

MARKET MOVEMENT

Major Indices	April 17, 2020	April 24, 2020	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	31,588.72	31,327.22	(0.82)	↓
NSE Nifty	9,266.75	9,154.40	(1.21)	↓

INDIAN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

POLICY WATCH

- National program VidyaDaan 2.0 gets launched
- Surplus rice available with FCI allowed to be converted to ethanol
- Government amends FDI policy for curbing opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions
- Centre allows manufacturers to utilise inventory of pre-printed packaging material
- Cabinet approves fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates

National program VidyaDaan 2.0 gets launched

VidyaDaan 2.0 program for inviting e-learning content contributions is e-launched in New Delhi. Programme has been launched due to the increasing requirement for e-learning content for students (both school and higher education) especially in the backdrop of situation arising out of Covid-19 and also due to the urgent need to integrate digital education with schooling to augment learning. Realizing the scale and potential of DIKSHA, multiple institutions, organizations and individuals over the years have expressed their interest in contributing digital resources on DIKSHA.

Surplus rice available with FCI allowed to be converted to ethanol

Government has approved conversion of surplus rice available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ethanol for utilization in making alcohol-based hand-sanitizers and in blending for Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme. Currently, FCI has 30.97 million tonnes rice which is higher than the required norm of maintaining 21 million tonnes.

Government amends FDI policy for curbing opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions

Government of India has amended the extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for curbing opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Most FDI flows into India are through automatic route that means companies only need to inform authorities after investment is made. The move will prevent opportunistic Chinese takeover

of Indian companies that are hit by Pandemic. Earlier these restrictions were in force for Pakistan and Bangladesh only.

Centre allows manufacturers to utilise inventory of pre-printed packaging material

Centre has allowed companies to use till September their inventories of packaging materials or wrappers with pre-printed manufacturing date by declaring the correct month and year of manufacturing and packing of pre-packaged commodities by way of stamping or putting sticker or online printing as the case may be. Relaxation will be applicable to those manufacturers or packers who have to declare the month and year of manufacturing and packing under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011

Cabinet approves fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates Fertilizers for the year 2020-21. Inclusion of a complex fertilizer namely Ammonium Phosphate (NP 14:28:0:0) under the NBS Scheme is also approved. Fertilizer rates per 100 kg are N (Nitrogen) - USD 25, P (Phosphatic) - USD 20, K (Potassic) - USD 13 and S (Sulphur) - USD 3.1

INDUSTRY WATCH

- **MNRE initiates setting up RE Equipment Manufacturing Parks**
- **Fresh export orders for tea, basmati from Iran, China and Russia**
- **Electric vehicle sales in India rises 20% in 2019-20**
- **ARI researchers develop bug sniffer for efficient detection of pathogens**
- **TRAI increases international termination charges**

MNRE initiates setting up RE Equipment Manufacturing Parks

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE) has initiated actions towards setting up new hubs for manufacturing renewable energy equipments in the country to meet both domestic and also cater to global demand. Land parcels of 50-500 acres are also being identified for setting up such Parks. These hubs will manufacture equipments like silicon ingots & wafers, solar cells & modules, wind equipments and ancillary items. At present, country has around 10 GW of Wind equipment manufacturing capacity. In case of Solar Cells and Modules, 85 % are imported.

Fresh export orders for tea, basmati from Iran, China and Russia

Iran, China and Russia have placed fresh orders for Indian black tea in the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak. There is good demand from Iran for orthodox teas. Their banks have opened and payments for the earlier consignments are being received. Exporters are buying privately since the auction centres are yet to open.

Electric vehicle sales in India rises 20% in 2019-20

Electric vehicles sales, excluding e-rickshaws, in India witnessed a growth by 20% at 156,000 units in 2019-20 compared to 130,000 units in 2018-19. In FY20, 152,000 two-wheelers, 3,400 cars and 600 buses were sold. In the Electric two-wheeler (E2W) sold in FY2019-20, 97% were electric scooters and a very small volume of motorcycles and electric cycles filled the rest of 3%.

