



# Strong fundamentals shielding India from oil shock: PMEAC chief

**POLICY STRENGTH.** While W. Asia conflict may cause minor disruptions, we are on track to achieve projected growth

bl.interview

**Prabhudatta Mishra**  
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New Delhi

The PMEAC (Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister) Chairman S Mahendra Dev remains candidly optimistic about India's economic resilience, even as the West Asia conflict pushed crude prices past \$114 per barrel on Thursday.

In an exclusive interaction, he outlined why India is largely withstanding the shock, noting that while LPG supply faces minor disruptions, the broader growth story remains intact. He also dismissed concerns over a potential El Nino, arguing that expanded irrigation now shields Indian agriculture from rainfall deficits.

*Edited excerpts:*

**How do you assess the current situation of the economy amid uncertainty over the war as no one knows how long it will continue?**

The economy is in good shape; numbers on macro fundamentals are good. If you see any indicator — fiscal deficit or current account deficit, banking and private sector profit — they are in good shape.

Besides, the government is also increasing the capital expenditure in the Budget. Even in the debt to GDP ratio, we are under control.

Although globally there are problems of low growth and supply chain problems, India has withstood the shock because of its monetary and fiscal policies.

**What is your assessment about GDP?**  
Under the new GDP series, we (the government) are ex-

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**S MAHENDRA DEV**  
PMEAC Chairman



pecting 7.6 per cent growth in FY26. While the conflict may cause minor disruptions in March, we remain on track to achieve our projected growth.

In the geopolitical uncertainties, India's domestic economy is strong because exports are only 20 per cent of our GDP.

Domestic consumption and investment are the sole drivers of growth, representing 80 per cent of the total. In that context, though we are not decoupled, we are much better off than even advanced countries. In this world, you cannot decouple. If the war ends soon, I do not think we will have much impact on our macro fundamentals.

**Any direct impact on the GDP?**

We initially expected growth between 7 per cent and 7.4 per cent. While we still anticipate hitting the 7 per cent mark, a second, more cautious scenario must be considered if the war continues.

Our energy vulnerability is high. We import nearly all our crude oil and over half of our gas.

Most critically, since 90 per cent of our LPG passes through the Strait of Hormuz, any prolonged instability there will inevitably weigh on GDP and drive up inflation.

**What is the likely impact on inflation?**

Right now, inflation is around 3 per cent as the new series show. If the war prolongs, it will perhaps touch 4-4.5 per cent. Because for oil, we have to spend more money and that will have some impact on the fiscal.

But, on the whole, I am optimistic that we will withstand this shock without much disturbance to our macro fundamentals. If it prolongs and if there is a global recession, it may have more impact on our growth and inflation.

**What kind of tolerance level do you see in terms of the crude prices?**

Crude prices up to \$90/barrel (average for year) should be okay because earlier it was much less, so we can withstand that.

But if it increases further to \$120 or \$130, it will have more impact on our fiscal parameters, and also inflation may increase further, even impact GDP growth.

**The Indian basket of crude has already crossed \$140. In this situation, what could be the CAD in the short and medium term?**

I am talking about the average of Indian basket.

There is a whole next year ahead to talk about 2026-27, and we do not expect the war to go on.

But, even if the war ends, it will have some impact in the

medium term, because the oil prices may still be higher for some time.

On the impact on current account deficit (CAD), our tolerance limit is around 2 per cent; so I do not expect more than that because right now it is about 1.3 per cent. It may go up to 2 per cent, and even then it is slightly thin. The rupee, too, will not go on depreciating.

We are expecting FDI flows and the foreign portfolio investors (FPI) to come back after sometime because the US tariff issue is also being sorted out.

The only risk is [that] a prolonged war may have some impact on remittances.

**Another issue of concern for India is fertilizer availability as natural gas, the key feedstock in urea production, has been affected, so also its prices. We have seen fertilizer shortages in the last two years. If domestic production of urea falls, how do you see India coping with agricultural production?**

Right now, there is no shortage of urea or DAP. I do not think farmers are complaining anywhere.

