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**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

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**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

**Dec 2022 – Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs**

**Banking & Finance**

**IRDAI approves amendments, simplifies rules to set up insurance firms**

**The** Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) **has** amended rules **on** registering insurance companies **and** investments in them.

**Aim :**

To **promote ease of doing business** and (simplify) the process of setting up an insurance company in India

**Key Highlights :**

Now, **Private equity (PE) funds** can **directly** put **money** in **insurance companies**, and investment by them through **special purpose vehicles (SPVs)** has been made optional, thus providing flexibility

**Corporate agents (CA)** can **tie up with 9 insurers** against **three insurers earlier**.

**Insurance marketing firms (IMF)** can tie up with **6 insurers (earlier 2 insurers)** in each line for life, general, and health insurance products.

Investments up to **25%** of paid-up capital by a **single investor** will be treated as **‘investors’** and investments above that as a promoter.

Under the current guidelines, the threshold for being a **“promoter”** as a single investor is **more than 10%**.

IRDAI has introduced provisions by which promoters will be allowed to dilute their stake down to **26%** on condition that the insurer has a **satisfactory solvency record** for the **preceding 5 years** and is a listed entity.

The earlier norms required promoters to hold on to a **50% stake** if it was more than that.

The IRDAI also approved a reduction in solvency norms for general and life insurers, which is expected to provide them access to an additional **₹3,500 crore**.



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To enable efficient utilization of capital by life insurers, IRDAI informed that the factors for **calculation of solvency** provided in **regulations** are **reduced** for unit-linked business (without guarantees) to **0.60% from 0.80%**; and for **PMJJBY** from **0.10% to 0.05%**.

This will provide a **relaxation in capital requirements** by about **₹2,000 crores**.

**The period for State and Central Government premium dues** for **calculation of solvency position** in case of **crop insurance** increased from **180 days to 365 days**.

**About IRDAI :**

Founded: 1999

Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

Chairperson: Debasish Panda

IRDAI is a **regulatory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India, and is **tasked with regulating** and **licensing the insurance** and **reinsurance industries** in **India**.

**RBI working with ICRIER to develop a food inflation projection framework**

**The** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **is working with the** Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) **to develop a** food inflation projection framework **as the** central bank **looks to depend more on a** consultative approach **to** collect first-hand data **and** improve policy responses.

Combining high-frequency information on prices **with market intelligence on high-impact food items helps nowcast food inflation and generate near-term inflation forecasts**.

Three key vegetables **viz** tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP), **with a** combined weight of **2.2%** **in the** consumer price index (CPI) basket **in** India.

**However, contribute heavily to volatility in both** food inflation **and** headline inflation, **impacting the performance of nowcasts**.

**Under the** flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework introduced **in** India **in** 2016, **the inflation target is defined as** 4% CPI headline inflation **with a** tolerance band of  $\pm 2\%$  **around the target**.

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935



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**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**Indore plans India's first retail municipal bond for solar plant**

The **Indore Municipal Corporation, Madhya Pradesh (MP)** is planning to issue the **nation's first local government bond targeting individual investors**, with proceeds used to fund a **solar power project**.

Indore Municipal Corp. seeks to raise as much as **2.6 billion rupees (\$31.8 million)** via a **10-year bond sale in Dec 2022**.

**Key Highlights :**

The **60-megawatt solar plant** will be built **near Indore** at **3 billion rupees**.

It will help the city **save an electricity bill** of as much as **250 million rupees a month**.

The issuer has mandated **A.K. Capital Services Ltd.** and **SBI Capital Markets Ltd.** as **lead managers** of the offering.

The **green debt sale** is occurring at a time when the **World Bank** has estimated that **Asia's third-largest economy** will need to **invest \$840 billion** over the **next 15 years** on **urban infrastructure** to meet demand from a **fast-growing urban population**.

**Additional Info :**

**Indore** has won the **award of India's cleanest city** for **6 years** in a row, based on a **survey conducted** by the **country's housing and urban affairs ministry**.

**About MP :**

Governor: Mangubhai Patel

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Capital: Bhopal

National Park: Van Vihar National Park, Dinosaurs Fossil National Park

Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Ghatigaon Wildlife Sanctuary, Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary

Tiger Reserve: Kanha Tiger Reserve, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve



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**Interest subvention on KCC crop loan to continue in FY23, FY24 - RBI**

The **government** has **approved** the **continuation** of the **interest subvention scheme (ISS)** with **modification** for the **financial years 2022-23** and **2023-24**.

The **applicable lending rate to farmers** will be **7%** and the **rate of interest subvention to lending institutions** will be **1.5%**.

**Key Highlights :**

An **additional interest subvention of 3% per annum** will be provided to such of those farmers repaying in time, i.e., from the date of disbursement of the loan/s up to the actual date of repayment or up to the due date fixed by the banks for repayment of such loan/s, whichever is earlier, subject to a maximum period of one year from the date of disbursement.

To provide **short-term loans** for allied activities including **animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, beekeeping**, etc. up to an **overall limit of ₹3 lakh to farmers through Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** at a concessional interest rate during the years 2022-23 and 2023-24.

It has been decided to provide interest subvention to lending institutions viz. **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** and **Private Sector Banks (in respect of loans given by their rural and semi-urban branches only)**, **Small Finance Banks (SFBs)**, and **computerized Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS)** which have been ceded with **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)**, on use of their resources.

