SECOND COUNTRY, AFTER RUSSIA, TO HAVE COMMERCIALLY OPERATING FBRs

Fast Breeder Reactors may Aid Nuclear Leap to 100 GW by 2047

Likely to contribute 5 GW to India's power generation capacity target being finalised

Shilpa Samant

New Delhi: India's ambitious plan to achieve 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047 may include up to 5 GW of fast breeder reactors (FBRs), people close to the development said.

The move signifies India's entry and expansion into the second stage of its nuclear energy program. Currently, only Russia has commercially operating FBRs.

The contours of 100 GW of nuclear power target by 2047 are in final stages of deliberation, one of the persons said.

The country's first 500 MW prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR) is being developed by state-owned Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI).

'Core loading' or loading of nuclear fuel assemblies into the reactor core at the indigenous PFBR at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu has already been initiated last year in March.

The unit is expected to be commissioned in the ongoing financial year.

What are Fast Breeder Reactors?

THEY ARE N-POWER REACTORS DESIGNED TO GENERATE MORE FUEL THAN CONSUMED

FBR vs Conventional
Unlike conventional reactors that slow down neutrons to sustain a chain reaction, FBRs use more efficient, fast-moving neutrons

Why are they important for India?
India has limited uranium reserves but abundant thorium. FBRs are a critical bridge to the third stage of nuclear program, where thorium is converted to Uranium-233

How do they work?
They usually use mixed oxide fuel, which combines plutonium & uranium

India's 3-stage nuclear program
Stage 1: PHWRs using natural Uranium fuel
Stage 2: FBRs using plutonium as fuel
Stage 3: Advanced reactors using U-233 in Thorium-Uranium cycle

PFBR is the forerunner of the future fast breeder reactors.

Once fully commissioned, India will only be the second country after Russia to have a commercial operating FBR.

Thereafter, Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam could drive capacity addition of FBRs in 'fleet mode' – build multiple reactors of a similar design and configuration at the same time, or in a series, the person quoted above said.

Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam did not respond to e-mailed query till the time of filing this report.

"The deliberations on the roadmap are on with the various possible nuclear power technologies," another person said.

The framework for 100 GW, being prepared by an inter-ministerial committee comprising officials from the Department of Atomic Energy and ministry of power, is likely to have a comprehensive plan to outline technology pathways, investment needs, manpower requirements, and supply chain logistics, according to the person.

So far, India has developed and operated indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) through the Nuclear Power Corporation of India. Some units of Light Water Reactors have also been added mainly through foreign collaborations.

India currently has 8.8 GW of nuclear energy capacity, which constitutes around 1.6% of the total installed power generation capacity.

The government had, in 2003, approved to create BHAVINT to construct and operate FBRs, India's most advanced nuclear reactors.

The FBR is a crucial step towards entering the third stage of India's three-stage nuclear program.

NCLAT Upholds Order to Admit Future Ideas into Insolvency

Our Bureau

New Delhi: National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Monday upheld NCLT's order admitting Future Ideas Company Limited (FICL), part of the Future Group, into insolvency over dues of Rs 122.8 crore.

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai admitted FICL into insolvency last month in an insolvency petition filed by Axis Trustee Services, representing Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Private Limited as its debenture trustee.

A debenture trustee is a body representing the interests of debenture holders while holding debentures for them.

The debt arose from non-convertible debentures issued by FICL in 2018, according to terms agreed under the Debenture Trust-cum-Mortgage Deed (DTMD).

Under DTMD, debentures had tenure ranging from 764 days to 1828 days, and redemption had to start from January 2020 in the form of quarterly payments.

But a default in redemption of debentures occurred in April 2021, and an event of default was triggered.

However, FICL claimed that liability to make payments under DTMD was acquired by Rivaaz Trade Ventures Pvt Ltd through an acquisition agreement, which prevents creditors from initiating the insolvency resolution process against it.

Further, the company argued that the debt was covered by Section 10A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

The government introduced Section 10A to the IBC, prohibiting applications for corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) initiation for defaults arising after March 25, 2020, for six months or such a period not exceeding one year from the date.