So, everything depends on how long this war continues. The lower availability of gas may have some impact on fertilizer production and import.

By the beginning of the kharif season (before June 1), I think things will be sorted out. I do not think any major problems will be there on fertilizer side.

But, in the long run, I prefer farmers shifting to organic and natural farming, although some people do not agree with that view. But I feel we have to move. Sri Lanka's example was an extreme case.

Here, we can increase the

share of organic and natural farming because you cannot depend forever on fertilizers and pesticides, which are harmful to the people, who are getting cancers and other diseases.

Soil is getting affected due to excessive fertilizer use. We have to look at incentivising organic practices and strengthening certification. We should have a debate on these things. I am not saying we should entirely shift, and that is not feasible.

**Now that many global models are predicting the emergence of El Nino. It is proved that Indian monsoon rainfall normally gets affected in El Nino years. Do you think India is now prepared to take another shock if there is a deficient monsoon?**

I think the worst drought year in last many decades was 2009.

Many people had predicted a 6 per cent drop in farm growth. But I went around and saw that there was moisture, a lot of moisture and that was suitable for rabi crops. I said agriculture sector growth would be positive 1 per cent and actually it became 0.4 per cent in 2009-10.

India can withstand because irrigation has increased to 55 per cent (of the total cultivable land), and we keep on increasing the irrigation so that we can increase our resilience to rain-deficiency.

But if it is a complete drought, it will have an impact. We do not know how will be the distribution; it is too early.

Also, the crop sector share is now very less in the value of output as it is more from horticulture (which needs less water compared to other crops), livestock and fisheries. That way, we are more insulated.

# India ramps up fertilizer supply efforts, boosts gas supply to plants

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

Amid disruption of gas and fertilizer supply after the war against Iran by US-Israel, India has initiated a multi-pronged strategy, which includes raising domestic urea production as well as import of all types of fertilizers to stabilise supply and increase availability ahead of the kharif 2026 sowing season that begins with the arrival of monsoon on the mainland around June 1.

"Through a combination of domestic production hikes and a sophisticated global procurement strategy, the government has moved to insulate Indian farmers from global supply chain volatilities," the Department of Fertilizers said in a statement.

During the daily inter-ministerial media briefing, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson in the External Affairs Ministry, said, "We have adequate stocks of fertilizers. We are comfortable for kharif 2026. The Department of Fertilizers had invited global tenders well in advance in anticipation of the current situation, and those received very good responses. We expect the bulk of the quantities ordered from a variety of sources to arrive by the end of March. We have a diversified approach towards procuring fertilizers through imports, and we continue to remain in touch with several countries in that regard."

**UREA PLANTS**

After many urea plants complained about lower utilisation of capacities due to low supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG), the government swung into action. First, it notified that supply of gas to urea plants will be under priority II, after meeting the de-



**FUEL CRUNCH.** After many urea plants complained about lower utilisation of capacities due to less supply of liquefied natural gas, the government swung into action

mand for LPG and other cooking gas requirement for the population. It also committed to supply 70 per cent gas (of the average of past six months) to these plants.

Further, plants were asked to pre-poner their annual maintenance now from those scheduled to be undertaken in April. It also advised companies not to sell ammonia, and rather use it for urea production.

Cooperative major IFFCO is able to utilise 100 per cent capacity in three of its five plants after getting 65 per cent of gas for all the five plants since two plants are closed for maintenance. The government is also able to meet gas demand in other plants by diverting the requirement of those under maintenance, sources said.

A company which is going to shut down for four weeks from later this week is said to be receiving 60 per cent of its gas need. The government on Thursday said it has finalised a deal to buy 7.31 mmscmd (million metric standard cubic meters per day) of LNG from spot market though bidding, which will increase gas supply to urea plants by 23 per cent (from 32 mmscmd to 39.31 mmscmd). This will also help plants significantly as 76 per cent of their average gas demand will be met, up from the current 62 per cent. Though the government

did not disclose the price, sources said is about \$18/MMBtu, as against \$10/MMBtu under the long term contract.