**About KCC Scheme :**

KCC scheme is a credit scheme introduced in **August 1998** by **Indian public sector banks** to issue Kisan credit cards to the farmers of India.

This model scheme was prepared by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** on the **recommendations** of the **R. V. Gupta Committee**.

**Tamilnad Mercantile Bank ink bancassurance pacts with Chola MS General & Max Life**

**Old private sector lender Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMBL)** has entered into **bancassurance partnerships** with **Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd**, part of the Chennai-based **Murugappa Group**, and **Max Life Insurance Company**

**Aim :**



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To **provide general insurance products** and **life insurance schemes** respectively to **TMB's customers**.

**About the Partnership :**

Under the tie-up, Tuticorin-based **TMB's 500-plus branches** will start retailing the insurance products of both companies.

The agreement was done for **marketing, distribution & selling the general insurance products**.

**What is bancassurance ?**

Bancassurance is a **relationship between a bank** and an **insurance company**.

**Aim :**

To **offer insurance products or insurance benefits** to the bank's customers.

This partnership arrangement can be **profitable for both companies**.

**About TMBL :**

Founded: 11 May 1921

Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO: S.Krishnan

Tagline: Be a Step ahead of Life

It was set up at the **Nadar Bank limited in 1921**, became the **scheduled bank** under the **RBI Act in May 1935** & the name was **changed to Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank in 1962**.

It offers a wide range of banking and financial services primarily to **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), agricultural and retail customers**

**Star Health launches policy for outpatient expenses with a 1-year term**

**Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd**, a standalone health insurance company, has launched the **Star OutPatient Care Insurance Policy**.

**Aim :**

To **provide complete health and wellness benefits to customers** at an **affordable cost**.

To **bridge the gap** between expenses related to **in-patient hospitalization**, which is catered to by the health insurance industry, and outpatient expenses.

**Key Features :**



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Star OutPatient Care Insurance Policy is a **standalone cover** that provides **access to doctors, clinics, and diagnostic centres all over India.**

The policyholder can avail of **unlimited virtual teleconsultations, unlimited in-clinic consultation, pharmacy expenses, and diagnostic tests** up to the sum insured in any of the networked facilities on a cashless basis.

The policy is available on an individual or floater basis and can cover up to **6 family members.**

The **minimum entry age** for **adults** is between **18 years to 50 years** and for **dependent children, from 31 days to 25 years.**

The policy has **4 sums insured (SI) options** that customers can choose from - a cover of **₹25,000, ₹50,000, ₹75,000, and ₹1 lakh** for a **policy term of one year.**

The policy will also **cover pre-existing diseases** after a **waiting period of one, two, and four years** in the **platinum, gold, and silver plans,** respectively.

**About Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd :**

Founded: 2006

Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Chairman & CEO: V Jagannathan

Executive Director: Vikas Sharma

**AMFI seeks to raise the TDS limit to ₹50,000 per annum**

The **mutual fund industry** has **urged** the **government** to **increase** the **threshold for withholding tax (TDS)** on the **dividend to ₹50,000 per annum** from the **current level of ₹5,000 per annum.**

In a **pre-Budget representation,** the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** announced the **current threshold for TDS** on dividends has been causing hardship to retail investors particularly when TDS on banks' fixed deposits was raised from **₹10,000 to ₹40,000** a couple of years ago.

Capital gains tax :

Long-term capital gains (LTCG) **of listed equity shares and units of equity-oriented MF schemes are taxed at 10% if the LTCG exceeds ₹1 lakh in a financial year.**

**The industry has urged the government to remove the restriction on ELSS investment in multiples of ₹500 and permit investments of any amount, subject to a minimum of ₹500.**





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Debt-linked schemes :

**AMFI has sought permission to launch the Debt Linked Savings Scheme, on the lines of ELSS, to channelize long-term savings of retail investors into highly-rated debt instruments with appropriate tax benefits, which will help in deepening the bond market.**

**AMFI has suggested that Fund of Funds schemes that invest in equity schemes should be treated as an equity-oriented scheme for long- and short-term capital gains tax instead of non-equity MF schemes.**

**AMFI has proposed a cap of 15% on the surcharge rate on income distribution on units from equity MF schemes for the non-corporate assessee on equity shares.**

About AMFI :

**Founded: 22 August 1995**

**Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra**

**CEO: N.S.Venkatesh,**

**Members: 44**

**The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) is the regulatory body for the mutual fund sector in India.**

**It is a division of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Ministry of Finance, Gol.**

**SEBI revises framework for approving changes in control of stock brokers**

**Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has put in place a revised framework for seeking its prior approval for changes in control of stock brokers, depository participants, and other market intermediaries which will be effective from December 1, 2022.**

The framework will apply to **stock brokers/clearing members, depository participants, investment advisers, research analysts or research entities, registrars to an issue, and share transfer agents and KYC (Know Your Client) Registration Agencies (KRAs).**

**Key Highlights :**

Under the provisions, an **intermediary should apply online** for SEBI's prior approval and along with the application, the entity concerned has to submit various details.



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The prior approval granted by SEBI shall be **valid** for **six months** from the date of such approval.

The **'fit and proper person criteria'** should also be complied with.

In case the entity is a registered stock broker, clearing member, or depository participant, then **NOC (No Objection Certificate)** should be obtained from all stock exchanges/clearing corporations/depositories

In cases involving schemes of arrangements that need **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approval**, the application seeking approval for the proposed change in control of the intermediary should be filed with SEBI before applying with NCLT.

