Headline: NSE to Open Counter at GIFT City in April

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Mumbai: The National Stock Exchange will launch its operations in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in the first half of April, two people familiar with the matter said. Though the exchange received clearance from all authorities to set up an international financial services centre (NSE IFSC) at the enclave, it is waiting for the market regulator's approval to introduce a basket of products, they said. Before going live, NSE wants permission to deal in all products, including index derivatives, rupeebased contracts on other currencies, non agricommodities, especially in precious metals, as well as crude and interest rates that are offered on other international exchanges such as in Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore, said one of the people. An NSE spokesperson declined to comment. Sebi permits exchanges that want to set up operations in GIFT-City to deal in almost all products that are traded globally, except agriculture futures. - Rajesh Mascarenhas