continue to grow and improve its position in the industry.

How do you plan to retain the existing assets under management (AUM) and increase the asset base since Bandhan has no prior MF experience? Won't investors be wary of investing in your schemes?

Bandhan Bank is a distinct entity. It is not that Bandhan Bank is not distributing MFs. It is already distributing eight to 10 different MFs, very successfully. Within Bandhan Group, we will have an associate company which is also an MF company that is able to put the product out there and deliver on the performance of the

product. That is an added advantage.

The acquisition cost looks high, considering the bulk of the IDFC MF AUM is on the debt side, which is typically not sticky.

We don't think it is very high. The valuation of all listed AMCs range between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the average AUM. If you look at the price consideration for this particular transaction, it is slightly below 4 per cent of AUM. When you compare it to some of the listed players, this is not a high price. You have to see all these in a holistic manner.

Bandhan Group endeavours to be a holistic financial services company. It wants to offer all the products to customers. Asset management being one. There are other businesses that are likely to be and can be in the future. That is the way we wish to approach and the message we wish to send out.

With many bank-backed fund houses occupying top positions, where do you see IDFC MF five years hence?

We see this company only growing. There is no reason for it to not get top billing. Whether you want to be among the top three/five/six, it is only a question of when. We are building a franchise for the long haul. We want to ensure we build it the right way. We have all the ingredients in place. We also bring a lot of value additions from the consortium partners. These are key ingredients to ensure the firm continues to grow and perform well. We would definitely want it to improve its position and continue to be among the top companies in the industry.

Economy in good shape on high GDP growth: Jalan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 7 April

The Indian economy is in good shape as the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate and foreign exchange reserve are high, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India Bimal Jalan said on Thursday.

Notwithstanding economic uncertainties triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war that is also impacting the global supply chain, Jalan said it is not going to affect India's economic performance.

"India's current macro-economic situation is quite positive in the sense that the rate of growth is high. India's foreign exchange reserve is also very high," he told *PTI* in an interview. "India (Indian economy) is in good shape."

Asia's third-largest economy is projected to grow 8.9 per cent in 2021-22, according to recent government data. The RBI has pegged the economic growth rate for 2022-23 at 7.8 per cent.

The former RBI governor, however, stressed that unemployment is high, which is a matter of concern.

OFFER OPENING ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE BUY BACK OF EQUITY SHARES THROUGH TENDER OFFER UNDER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (BUYBACK OF SECURITIES) REGULATIONS, 2018, ("SEBI BUYBACK REGULATIONS") AS AMENDED FOR THE ATTENTION OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS / BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE EQUITY SHARES OF

FDC
FDC Limited
(CIN: L24239MH1940PLC003176)
Registered Office: B-8, M.I.D.C. Industrial Estate, Waluj - 431 130, Dist. Aurangabad, Maharashtra
Tel: +91 240 255 4407; Fax: +91 240 255 4299
Correspondence Address: C-3 SKYVISTAS, Near Versova Police Station 106A, J. P. Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai - 400 053
Tel: +91 22 2673 9215
Website: www.fdcindia.com, Email: varsharani.katre@fdcindia.com
Contact Person: Ms. Varsharani Katre, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

BUYBACK OF UPTO 29,00,000 (TWENTY NINE LAKH) FULLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES, OF FACE VALUE OF RE. 1/- (RUPEE ONE) EACH ("EQUITY SHARES"), REPRESENTING 1.72% OF THE ISSUED, SUBSCRIBED AND PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY AS ON MARCH 31, 2021 ("BUYBACK"). THE BUYBACK WILL BE UNDERTAKEN ON A PROPORTIONATE BASIS, FROM THE ELIGIBLE SHAREHOLDERS HOLDING EQUITY SHARES AS ON FEBRUARY 19, 2022 ("RECORD DATE"), BY WAY OF A TENDER OFFER THROUGH THE STOCK EXCHANGE MECHANISM ("TENDER OFFER"), FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF RS. 475 (RUPEES FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE ONLY) ("BUYBACK PRICE") PER EQUITY SHARE FOR AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF UPTO 13,775 LAKHS (RUPEES ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN CRORE SEVENTY FIVE LAKH ONLY) ("BUYBACK SIZE").