An **in-principle approval** will be given for **3 months** provided all other regulatory compliances are met, as per the circular.

**Within 15 days** from the date of the **National Company Law Tribunal's order**, the intermediary should **submit an online application** for **SEBI's final approval**.

**About SEBI :**

Established: January 30, 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

The SEBI is the **regulatory body** for **securities** and **commodity markets** in **India** under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Gol.

**YES BANK partners with Turtlefin to launch 'EasyNsure'**

**TurtleFin**, India's leading insurtech platform, has **partnered with YES BANK**, to **create a first-of-its-kind comprehensive technology platform – EasyNsure**.

Its distinctive API will power the platform and help it offer a slew of **insurance solutions** in a **single place**.

**About EasyNsure :**

EasyNsure will bring **multiple insurance partners onto a common platform**, providing a host of benefits such as –

A seamless **single-point online insurance service**,

Ability to compare and **select a suitable insurance cover** basis the customer's need,



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A facility to **compare costs** for **rationalizing purchase decisions**, among others.

The platform is already live with over **40 Life and General Insurance plans** to be readily available for consideration.

So far, the platform has created over **30,000 insurance quotes** with more than **6,500 proposals** and **5,200 policies** being punched.

This has helped the platform record a **total premium of INR 6,050 lakh**.

The technology platform will also allow business tracking across the **Bank hierarchy, simplifying revenue reconciliation**.

**About YES BANK :**

Founded: 2004

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar

Tagline: Experience our Expertise

**RBI To Launch First Pilot Of Retail Digital Rupee**

**The** Reserve Bank of India's first pilot **for a** retail e-rupee, **its version of the** central bank digital currency (CBDC), **will be launched**.

**The pilot will** cover select locations **in a closed user group comprising participating customers and merchants**.



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Key Highlights :

**The first phase will begin with 4 banks i.e. State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, and IDFC First Bank in 4 cities including Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Bhubaneswar, and later extend to Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna, and Shimla.**

**Payments to merchants can be made using QR codes displayed at merchant locations.**

**The pilot will test the robustness of the entire process of digital rupee creation, distribution, and retail usage in real-time.**

**Based on the usage and the functions performed by the digital rupee and considering the different levels of accessibility RBI has demarcated the digital rupee into two broad categories: general purpose (retail) and wholesale.**

**On November 1, 2022, RBI launched its first pilot project to use the digital rupee in the wholesale market for secondary trade in government securities (G-secs).**

**From December 1, 2022, a retail digital rupee (e-R) pilot will be launched.**

**In effect, the retail e-rupee will be an electronic version of cash and will be primarily meant for retail transactions.**

**It will be potentially available for use by all the private sector, non-financial consumers, and businesses.**

**RBI is expected to enable the distribution of retail e-rupee (CBDC-R) through banks.**

**All the transactions in CBDC will be carried out between person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) forms.**

**This e-rupee will be in the form of a digital token representing legal tender.**

**The key motivations for exploring the issuance of CBDC include a reduction in operational costs involved in physical cash management.**

**It will add efficiency to the settlement system and boost innovation in the cross-border payments space.**

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935



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Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**SBI board approves raising Rs 10,000 crore via infrastructure bonds**

**State Bank of India (SBI) approved raising Rs 10,000 crore** (including a green shoe option of Rs. 5,000 crores) through **infrastructure bonds** during the **financial year 2023**

In the **July-September quarter**, SBI's **gross non-performing assets (NPA)** eased to **3.52%** from **3.91% in Q1FY23** and **4.9% in Q2FY22**.

Similarly, **net NPAs dropped to 0.8%** in September 2022 quarter from 1% in June 2022 quarter and 1.52% in September 2021 quarter.

The bank also recorded credit growth at **19.93% year-on-year in July-September**.

**About SBI :**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Tagline: Pure Banking, Nothing Else

**SEBI restructures advisory panels on FPIs, social stock exchange**

**Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has **restructured** its **advisory committees** about **foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** and **social stock exchange**.

The SEBI has set up **three separate committees** in a fresh push towards reforming the capital markets and **improving the ease of doing business**.

**FPI Advisory Panel Committee :**

Rejigging its FPI Advisory Committee, Sebi has informed that **former finance secretary Hasmukh Adhia** will now **chair the 16-member panel**.

It was **earlier headed by K V Subramanian**, former chief economic adviser to the government of India.

**Chew Hai Jong**, Managing Director at GIC, and **Michael Drumgoole**, Managing Director - Direct Custody and Clearing at JPMorgan, are the new inductees

**Social stock exchange Panel :**



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The **18-member committee** will now be headed by **R Balasubramaniam, chairman of the Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM).**

It was **earlier chaired** by **Ishaat Hussain** (Director at SBI Foundation and former Finance Director at Tata Sons).

About the social stock exchange, Sebi has inducted **Anil Kumar SG**, Founder & CEO, of Samunnati Financial Intermediation & Services; **Santosh Jayaraman** Global Head- Of sustainability, HCL Tech; **Pushpa Aman Singh**, Founder and CEO of GuideStar India; and **Hemant Gupta**, Managing Director at BIL Ryerson Technology Startup Incubator Foundation, among others

The expert group will advise Sebi on issues about the regulatory framework for **social enterprises**. It will advise on the matters to be taken up for changes in the **legal framework** for **simplification** and **transparency** in systems governing social enterprises, and on the regulation of intermediaries for ensuring investor protection to SSEs.