But the financial creditor argued that any transfer of liability under the acquisition agreement needs approval from the debenture trustee, which is missing in this case.

The creditors also said that the law doesn't allow a debenture issuer to "contract out of statutory obligation/liability by way of a private contract and any such contract, contrary to the statutory mandate, is void."

NCLT, Mumbai, while admitting FICL into insolvency, observed, "existence of financial debt and occurrence of default have been conclusively established by the financial creditor."

AMID EVOLVING GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS...

Niti Paper for Defence Law Update to Boost Mfg Supply Chain

Seeks to address cybersecurity challenges

Yogima Seth

New Delhi: A Niti Aayog working paper has proposed changes to defence laws to facilitate a resilient domestic supply chain for in-house manufacturing and address challenges of cybersecurity more comprehensively.

The security and law division of the Aayog has proposed these changes. The other suggestions include strategies to enhance economic competitiveness and growth, global partnerships and strategic influence, and legal reforms and good governance.

The working paper is under review by the top officials of the Aayog and could soon be shared with stakeholder ministries for consideration and action.

"A strong security framework is essential for long-term peace and prosperity. This involves modernising defence forces, enhancing cybersecurity infrastructure and improving border security," it said, adding it is crucial to strengthen internal security to address threats such as terrorism, cyberattacks and internal conflicts.

The proposed amendment to the Defence of India Act (1962) seeks to address cyber resilience, supply chain security and geopolitical risks. The paper also calls for the enhancement of the Defence Production and Export Policy (2020) to provide incentives for domestic manufacturers and simplify export regulations.

It has proposed a review committee for periodic updates to defence procurement and cybersecurity laws.

Revision of Defence Acquisition Procedures (2020) is suggested to simplify procurement processes and mandate domestic sourcing for critical components.

"Introduce blockchain-based legal frameworks for supply chain tracking, contract integrity and compliance automation, and enforce mandatory cybersecurity audits while imposing penalties for non-compliance," it added.

"Additionally, India should strengthen international defence cooperation through technology transfers, strategic alliances with countries like the US, Russia and Israel, and joint cybersecurity initiatives to counter emerging digital threats," it suggested.

India's annual defence production stood at ₹1,27,434 crore in 2023-24, an increase of 174% from ₹46,429 crore in 2014-15 and the target is to achieve ₹3 lakh crore of indigenous production by 2029.

Other proposals include structural reforms to simplify taxation, reduce bureaucracy and create a more investor-friendly environment.

Outlining the legal reforms needed, the paper said India must prioritise judicial efficiency by streamlining court processes to reduce delays and enhance the legal system's capacity.

"Simplifying regulatory frameworks will create a more conducive environment for business operations, while strengthening the anti-corruption measures will improve public trust and promote good governance," it said.

Clear Targets

Niti Aayog lays out a blueprint for defence sector

₹1.27 L cr: Defence production in 2023-24

Target is to more than double it to **₹3 L cr** by 2029

Key Suggestions

- **Modernisation** of defence forces
- **Enhance cybersecurity** infrastructure
- **Incentives for domestic mfg** of defence equipment
- **Enhance strategic alliance** with US, Russia, Israel

Why it is Needed

To build a resilient domestic supply chain | **To enhance** national security

To counter cybersecurity threats

Brokers Can Invest in Non-Securities without Using Client Money or Securities

Our Bureau

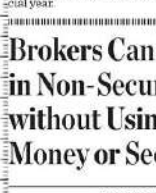
New Delhi: The finance ministry on Monday relaxed rules that, experts said, would allow stock brokerages to invest in non-securities or unrelated businesses provided they don't use client money or securities, or create financial liabilities for themselves in the process.

In a notification, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) amended the Rule 9 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules (SCRR). This would essentially lift fetters on brokers with surplus net worth and reserves to invest their own money, the experts said.

The move would widen the brokers' revenue streams and bolster their financial strength.

"Given the growth in the scale and interconnectedness of the financial sector and the evolution of nature of business of brokers with time, the DEA felt it necessary to review the appropriateness of safeguards embedded in the rules so that the intent of the rules is served without constraining activities of the stakeholders," the DEA said in a statement.