**TECHNICAL INTERVENTION**

"This technical intervention is set to yield immediate results as domestic urea production is projected to climb by almost 23 per cent to 67,000 tonnes/day from 54,500 tonnes/day," the government said.

The Department of Fertilizers also said that the proactive actions had helped to have a higher stock position compared to the same period last year.

As of March 19, urea stock was 61.14 lakh tonnes (lt) against 55.22 lt, DAP 24.24 lt against 11.85 lt, Complex 57.21 lt against 34.44 lt and SSP 24.80 lt against 23.15 lt. The stock of only MOP is lower at 12.65 lt from 14.13 lt, it said.

Industry sources said that Russia, Belarus, Morocco and Canada had offered to sell urea, DAP/TSP and MOP, but the government is more keen to focus on urea at the moment and if the situation normalises in the next 1-2 weeks, import decisions could be taken based on actual requirement.

Meanwhile, small quantities at a mutually negotiated rate could also be imported, the sources said.

**Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd.**  
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**milma**

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Milma Kannur Dairy invites separate tenders for various works at Kannur Dairy Kalthapram P.O., Sreekanthapuram.

Tender type	Bid reference number	Description	Estimated Amount	Last date of submission
E-tender (ID : 2026_KCMMF_847926_1)	142/KNR/STR/2026-27/UHT/PLM	Supply of 15MT, 5 layer UHT MILK film having thickness 90 micron and width 320mm at Kannur Dairy.	Rs.50 lakhs	08.04.2026, 2.00 pm
E-tender (ID : 2026_KCMMF_847929_1)	142/KNR/STR/2026-27/UHT CARTON	Supply of Corrugated 5 PLY Paper Cartons with two inside partitions to Kannur Dairy	Rs.22 lakhs	08.04.2026, 2.00 pm

For more details visit [www.malabarmilma.com](http://www.malabarmilma.com) or contact - 7293894706, 8075847095 DAIRY MANAGER

**MANAPPURAM FINANCE LIMITED**  
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**NOTICE**

**Sub.: Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority**

This Notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs effective September 7, 2016 and amendments made thereto (referred to as "the Rules").

**The Rules, amongst other matters, contain provisions for transfer of all shares in respect of which dividend has remained unpaid or unclaimed by the shareholders for seven consecutive years or more in the name of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority.**

The Company has, communicated to the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred during the financial year 2026-2027 to IEPF Authority under the said Rules.

The Company has uploaded details of such shareholders whose shares are due for transfer to IEPF Authority on its website at [www.manappuram.com](http://www.manappuram.com). Shareholders are requested to verify.

Shareholders may note that both the unclaimed dividend and the shares transferred to IEPF Authority including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back from IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules.

The concerned shareholders, holding shares in physical form and whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority, may note that upon such transfer, the original share certificate(s) which stand registered in their name will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable. The shareholders may further note that the details uploaded by the Company on its website should be regarded and shall be deemed adequate notice by the Company for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPF Authority pursuant to the Rules.

In case the Company does not receive any communication from the concerned shareholders within three months from the date of this notice, the Company shall transfer the shares to IEPF Authority as per procedure stipulated in the Rules.

In case the shareholders have any queries on the subject matter, they may contact the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agents at **MUFG Intime India Private Limited "Surya"** 35, Mayflower Avenue, Behind Senthil Nagar, Sowripalayam Road, Coimbatore - 641028, TN, India | Phone: +91 422 4958995, 2539835/836 | Email: [coimbatore@in.mnps.mufg.com](mailto:coimbatore@in.mnps.mufg.com)

For Manappuram Finance Limited  
Sd/-  
**MANOJ KUMAR V R**  
Company Secretary

Valapad  
19.03.2026

# ₹497 crore scheme to help exporters mitigate losses from logistics disruptions

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

The government has announced a ₹497 crore insurance and logistics support package for exporters to help them deal with freight escalation, heightened insurance premia and war-related export risks arising from the West Asia crisis.