### **What is Foreign Portfolio Investment?**

Foreign Portfolio Investment or FPI refers to the investment made in the financial assets of an enterprise, based in one country, by the foreign investors.

### **About SEBI :**

Established: January 30, 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

### **Sri Lankans holding the Indian rupee (INR) in physical form**

**India** has **allowed Sri Lankan citizens** to hold up to **\$10,000 (8.14 lakh Indian rupees)** in **Indian rupees (INR)** in the **physical form**.

Though the INR would not be legal tender in the island nation after India approved a Sri Lankan request to designate the INR as a **foreign currency**.

### **Key Highlights :**

**This will provide the island nation with much-needed liquidity support to help it tide over its economic crisis amid inadequate dollar liquidity.**



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The decision is also in sync with the Indian government's efforts to popularise the INR among Asian nations and reduce dollar dependence.

Sri Lankans will now be able to convert the INR into another currency.

To enable this, Sri Lankan banks must enter an agreement with an Indian bank to open INR Nostro accounts - accounts that banks hold in a foreign currency in another bank.

Nostro means 'ours' and Vostro means 'yours' in Latin.

Another significant development is that offshore banking units (OBU) of Lankan banks have been permitted to accept savings, time, and demand deposits from non-residents.

Transactions between Sri Lankan residents can only be done through banking channels and only for permitted activities.

Sri Lanka has designated 15 foreign currencies, including the US Dollar, Pound Sterling, Renminbi, Kroner, and Swiss francs.

In 2021, the Thai Baht was added to this list.

**RBI announces four-tiered regulatory framework for Urban Co-operative Banks**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for the categorization of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs).

**Tier 1** - All unit UCBs and salary earners' UCBs (irrespective of deposit size), and all other UCBs having deposits up to ₹100 crores;

**Tier 2** - UCBs with deposits more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1000 crore;

**Tier 3** - UCBs with deposits more than ₹1000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore;

**Tier 4** - UCBs with deposits of more than ₹10,000 crores.

**Key Highlights :**

RBI prescribed a minimum net worth of ₹2 crores for Tier-1 banks and ₹5 crores for all other banks.

While Tier-1 UCBs shall continue to maintain a minimum CRAR (Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets) of 9% on an ongoing basis, Tier-2 to -4 UCBs shall maintain a minimum CRAR of 12% on an ongoing basis.



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**UCBs in Tier-2 to -4, which do not currently meet the revised CRAR of 12% of RWAs, shall achieve the same in a phased manner.**

**Such UCBs shall achieve the CRAR of at least 10% by March 31, 2024, 11% by March 31, 2025, and 12% by March 31, 2026.**

**UCBs, which currently do not meet the minimum net worth requirement, shall achieve the minimum net worth of ₹2 crore or ₹5 crores in a phased manner.**

**Such UCBs shall achieve at least 50% of the applicable minimum net worth on or before March 31, 2026, and the entire stipulated minimum net worth on or before March 31, 2028.**

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**IIFL Mutual Fund launches India's first passive tax-saver fund - IN50**

**IIFL Mutual Fund has launched India's first passive tax saver fund, IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund (IN50) will be on sale through a new fund offer (NFO).**

The dedicated Fund Manager for the IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund is **Parijat Garg.**

It is the **first passively managed tax-saving scheme (also known as Equity-Linked Savings Scheme, or ELSS)** to be launched **after** the capital market regulator, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, allowed fund houses to launch such passive funds on **May 23, 2022.**

**About IN50 :**

The scheme, IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund, **opened for subscription on December 1** and **closes on December 21, 2022.**

As an **open-ended passive equity-linked savings scheme** that replicates or tracks the Nifty 50 index and has a **statutory lock-in period of 3 years**, the fund will provide both a tax benefit and create wealth.

**India extends USD 100 million credits to Maldives to overcome financial crisis**





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India **handed over** USD 100 million **to the** Maldives **to** ease **the** financial challenges **faced by the** archipelagic state **in the** Indian Ocean.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid **and** Finance Minister Ibrahim Ameer **were present at the** Ministry of Foreign Affairs ceremony **in** New Delhi.

**The assistance being extended to the Maldives is** without any terms and conditions **and the Maldives is free to use it in its economic recovery.**

**India has also provided** a \$ 500 million loan **to the Maldives for the** Greater Male Connectivity Project.

About Maldives :

**President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**

**Capital: Malé**

**Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa.**

**RBI & Financial Services Agency of Japan exchange Letter of Cooperation in the field of Central CounterParties**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Financial Services Agency (FSA)**, Japan **exchanged letters of cooperation** in the **field of Central Counterparties (CCPs)** to improve **cooperation.**

With this exchange of letters, RBI and FSA are committed to **deepening relations** between the two countries and **strengthening the exchange of information.**

RBI and FSA also expressed their willingness to hold a **dialogue or exchange views** about matters of common interest

The letters confirm the interest of both jurisdictions in enhancing cooperation in line with their respective laws and regulations.

**RBI imposes Rs 1.25 crore penalty on Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **imposed** a **penalty of Rs 1.25 crore** on **Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank, Mumbai.**

**Reason:**



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For **non-compliance** with certain directions, including one related to **discounting of bills**.

Also, the RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 20 lakh** on **Indian Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Lucknow** for non-compliance with certain norms related classification of non-performing assets.

The central bank also imposed penalties on **5 other cooperative banks**.