This Offer Opening Advertisement is to be read together with:

- a) The Public Announcement in connection with the Buyback published on February 11, 2022 in the following newspapers: i) Business Standard (English - all editions); ii) Business Standard (Hindi - All Editions); and iii) LokSatta (Marathi - Aurangabad Edition) ("Public Announcement");
- b) The Draft Letter of Offer dated February 18, 2022 in connection with the Buyback ("Draft Letter of Offer"); and
- c) The Letter of Offer dated April 01, 2022 in connection with the Buyback ("Letter of Offer").

Capitalised terms used but not defined in this Offer Opening Advertisement shall have the meaning assigned to such terms in the Letter of Offer.

In terms of Regulation 8(i) of the SEBI Buyback Regulations, the Draft Letter of Offer was submitted to SEBI on February 18, 2022. SEBI, vide its letter bearing reference No. SEBI/HO/CFD/DCR1/MB/OW/11435/1 dated March 30, 2022 ("SEBI Observation Letter"), issued its comments on the Draft Letter of Offer in terms of Regulation 8(ii) of the SEBI Buyback Regulations. These comments have been suitably incorporated in the Letter of Offer.

The dispatch of the Letter of Offer to the Eligible Shareholders of the Company holding Equity Shares on the Record Date i.e. Saturday, February 19, 2022 has been completed by April 06, 2022 through electronic mode to the shareholders whose e-mail ids are available with the Company and through speed post / registered post at the address registered in India for all the remaining Shareholders.

The Letter of Offer and the Form of Acceptance-cum-Acknowledgement is available on the Website of the Company (www.fdcindia.com), SEBI (www.sebi.gov.in), the Registrar to the Buyback (www.linkintime.co.in), the Manager to the Buyback (www.sundaecapital.com), Stock Exchanges, BSE (www.bseindia.com) and NSE (www.nseindia.com). In case of non-receipt of the Letter of Offer, the Eligible Shareholders, if they so desire, may download the Letter of Offer or the Form of Acceptance-cum-Acknowledgement from the websites indicated above.

Record Date and Ratio of Buyback as per the Buyback Entitlement in each Category:

The Buyback Entitlement ratio for the Shareholders is as below:

Category of Shareholders	Ratio of Buyback *
Reserved category for Small Shareholders	20 Equity Shares for every 307 Equity Shares held on the Record Date
General category for all other Eligible Shareholders	9 Equity Shares for every 592 Equity Shares held on the Record Date

* The above Ratio of Buyback is approximate and providing indicative Buyback Entitlement. Any computation of entitled Equity Shares using the above Ratio of Buyback may provide a slightly different number due to rounding-off. The actual Buyback Entitlement for Reserved category for Small Shareholders is 6.514586% and General category for all other Eligible Shareholders is 1.520359%.

For details, refer to "Record Date and Ratio of Buyback as per the Buyback Entitlement in each Category" on page 24-25 of the Letter of Offer.

Instruction to Eligible Shareholders

All the Eligible Shareholders of the Company, holding shares in dematerialized and physical form, registered or unregistered are eligible to participate in this Buyback at any time during the period from Buyback Opening Date to Buyback Closing Date ("Tendering Period") for this Buy-Back:

- (a) In case the Shares are held in Dematerialised Form Eligible Shareholders who desire to tender their Equity Shares in the electronic form under the Buyback would have to do so through their respective Seller Member by indicating to their broker the details of Equity Shares they intend to tender under the Buyback as per the procedure specified in Clause 20.24 on page 29 of the Letter of Offer.
- (b) In case the Shares are held in Physical Form: Eligible Shareholders holding Equity Shares in physical form may participate in the Buyback through their respective Selling Broker by providing the relevant information and documents as mentioned in Clause 20.25 on page 30 of the Letter of Offer.
- (c) In case of non receipt of the Letter of Offer: The Eligible Shareholder may tender Equity Shares under the Offer in terms of the procedure specified in Clause 20.28 on page 32 of the Letter of Offer.