The expenditure for the scheme, Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF), will be met from the existing Export Promotion Mission allocation, subject to verification and operational safeguards, according to the Commerce Department.

"RELIEF has been structured to provide support across the export cycle by covering the shipments already left during the disruption period as well as prospective exports planned to

the affected region," Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said.

**THREE COMPONENTS**

The intervention comprises three complementary components covering consignments destined to countries in the region such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Israel, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran and Yemen, meant either for delivery or for transshipment.

Under the approved framework, the government-owned ECGC Ltd has been designated as the nodal and implementing agency responsible for verification, claim processing, disbursement and monitoring.

The first component entitles exporters, who have already obtained ECGC credit insurance cover for eligible consignments, to benefit from up to 100 per cent risk coverage, over and above

the existing ECGC cover (which currently is about 75-80 per cent) during the eligible period (February 14, 2026, till March 15, 2026), thereby ensuring enhanced protection without additional financial burden.

Under the second, exporters planning upcoming consignments, during the next three months (March 16-June 15), will be encouraged to obtain ECGC cover with government support for up to 95 per cent risk coverage, over and above the existing ECGC cover, which will help sustain exporter confidence and facilitate continued shipment flows despite logistics uncertainties, per the government. The third component, reserved for MSME exporters, covers exports that may not have availed credit insurance (February 14-March 15), but are facing extraordinary freight and insurance surcharge burdens.

**MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED**  
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179. Registered Office: 8/596, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swamy Temple, Cherpu- Thriripayar, Thrissur, Chavakkad, Kerala, India - 680567 Phone: 0487-3520501, 3520502 Website : [www.manappuramhomefin.com](http://www.manappuramhomefin.com) E-mail : [hfc@manappuramhomefin.com](mailto:hfc@manappuramhomefin.com)

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**

This notice is jointly being issued by Manappuram Home Finance Limited ("Company"), Manappuram Finance Limited ("MFL"), BC Asia Investments XXV Limited ("Investor 1") and BC Asia Investments XIV Limited ("Investor 2", and together with Investor 1 "Proposed Investors"), pursuant to Paragraph 107 of the Reserve Bank of India (Housing Finance Companies) Directions, 2025 dated 28 November 2025, as amended from time to time ("HFC Directions") read with Paragraph 8 of the Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies - Acquisition of Shareholding or Control) Directions, 2025 dated 28 November 2025, as amended from time to time ("NBFC Shareholding and Control Directions") and the RBI approval vide its letter dated 18 March, 2026

**Background:**  
The Company is an unlisted public company (and a subsidiary of MFL), incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. The Company was incorporated on 7 October 2010 and has its registered office at 8/596, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swamy Temple, Cherpu - Thriripayar, Thrissur, Chavakkad, Kerala, 680 567. The corporate identification number of the Company is U65923KL2010PLC039179. The Company is registered with the National Housing Board as a Housing Finance Company, bearing registration number 08.0158.17 dated 22 August 2017.

MFL, which is the holding company of the Company is a public listed company (BSE: 531213; NSE: MANAPPURAM, ISIN: INE522D01027), incorporated on 15 July 1992 under the Companies Act, 1956, and has its registered office at W-4/638A, Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Chavakkad, Kerala-680567. Its corporate identification number is L65910KL1992PLC006623. MFL is registered with the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI") as a non-deposit taking non-banking financial company - Investment Credit Company, pursuant to Certificate of Registration No. B-16.00029 dated 4 July 2011, issued by the RBI under Section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Investor 1 and Investor 2 are private limited companies incorporated on 14 October 2024 and 13 March 2023 respectively, under the laws of Mauritius. Their registered office is at Ground Floor, Block 3, The Strand, Lakeside District, Beau Plan, Mauritius.