**BoB launches Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits for Corporates**

**Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has **launched** “**Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits of Indian Companies for their Overseas Subsidiaries/Joint Ventures**” at its branch in **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

BoB is the **first bank** to offer this facility at GIFT City.

Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits’ provides Indian companies with an **alternative facility to raise funds** for their **international businesses**.

**Key Highlights :**

Under the new loan scheme, **BoB’s International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU)** in GIFT City in Gandhinagar will provide **financial support to Overseas Subsidiaries/Joint Ventures of Indian corporates** by leveraging their INR deposits.

It **helps Indian companies** meet the **cash flow requirements** for their **international operations**.

BoB **already offers Loans against NRE/FCNR Deposits** and Loans against Deposits at the IBU.

**About BoB :**

Founded: 20 July 1908

Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India

MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha

**ICICI Bank launches STACK for companies in the real estate sector**

**ICICI Bank** has **launched** a **STACK** for **companies** in the **real estate sector** to **offer solutions** to their **banking requirements** on **one platform**.

**Note :**

**ICICI Bank** is the **first bank** in the **industry** to **offer real estate-specific STACK** to provide **unparalleled convenience** to players in this sector.

**About STACK :**



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The STACK, which is a **combination of digital and physical solutions**, enables participants of the real estate sector namely **builders, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), and Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs)** to undertake banking transactions efficiently.

It is an extension of the **'ICICI STACK for Corporates'** which the Bank launched in **2021** to provide a customized set of banking solutions for corporates and their entire ecosystem.

The STACK is a **one-stop shop** for mortgage loans to prospective home buyers.

The Bank **extends customized home loan solutions** to retail buyers at the project premises.

**About ICICI Bank :**

Founded: 5 January 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

**City Union Bank authorized to enable GST payments**

**Old private sector lender, City Union Bank (CUB)**, announced that the **Goods and Services Tax Network**, under the auspices of the **GST Council**, has included CUB as one of the banks available for paying GST.

City Union Bank's digital solutions include – **digital signatures, QR codes, Video KYC, and digital payment solutions**, such as **UPI 123pay, payment on the go through wearables, increased payment limit for online transactions, & soft launch of voice biometric authentication for mobile banking.**

**About CUB :**

Founded: 1904

Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO : Dr. N. Kamakodi

**BookMyForex launches "Interbank Rate Forex Card" – India's first true zero markup travel card**

India's first online foreign exchange marketplace, **BookMyForex.com** has launched the **Interbank Rate Multi-Currency Forex Card**, which is **India's first true zero markup travel card.**

The card has been **developed** in **association with Yes Bank, and M2P**, and is **powered by Visa.**



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**Key Highlights :**

The card is accepted **globally** at **35+ million stores**, **1+ million e-commerce websites**, and **2+ million ATMs**.

The card can be loaded with **14 different currencies**, and the exchange rates on forex cards remain fixed.

The forex card comes with a **Free International SIM** with **unlimited incoming calls & WhatsApp chat facility** for **one month**.

**About BookMyForex.com :**

Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana

CEO: Sudarshan Motwani

BookMyForex (a **MakeMyTrip Group Company**) is **India's very first tech initiative** in the **foreign exchange domain** and the market leader in the online retail forex space.

**IDFC AMC to be renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund as regulators approve a change in ownership**  
Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has **approved** the **acquisition** of **IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (IDFC AMC)** by a **consortium** comprising **Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited (BFHL), GIC, and ChrysCapital**.

Following the completion of the proposed transition, **BFHL** will own about **60%** and **GIC** and **ChrysCapital** will own approximately **20%** each in **IDFC AMC**.

On completion of the transition, **IDFC AMC** is proposed to be **renamed as Bandhan Asset Management Company Limited**, and **IDFC Mutual Fund (IDFC MF)** is proposed to be **renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund**.

Consequently, each scheme of **IDFC MF** will be **renamed to replace** the word '**IDFC**' with the word '**Bandhan**'.

**RBI permits overseas Indian banks to deal in financial products not permitted in domestic markets**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **allowed foreign branches/foreign subsidiaries** of **Indian banks** and **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)** to **deal in financial products** that are **not available** or are not permitted by it in the **domestic market** without its prior approval.



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The **relaxation** applies to **Indian Banks** and **AIFIs** operating in **foreign jurisdictions** and **International Financial Services Centers (IFSCs)** in India including **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**.

**Key Highlights :**

While allowing branches/subsidiaries in **foreign jurisdictions** as well as in IFSCs to deal in such products, the parent bank in India/AIFI has to ensure prior approval from its Board and, if required, the appropriate authority in the concerned jurisdictions.

RBI asked entities to appropriately capture and report to it their exposure and **mark-to-market (MTM)** on these products.

**SEBI reduces the timeline to list debt securities issued on a private placement basis**

Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** reduced the **timeline** for **listing debt securities issued** on a **private placement basis** to **3 days** from the **current timeline** of **4 days**.

The new guidelines would come into **effect from January 1, 2023**.

**Key Highlights :**

SEBI has listed out the steps involved in **pre-listing** and **post-listing** along with relevant timelines, both through **Electronic Book Provider (EBP) platform** and otherwise.

The time taken for a listing of such securities after the closure of the issue has been **reduced** to **three working days (T+3)** as **against** the **present requirement** of **4 working days (T+4)**.

**T** refers to the **issue closure date**.

Subsequently, the issuer would have to ensure **receipt** of an **International Securities Identification Number (ISIN)** from a depository before pay-in and apply to other depositories for admission of such proposed **debt issuance by T+1**.