An Eligible Shareholder holding share in physical form may also participate in the Buyback by downloading the Tender Form from the Website of the Company i.e., www.fdcindia.com or the Website of the Registrar i.e., www.linkintime.co.in or by providing their application in writing on plain paper to the Registrar, signed by Eligible Shareholder or all Eligible Shareholders (in case Equity Shares are in joint name) stating name, address, folio number, number of Equity Shares held, share certificate number, number of Equity Shares tendered for the Buyback and the distinctive numbers thereof, bank account details together with the original share certificate(s), copy of Eligible Shareholders PAN card(s) and executed Form SH-4 in favour of the Company. The transfer Form (SH-4) can be downloaded from the Website of the Company i.e., www.fdcindia.com or the Website of the Registrar i.e., www.linkintime.co.in. Eligible Shareholders must ensure that the Tender Form, along with the TRS and requisite documents (as mentioned in paragraph 20.20 above), reach the Registrar on or before the Buyback Closing Date (by 5:00 p.m.). If the signature(s) of the Eligible Shareholders provided in the plain paper application differs from the specimen signature(s) recorded with the Registrar / Company or are not in the same order (although attested), the Company / Registrar shall have a right to reject such applications.

Eligible Shareholders have to ensure that their bid is entered by their respective Seller Member in the electronic platform to be made available by NSE before the Buyback Closing Date.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Particulars	Date	Day
Date of Board Meeting approving the Buyback	February 09, 2022	Wednesday
Date of publication of the Public Announcement for the Buyback	February 11, 2022	Friday
Record Date for determining the Buyback Entitlement and the names of Eligible Shareholders	February 19, 2022	Saturday
Date of Opening of the Buyback	April 12, 2022	Tuesday
Date of Closing of the Buyback	April 27, 2022	Wednesday
Last date of receipt of the completed Tender Forms and other specified documents by the Registrar to the Buyback *	April 29, 2022	Friday
Last date of verification of Shares tendered by the Registrar to the Buyback	May 05, 2022	Thursday
Last date for settlement of bids on the Stock Exchanges	May 09, 2022	Monday
Last date of dispatch of share certificate(s) by Registrar / payment of consideration to shareholders / return of unaccepted demat shares by Stock Exchange to Eligible Shareholders	May 09, 2022	Monday
Last date of extinguishment of Equity Shares	May 16, 2022	Monday

* Eligible Shareholders are required to submit their form(s) with their broker for bidding. After entering a valid bid, the seller member should send either by registered post / courier to the Registrar to the Buyback the Tender Forms along with the requisite documents, superscribing the envelope as "FDC Limited - Buyback 2022", or hand deliver the same to the Registrar to the Buyback at the address mentioned on the cover page or in Clause 18 of this Letter of Offer.

Note: Where last dates are mentioned for certain activities, such activities may happen on or before the respective last dates. Further, Eligible Shareholders are required to refer to Clause 20 of the Letter of Offer ("Procedure for Tendering Equity Shares and Settlement") in relation to the detailed procedure for tendering their Equity Shares in the Offer and are required to adhere to and follow the procedure outlined therein.

MANAGER TO THE BUYBACK	REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER AND INVESTOR SERVICE CENTRE
SUNDAE Sundae Capital Advisors Private Limited SEBI Regn. No.: INM000012494 Level 9, "Platina", Plot No. C - 59 'G' Block, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 Tel.: +91 22 6700 0639 E-mail: fdc.buyback@sundaecapital.com Investor Grievance e-mail id: grievances.mh@sundaecapital.com Website: www.sundaecapital.com Contact Person: Rajiv Sharma / Ridima Gulati	LINKIntime Link Intime India Private Limited C-101, 1st Floor, 247 Park L.B.S. Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai - 400 083, Maharashtra, India Tel No.: +91 22 4918 6200 Fax No.: +91 22 4918 6195 Email id: fdc.buyback2022@linkintime.co.in Website: www.linkintime.co.in SEBI Regn. No.: INR000004058 Validity Period: Permanent Contact Person: Sumeet Deshpande

All capitalized terms, unless defined herein, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Letter of Offer.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of

FDC Limited Sd/- Mohan Anand Chandavarkar Managing Director (DIN: 00043344) Place: Mumbai Date: April 07, 2022	Sd/- Ashok Anand Chandavarkar Wholetime Director (DIN: 00042719)	Sd/- Varsharani Katre Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
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