**Proposed Transaction:**

- On 20 March 2025, the Proposed Investors have entered into the securities subscription agreement and shareholders' agreements (collectively, the "Transaction Documents") with MFL, V.P. Nandakumar and Sushama Nandakumar ("Existing Promoters") and certain members of the promoter group of MFL (collectively with the Existing Promoters, the "Specified Promoter and Promoter Group") whereby:
  - Investor 1 will acquire 9,29,01,373 fully paid-up equity shares of MFL; and (b) Investor 2 will acquire 9,29,01,373 warrants of MFL ("Subscription Warrants"), each carrying a right to subscribe to 1 (one) equity share of MFL, aggregating to 18% of the paid-up equity share capital of MFL (on a fully diluted basis, including pursuant to exercise and conversion of the Subscription Warrants); and
  - The Proposed Investors will acquire and exercise control along with the Existing Promoters over MFL and become co-promoters of MFL.
- The execution of the Transaction Documents had also triggered the requirement to make a mandatory open offer to the public shareholders of MFL, to acquire up to 26% of the expanded voting share capital of MFL, in compliance with Regulations 3(1) and 4 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011. Pursuant to the same, Investor 1 will acquire up to 24,42,27,387 fully paid-up equity shares of MFL from the public shareholders of MFL ("Open Offer"), subject to actual tendering of the equity shares of MFL by public shareholders in the Open Offer.

(the transactions in paragraphs 1 and 2 above being collectively referred to as "Proposed Transaction").

Pursuant to the Proposed Transaction, the Proposed Investors, in aggregate, will acquire up to a maximum of 41.66% of the paid-up equity share capital of MFL on a fully diluted basis, including pursuant to exercise and conversion of the Subscription Warrants, subject to actual tendering of the equity shares of MFL by the public shareholders of MFL in the Open Offer.

Further, as part of the Proposed Transaction, the Proposed Investors and the Existing Promoters shall each have a right to nominate such number of non-executive and non-independent directors on the board of directors of the Company, proportionate to the number of their respective nominee directors on the board of MFL. As a consequence of the Proposed Transaction, there will also be an indirect change in control, and change in composition of the board of directors of the Company (resulting in change in more than 30% of the non-independent directors in the Company). In this regard, the Proposed Investors propose to nominate 1 non-executive - non-independent director (i.e., Ms. Radhika Subramanian) on the board of directors of the Company ("Proposed Director").

**Rationale:**  
Through the Proposed Transaction, the Proposed Investors aim to (i) grow the revenue and profit of business portfolio, thereby increasing the consolidated return on equity and further diversifying the consolidated group revenue and profits into the financial services sector; (ii) help MFL and its subsidiaries on a professionalisation journey and build a professional management team that will enable it to drive better operational efficiency and risk management; and (iii) propel MFL and its subsidiaries' efforts towards its broader objective of financial inclusion.

Approval: The RBI, in terms of its letters dated 26 August 2025 (bearing reference no. CHN.DoR.NRO. No.S183/05.02.001/2025-2026); and 18 March 2026 (bearing reference no. CHN.DoR.NRO. No.S447/05.02.001/2025-26) to the Company, has granted its approval to the Company for (a) change in the composition of the board of the Company due to the appointment of the Proposed Director, and (b) indirect change in control of the Company, respectively. This is subject to compliance with conditions specified therein. RBI has also granted dispensation regarding the period of public notice under Paragraph 8 of the NBFC Shareholding and Control Directions.

Accordingly, this public notice is being jointly issued by the Company, MFL, and the Proposed Investors with an intention to provide to the public, a notice / intimation regarding the proposed changes discussed above (including the particulars of the Proposed Investors and the rationale for the indirect change in control). Any queries in this regard may be addressed to the Company to the Chief Compliance Officer of the Company, Mr. Ashwin G Krishnan (email id: [compliance@manappuramhomefin.com](mailto:compliance@manappuramhomefin.com)). A copy of this notice is also available on the Company's website at <https://www.manappuramhomefin.com/>

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Sd/-  
**Authorised representative of Manappuram Home Finance Limited**  
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**Authorised representative of BC Asia Investments XIV Limited**

Place : Valapad  
Date : 19-03-2026