The amended rule says "investments made by a member shall not be construed as business except when such investments involve client funds or client securities, or relate to arrangements which are in the nature of creating a financial liability on the broker".



The amendment follows a consultation paper floated by the department on this issue in September 2024.

Prior to the move, the rule 8 of the SCRR barred brokers to engage as a principal or employee in any business other than that of securities or commodity derivatives "except as a broker or agent in any other business but not involving any personal financial liability".

But the earlier rule didn't clearly define the term 'any business', which was open to interpretation.

The amendment, experts said, would help brokers widen their revenue streams and bolster their capital base. All these would eventually add to the resilience of the market infrastructure.

The amendment is part of the government's efforts to "provide regulatory clarity and enhance ease of doing business". "It will ensure that market intermediaries continue to support the development of India's capital markets in a transparent and well-regulated manner," the DEA said in the statement.

DGTR Calls for Anti-dumping Import Duty on EU Fungicide

PTI

New Delhi: The commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR has recommended an anti-dumping duty of USD 733 per tonne on imports of a fungicide - 'Thiram - from the European Union (EU) to protect the domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments.

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in its final findings said it is of the view that imposition of the duty is required to offset dumping and injury to the domestic industry.

"The authority recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty on the imports...originating in or exported from the subject country for a period of 5 years," the DGTR said in a notification.

Swarup Chemicals Pvt Ltd had filed an application before the DGTR for the initiation of the investigation.

Thiram is used as a fungicide to prevent crop damage in the field and deterioration in storage or transport. It is also used as a seed, nut, fruit, and mushroom disinfectant for a variety of fungal diseases. In addition, it is used as an animal repellent to protect fruit trees and ornamentals from damage by rabbits, rodents, and deer.

The finance ministry will take the final decision to impose the duty.

Anti-dumping probes are conducted by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

INDIA-UK FTA IMPACT

GeM to Prepare Ground for Global Tendering

UK also to grant non-discriminatory treatment to Indians

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's government e-marketplace or GeM plans to introduce global tendering functionalities for public procurement portal this year, following a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK that opens government procurement on both sides to entities based in the two countries, senior officials said Monday.

At present, these features are not available on the GeM portal. "We are working to add these features," GeM CEO Bibhu Kumar.

Global tendering functionality would enable participation from international suppliers or overseas vendors.

The FTA has a chapter on government procurement wherein eligible UK suppliers would be allowed to bid for domestic tenders as deemed Class II local suppliers only. Class II local supplier is the one with the local content of more than 20% and less than 50%.

"We plan to bring rate contracts and global tenders on GeM this year. FTA with the UK is one reason for global tendering to go live. We want to tap that market," said Rajesh Jain, additional CEO, GeM, adding that the functionality would have been launched later had the FTA not been there. UK has, for the first time, agreed to grant Indian suppliers non-discriminatory treatment in its public procurement.

SHINE BRIGHT

GeM looks to facilitate transactions worth ₹7 Lcr in 2025-26, against ₹5.42 Lcr in 2024-25

He added that from Rs 5,000 crore worth of equipment for the Akash Missile System to Rs 5,085 crore in vaccine procurement, GeM is powering national priorities at scale. The portal is also facilitating specialized services such as drone-as-a-service for AIIMS, GIS and insurance solutions covering over 1.3 crore lives, and wet leasing of chartered flights and CT scanners, underscoring its adaptability and growing relevance in complex, mission-critical procurements.

GeM also plans to add rate contracts on the portal that will allow government buyers to buy goods and services at pre-negotiated prices over a specified period, reducing need for repeated bidding.

Kumar added that ways are being explored to bring works on the platform with an aim to further widen its scope.

At present, only goods and services providers are registered on the GeM portal, which was launched in 2016 for online purchase of goods and services by all central government ministries and departments. It is mandatory for them to procure goods and services from the portal.

Works include road and building construction, and setting up of big plants and other facilities, and this facility for procuring those works is not available on GeM.