On or before T+1/T+2, the **issue of credit confirmation letter** by depositories to the issuer, and issuers will have to make an application for listing of its **debt securities by T+3**.

**About SEBI :**

Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992



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Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Govt.

### **Tata Play becomes the first firm to file confidential papers with SEBI for IPO**

**Tata Play**, a direct-to-home platform, has become the first company to submit confidential papers to the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for an initial public offering (IPO).

Tata Play confidentially pre-filed its **draft red herring prospectus (DRHP)** with the markets regulator.

The proposed IPO is Tata's first since the public issue of TCS in **2004**.

Tata play is a **joint venture between** the **Tata group** and **Walt Disney**.

### **NPCI extends UPI market cap deadline by 2 yrs**

The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has extended the **deadline for the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** to meet the market cap deadline of **30% to December 31, 2024**.

The **earlier deadline** to meet the market cap norms was **December 31, 2022**.

Currently, there's **no cap on volume**, and **Google Pay** and **PhonePe** hold a **market share** of about **80%**.

### **Key Highlights :**

**Payment apps PhonePe** and **Google Pay** have received a breather, with the NPCI giving them **2 more years** to comply with **guidelines on volume caps**.

**Flipkart-owned PhonePe** and **Google Pay** have **47%** and **33%** market shares respectively.

In **November 2020**, the NPCI issued guidelines capping the share of transactions handled by a **third-party application provider (TPAPs)** at **30% each**.

### **About NPCI :**

Founded: 2008

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe



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The NPCI is the **specialized division** of the **Reserve Bank of India** which is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.

It was created by the RBI for **operating retail payments** and **settlement systems** in **India**.

**About UPI :**

Launched: 2016

UPI is an **instant real-time payment system** developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

The **interface facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer (P2P)** and **person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions**.

As of **November 2022**, the **UPI transactions** included **Banks live on UPI - 373**, **Volume of the transaction - 7,309.45 million**, **Value of the total transaction - 11,90,593.39 Cr**.

**Canara Bank wins Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022 for India at Global Banking Summit**

**Canara Bank** received the "**Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022**" for the **India segment** at the **Global Banking Summit** held in **London, United Kingdom (UK)**.

The public sector lender has been adjudged as the **Best Bank in India** for **2022**.

The **Canara bank's MD and CEO L V Prabhakar** received the award from the organizers,

**About the Award :**

The Bankers' Bank of the year award is considered to be like **Oscar award** for the **banking sector**.

The winners are judged on their **ability to deliver returns, strategy, innovation, technology, and product** and services in their respective geographies in the **last 12 months**.

The **Banker's magazine** is the **world's premier banking and finance resource** for **more than 180 countries** across the globe

The Banker's magazine is from the **Financial Times (FT) group**, which is the **British-based global financial daily newspaper**.

It was founded in **1888** and is the **leading business/financial newspaper** in the **world**.

**About Canara Bank :**

Founded: 1 July 1906

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India



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MD & CEO: Lingam Venkata Prabhakar

**Protean & Fino Payments Bank tie-up to expand PAN card issuance services in India**

Fino Payments Bank has partnered with Protean eGov Technologies (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited), a market leader in universal, citizen-centric, and population-scale e-governance solutions, to expand PAN card issuance services in India, especially in rural areas.

**Note :**

The association makes Fino the **first payments bank** to act as a **PAN Service Agency (PSA)** of Protean and facilitate paperless PAN issuance services.

As per the **Ministry of Finance**, more than **43.34 crore Permanent Account Numbers (PANs)** have been linked with **Aadhaar till January 2022** i.e. around **36% of India's population** has an **Aadhaar-linked PAN card**.

**Key Highlights :**

At Fino Bank points people can apply for a PAN card through **Aadhaar-based authentication**, without the need to submit or upload any documents.

Further, applicants have the option to choose a PAN card either in **digital or physical form**.

Recently, the **digital version, or e-PAN, was** introduced and will be sent within a few hours of applying to the applicant's email id & it is admissible as an actual PAN card.

Those opting for physical education will receive their PAN cards at their Aadhaar mentioned address **within 4-5 working days**.

Managing Director and CEO of Protean eGov Technologies: Mr. Suresh Sethi

**About Fino Payments Bank :**

Established: 2017

Headquarters: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Mr. Rishi Gupta

Fino Payments Bank is a **subsidiary of Fino Paytech Limited**, which is backed by marquee investors like **Bharat Petroleum, ICICI group, Blackstone, IFC, Intel, and LIC**.





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**RBI authorized Tamilnad Mercantile Bank to undertake government business**

Private sector lender Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMBL) has been **authorized** by the Reserve Bank of India to **undertake government business** on behalf of the banking regulator. An agreement in this connection was signed by the bank with RBI in **Mumbai** for appointing TMB as an **'agency bank'** of RBI to undertake government agency business.

**About TMBL :**

**Founded:** in 1921 as the Nadar Bank.

**Headquarters:** Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India.

**CEO:** K V Rama Moorthy.

**ADB & ABIS Signs Sustainability-Linked Debt Facility to Support Climate-Resilient Fish Farming in India**

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **ABIS Exports India Private Limited (ABIS)** entered into an **agreement** on **sustainability-linked and blue-debt facility non-convertible debentures** for **\$16 million** (in equivalent Indian rupee).