ARI researchers develop bug sniffer for efficient detection of pathogens

Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) have developed a sensitive and low-cost sensor to rapidly detect bacteria. The portable device can detect as low as ten bacterial cells from a sample size of one milliliter in just 30 minutes. At present, they are working on a method for simultaneous separation and detection of Escherichia coli and Salmonella typhimurium. Known as 'bug sniffer,' which is a biosensor that uses synthetic peptides, magnetic nanoparticles, and quantum dots to detect the presence of bacteria, providing a cost- and time-effective way of screening water and foodborne pathogens.

TRAI increases international termination charges

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has increased International Termination Charges (ITC) around 100% per minute. Move will allow telecom operators to get more revenue from international calls. The telcompanies, however, have to follow the prescribed range in fixing charges and offer a non-discriminatory rate to everyone.

CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- **TVS Motor buys UK's iconic premium bike brand Norton**
- **Tech Mahindra, IBM tie up to set up innovation centres**
- **Bugworks raises USD 7.5 million from global investment syndicate**
- **Tata Capital Growth Fund II invests USD 5 million in SaaS startup Indusface**
- **Fintech platform YAP raises USD 4.5 million in Series A funding**

TVS Motor buys UK's iconic premium bike brand Norton

TVS Motor Company has bought UK's iconic sporting motorcycle brand Norton in an all-cash deal for a sum of about USD 21.89 million, marking domestic two-wheeler major's entry into the top end (above 850cc) of the superbike market. It is famous for their classic models and eclectic range of luxury motorcycles ranging from authentic retro classic reboots of the famous Commando to their contemporary 200 bhp, 1200cc V4 super-bikes. Its other popular models include Dominator and V4 RR. The company has presence across 21 countries with portfolio of bikes.

Tech Mahindra, IBM tie up to set up innovation centres

Tech Mahindra has decided to set up innovation centres in collaboration with IBM, in order to provide boost to digital transformation and encourage adoption of more cloud-based technologies among its global customers. The centres will showcase IBM's digital transformation solutions built with Cloud Paks running on Red Hat OpenShift, which could come handy for solving complex business problems for various industries, including healthcare, telecommunication, financial services, manufacturing, insurance and retail. Company plans to open the first such innovation centre in Bengaluru in 2020 and more such centres will be set up across North America and UK later this year.

Bugworks raises USD 7.5 million from global investment syndicate

Bugworks Research Inc has raised USD 7.5 million from a global investment syndicate to tackle the challenge caused by deadly bacterial superbugs. This funding was led by University of Tokyo Edge Capital (UTEK) Japan and Global Brain Corporation (Global Brain) Japan, along with Acquipharma Holdings, South Africa. So far, the start-up has raised USD 19 million with 3one4 Capital as an existing investor. This investment will help Bugworks to complete Phase-I studies for its GYROX series intravenous drug candidate.

Tata Capital Growth Fund II invests USD 5 million in SaaS startup Indusface

Tata Capital Private Equity-led Tata Capital Growth Fund II (TCGF II), has invested USD 5 million in software-as-a-service (SaaS) start-up Indusface to assist the firm accelerate its global customer acquisition and product innovation plans. Indusface is the California-based startup, having offices across four locations in India, offers application security to over 2,000 active customers globally. A cloud-based security platform built is used by proprietary web application security scanner and web application firewall that are integrated with a global threat information engine, managed by security experts.

Fintech platform YAP raises USD 4.5 million in Series A funding

API fintech platform YAP has raised USD 4.5 million as a part of its Series A round, led by Singapore-based venture capital firm BEENEXT. The other participant in this round includes 8i Ventures Fund, The DMI Group via its AIF vehicle Funding will be utilised to strengthen the team, build technology and provide enhanced API products to fintechs which are targeting on enabling access to credit, corporate banking solutions, cross border payments and providing neo-banking solutions.