Sebi Asks Choksi to Pay ₹2.1 cr within 15 Days

PTI

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi has sent a notice to absconding diamantaire Mehul Choksi asking him to pay Rs 2.1 crore in a case of violation of insider trading rules in the shares of Gitanjali Gems Ltd and warned of attachment of assets as well as bank accounts if he fails to make the payment within 15 days.

The demand notice came after Choksi failed to pay the fine imposed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in January 2022.

Choksi, who was the chairman and managing director as well as part of promoter group of Gitanjali Gems, is the maternal uncle of Nirav Modi. Both are facing charges of defrauding state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) of more than Rs 14,000 crore. Choksi and Modi fled India after the PNB scam came to light in early 2018.

Last month, Choksi was arrested in Belgium following an extradition request by Indian probe agencies. He was located in Belgium last year when he went there on the ground of seeking medical treatment. He had been staying in Antigua since 2018 after leaving India.

Modi was arrested by the Scotland Yard Police in March 2019 and is currently lodged in jail in that country in a fresh recovery notice dated May 15, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) directed Choksi to pay Rs 2.1 crore within 15 days. This included a penalty of Rs 1.5 crore and an interest of Rs 60 lakh. In the event of non-payment of dues, the market regulator said it will recover the amount by attaching and selling his movable and immovable properties.

Besides, Choksi faces attachment of his bank accounts and arrest.

In its order passed in January 2022, the regulator imposed a penalty of Rs 1.5 crore on Choksi and restrained him from the securities market for one year.

Sebi had found that Choksi communicated UPSI to one Rakesh Girdharlal Gajera, who sold his scrip ahead of the event which may lead to disclosure of fraudulent issuance of LoUs (letter of undertaking) to Gitanjali Group and its magnitude in public domain.

Tighter Rules for Cos with Foreign Ownership in Works

Move may impact e-commerce, pharma, and other sectors

Reuters

New Delhi: India is planning to tighten foreign ownership rules, two sources said, in a move that may have significant implications for businesses ranging from e-commerce to pharmaceuticals.

The changes would redefine how India views foreign-owned companies, whether directly or indirectly, making them subject to foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations when it comes to share transfers or restructurings.

The discussions are close to being finalised, the sources, both government officials said. They declined to be identified as the discussion was not public.

The Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India, which issues the final rules, did not respond to requests for comment.

India is reviewing its foreign investment laws to simplify them and plug any loopholes.

New Delhi plans to create a new category of "foreign-owned and controlled entities" (FOCE), which will also include Indian firms with "indirect foreign investment", the first sources said.

"What cannot be done directly should not be allowed indirectly either. That will now be clearly reflected in the rules," the source said.

"Even a domestic restructuring or internal transfer could trigger FDI obligations for foreign-owned firms if the rule change is implemented," the source said.

The central bank is in agreement on the matter, the second official said.

Since 2020, India has required prior government approval for investments from nations sharing its land borders, including China, after clashes between the two neighbours in the remote Himalayan border.

The new FOCE definition will make it harder for Chinese or other foreign investors to use indirect structures such as offshore investment funds or layered Indian entities to enter regulated sectors through the back door, the second source said.

An FOCE will be defined as an Indian company or investment fund that is controlled by persons resident outside India. As well as covering indirect ownership, it will also make directly owned foreign firms subject to FDI rules when it comes to changes in structure or ownership.

In particular, any transfer of the indirect shareholding will need to be reported and will have to comply with sectoral foreign investment caps.

These transactions will also be subject to rules stating they be made at fair market value.

The proposed revision in the rules aims to ensure foreign investors cannot bypass the intent of India's FDI policy, sources said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office : ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA).