**Aim :**

To **enhance food security in India** by supporting the construction of a **micro fish feed plant** and by training up to **6,000 farmers** in **climate-resilient fish farming practices as well as financial literacy**.

This is **ADB's first private sector sustainability-linked financing**, with adjustments in pricing when pre-defined sustainability targets are met.

**Key Highlights :**

Targets include **emissions reductions, water conservation, and farmer training**.

The **sustainability-linked financing received** an independent second-party opinion, consistent with industry principles.

Training in climate-smart fish farming practices and financial literacy through a **\$500,000 technical assistance (TA) grant** will enhance the **climate resilience of fish farmers**.

**Food security** is a priority for ADB, which recently announced plans to provide at least **\$14 billion over 2022–2025** to **ease a worsening food crisis in Asia and the Pacific**.



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**About ADB :**

Founded : 19 December 1966  
Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines  
President : Masatsugu Asakawa  
Membership : 68 countries

**About ABIS :**

ABIS is the flagship operating company of the **Indian Broiler group**, which also has operations in **poultry, poultry-feed, dairy, edible oil, and hospitality.**

ABIS is committed to **reducing carbon emissions, improving water conservation, and providing increased farmer extension services.**

**NSE indices Launch New Nifty Bharat Bond Index**

NSE Indices Limited (formerly known as India Index Services & Products Limited (IISL), a subsidiary **of the** National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) **has** launched **an** index Nifty Bharat Bond Index - April 2033 **under the** Nifty Bharat Bond Index series

**About the Bharat Bond Index series :**

The Bharat Bond Index series follows a **target maturity date structure** wherein each index in the series measures the performance of a portfolio of **'AAA-rated bonds** issued by government-owned entities maturing in a specific year.

The Nifty Bharat Bond Index - April 2033 has a base date of **November 30, 2022**, and a **base value of 1,000.**

The index will be **rebalanced/reconstituted** at the **end of every calendar quarter.**

The launch of the Bharat Bond ETFs has also opened up the target maturity date index funds category with overall assets under management of **more than ₹ 1.30 lakh crore.**

The **first Bharat Bond ETFs** tracking the Nifty Bharat Bond indices were launched in **December 2019** with **initial assets** under management of around **₹ 12,000 crores.**



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In December 2019, NSE Indices launched the first two indices in the Bharat Bond Index with maturities in **April 2023** and **April 2030**, and in July 2020, further two indices with maturities in April 2025 and April 2031 were launched.

### **About NSE Indices Limited :**

Founded: March 1998

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan

### **India to soon have variable capital companies as expert panel gives a nod**

A **nine-member expert committee**, headed by **MS Sahoo**, has **drafted** a **legal framework** for **allowing Variable Capital Company (VCC) structure** in the **International Financial Centres (IFSCs)**.

The committee has proposed a **legal framework within the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Act, 2019**, which provides for one implementing agency, IFSCA.

The agency registers VCCs as **body corporates**, as well as **authorizes** and **supervises** their operations.

The VCCs were introduced as a **vehicle for investment management** in IFSCs.

### **Key Highlights :**

The committee has laid down key principles which include ensuring VCCs are **low-cost structures** that **attract lower governance requirements**; having principle-based legislation with the flexibility to introduce subordinate legislation and close alignment with the requirements under the **fund management entity (FME) regulations** that would apply to funds housed within the VCC.

Funds in India pooled through limited liability companies are governed under the **Companies Act, 2013**, or under the **Limited Liability Partnership Act** or **trusts** governed under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

The IFSCA set up an **expert committee** under the **chairmanship of KP Krishnan** in **September 2020** to examine the feasibility of the VCC in India.



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The VCC will be incorporated in the form of a company and shall be governed by the **Registrar** of VCCs akin to the Registrar of Companies (in India), with IFSCA playing the role of Registrar. The expert committee has suggested that **tax residency certificates** be issued at the sub-fund level to ensure they can take advantage of DTAAAs.

**About IFSCA :**

Headquarters: Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
Chairman: Injeti Srinivas

**Razorpay Becomes India's First Payment Gateway to Support Credit Cards on UPI**

**Razorpay, India's Leading Full-Stack Payments and Banking Platform for Businesses** announced the **platform's readiness** to support **Credit Card Transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

With this launch, **Razorpay** becomes **India's First PG** to support Credit Cards on UPI.

Customers of **HDFC Bank, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank, and Indian Bank** will be the first to enjoy the benefits of this innovation.

**Key Highlights :**

This offering is in line with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** latest innovation in the digital space.

At **present**, UPI enables customers to make transactions through their **bank accounts**.

**Approximately 250 million Indians use UPI** for their **day-to-day transactions**, and nearly **50 million users** have **one or more credit cards**.

**About Razorpay :**

Founded: 2014  
Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka  
MD: Shashank Kumar

**RBI Releases "Handbook of Statistics on Indian States, 2021-22"**

The **7th edition of the Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2021-22** is released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.



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**About the report :**

Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2021-22 seeks to **provide comprehensive data about the regional economies of India.**

It covers **sub-national statistics on socio-demographics, state domestic product, agriculture, price and wages, industry, infrastructure, banking, and fiscal indicators** across the states during various periods ranging from 1951 to 2021-22.