A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Suresh And Company, Suresh Kumar Maheshwari, Chanda Devi, Suresh Kumar Maheshwari, 293305600424, Represented By Proprietor Suresh Kumar Maheshwari Indira Chowk, Sanchore-Jalore, Rajasthan, Jalore- 343041.	Leasehold Commercial Property Bearing Shoppingbarn No. G-3, Measuring Area/size 20.6" X 65' = 1332.5 Sq. Feet, Situated At Block-0, Main Krishi Upaj Mandi Samiti Sanchore, Tehsil Sanchore, District Jalore, Rajasthan.	17/04/2025 Rs. 26,28,302.47/-	08/02/2025
2.	Marwar Agency, Shobha Kudiya, Sumer Kudiya, 379105000827, Represented By Proprietor Shobha Kudiya, Loni Market, Anandpur Kalu, Jaitaran, Pali, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Pali- 306301	Residential Property Measuring Area 2175 Sq. Feet, Bearing Purta Book No.20, Patta No.24, Misc No.41, Sankalp No.03 Dated 20/08/2014 Issued By Gram Panchayat Falka, Panchayat Samiti-Jaitaran, Situated At Village Falka, Tehsil Jaitaran, District Pali, Rajasthan	19/04/2025 Rs. 10,17,777.96/-	01/02/2025

These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrowers and/or guarantors (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: May 20, 2025
Place: Jodhpur

Sincerely Authorised Officer,
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

pnb Housing Finance Limited

APPENDIX IV-A E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Registered Office : 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110001. Phones-011-23357777, 23357012, 23705744. Web - www.pnbhousing.com
Bikaner Branch : 43-45-B, 2nd Floor, sadul gate, Bikaner 334001, Rajasthan, Phone-0151-2200555

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s) & guarantor (s) indicated in Column no-A that the below described immovable property (ies) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the authorized officer Physical Possession of which has been taken (as described in Column no-C) by the authorized Officer of M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited(Secured Creditor), will be sold on AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS and WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS as per the details mentioned below. Notice is hereby given to borrower(s)/Legal Heirs, Legal Representatives, (whether Known or Unknown), executor(s), administrator(s), successor(s), assignee(s) of the respective borrowers/ mortgagor(s)/guarantor (deceased) as the case may be) under Rule 9(1) read with Rule 9(3) of the Security Interest Rules, 2002 (amended as on date).

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited secured creditor's website i.e. www.pnbhousing.com.

Loan No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor(s)/Legal heirs (A)	Total Outstanding Amount (B)	Nature of Possession (C)	Description of the Property/ies Mortgaged (D)	Reserve Price (RP) (E)	EMD (10% of Reserve Price) (F)	Last Date of Submission of Bid (G)	Bid Increase Amount (H)	Inspection Date & Time (I)	Date of Auction & Time (J)	Name/Mobile Number of Authorised Officer (K)
NHLBIK01610203096, B.O. - Bikaner, Arun Naraina/ Mamta Naraina & Mrs. Mohini Devi Naraina	Rs. 16,54,661.89 as on 15/01/2022	Physical Possession	Plot No 1020, Ward No 07, Nokha, Bikaner, Rajasthan India, 334803	Rs. 20,00,000	Rs. 2,00,000	30/06/2025	Rs. 1,00,000	02.06.2025 10.00 AM to 5.30 PM	10-06-2025 01.00 PM to 03.00 PM	Not Known
HOUJPR12101765314, B.O.: Jaipur, Shanti Devi / Govind Jaiswal/ Poonam Jaiswal	Rs 8,16,826 as on 23/08/2021	Physical Possession	Flat No. 5, 3rd Floor, Ews A, Mokla Laxmi Vihar,33, Shri Ramnagar Bus, Bhankrota, Tehsil Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India-302026	Rs. 6,54,000	Rs. 65,400	30/06/2025	Rs. 1,00,000	02.06.2025 10.00 AM to 5.30 PM	10-06-2025 01.00 AM to 03.00 PM	Not Known

*Together with the further interest @10% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. incurred up to the date of payment and/or realization thereof. **To the best knowledge and information of the authorized Officer of PNB Housing Finance Limited, there are no other encumbrances/claims in respect of above mentioned immovable/secured assets except what is disclosed in the column no-K. Further such encumbrances to be ascertained by the successful purchaser/bidder at his/her cost. The prospective purchaser/s/bidders are requested to independently ascertain the veracity of the mentioned encumbrances.

1. As an date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction / Stay/Status quo/Attachment/Stay/Status quo/Attachment/Stay/Status quo/Attachment/