**2 new sections** have been included in the **recent edition** – **health** and **environment.**

**Key findings of the report :**

**Karnataka** has the **highest total installed capacity** of **grid-interactive renewable power** among all states.

It had a **total installed capacity** of **15,463 megawatts (MW).**

It is followed by **Tamil Nadu (15,225 MW), Gujarat (13,153 MW), and Maharashtra (10,267 MW)**

**Maharashtra** was followed by **Rajasthan (10,205 mw), Andhra Pradesh (8,969 mw), Madhya Pradesh (5,206 mw), Telangana (4,378 mw), Uttar Pradesh (3,879 mw), Punjab (1,617 mw)** and **Himachal Pradesh (988 mw) and Uttarakhand (713 mw).**

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**Asian Development Bank partners with GOI to provide \$3 million PRF facility**

**The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India** signed a \$3 million project readiness financing (PRF) facility **to support preparatory activities for designing a project to improve municipal infrastructure in priority areas of Agartala city, Tripura.**

**Signatories to the PRF for the proposed Agartala Municipal Infrastructure Development Project :**



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**Rajat Kumar Mishra**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance who signed for the Government of India

**Takeo Konishi**, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission signed for ADB.

**Key Highlights :**

The proposed project aligns with the findings of the **ADB's North East Economic Corridor (NEEC) study** that **recognizes Agartala's vital role** as a key growth and border centre in generating prosperity and economic growth in the northeastern region.

ADB's recent engagement with Tripura to **develop urban infrastructure** identifies key infrastructure deficits in Agartala city.

**"Climate change mitigation** and adaptation components will be incorporated into the project design during PRF implementation to ensure alignment with India's climate commitments."

**About ADB :**

Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines

President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

Membership: 68 countries

The ADB is a **regional development bank**

**Centre To Allow Foreign Funds To Own Over 51% In IDBI Bank**

**According to a government clarification, the** Indian government **will** allow a consortium of foreign funds **and** investment firms **to** own more than 51% **of** IDBI Bank Ltd.

**The** current guidelines **of the** Reserve Bank of India restrict foreign ownership **in** new private banks.

**Key Highlights :**

The central bank's residency criteria for promoters applies **only** to **newly set up banks** and would **not apply to an existing** entity like **IDBI Bank**.

The Indian government and the RBI would also consider relaxing the **five-year lock-in period** for shares if a non-banking financial company is merged into IDBI Bank.



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The clarifications come ahead of a **December 16,2022 deadline** to submit expressions of interest for a majority stake in IDBI Bank, one of the few lenders that the government is trying to offload its stake in.

The **government** and **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** together hold **94.71%** of **IDBI Bank** and are looking to sell **60.72%**

Pursuant to the transaction, the **government** will own **15% stake** and **LIC 19%** shareholding in IDBI Bank, taking their total holding to **34%**.

Earlier, The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** had announced that **potential investors** should have a **minimum net worth of ₹22,500 crores** and must report a net profit in 3 out of the past 5 years to be eligible for bidding for IDBI Bank & also, a **maximum of four members** would be allowed in a consortium.

IDBI Bank was **penalised** by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in **2017** with several restrictions on lending after its bad-loan ratio surged and capital ratios depleted.

**World Bank upwards India's GDP growth forecast to 6.9% for FY23**

The World Bank in its latest India development update titled 'Navigating the Storm' revised upwards its GDP growth forecast for India to **6.9%** for 2022-23 from **6.5%** in its Oct 2022 Update.

In **October,2022** it cut India's GDP growth forecast to **6.5%** from **7.5%** earlier.

The World Bank's India Development Update **announced that** India is affected by spillovers from the US, Euro area and China.

It however saw the **government meeting the** fiscal deficit target of **6.4%** of the GDP in 2022-23.

The World Bank expects inflation at **7.1%** in the current fiscal year.

**About World Bank :**

Established : December 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States

President : David Malpass



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**ESIC to invest up to 15% surplus funds in the stock market via ETFs**

The **Government of India** has allowed **Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** to invest up to **15%** of its **surplus funds** into **equity through exchange-traded funds (ETFs)**, in a bid to **accrue better returns** on its **surplus funds**.

The decision was taken at an **ESIC meeting chaired** by the **Union labour minister Bhupender Yadav** at the **corporation's headquarters** in **New Delhi**

**Key Highlights :**

The decision to **invest surplus funds** into equity was taken due to the **low returns on debt instruments** and the need to diversify the corporation's portfolio.

The initial investment shall start at **5%** and **increase up to 15% gradually**, after a review of **two quarters**.

The investment will be confined in **Exchange Traded Funds i.e., Nifty50 and Sensex**.

It will be managed by **fund managers of Asset Management Companies (AMCs)**.

The equity investment will be **monitored by the existing custodian, external concurrent auditor** and consultant looking after the debt investments in addition to the management of the ETF for equity.

**Other Approvals :**

ESIC approved the proposals for setting up a new **100 bedded ESIC Hospital** at **Shyamlibazar, Agartala, Tripura** and **100 bedded ESIC Hospital** at **Idukki, Kerala**.

The **'Nirman Se Shakti'** initiative has been started to **strengthen** and **modernize** the **infrastructure of hospitals** and **dispensaries** in a **phased manner**.

**About ESIC :**

The ESIC was set up in 1952 under the **ESI act 1948**.

Headquarters: New Delhi

Director General : Dr. Rajendra Kumar.

ESIC is one of the **two main statutory social security bodies** under the **ownership** of the **Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India**, the other being the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation**.





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**Who is eligible?**

It is applicable to **factories employing 10 or more workers.**

It is applicable on **shops, establishments, insurance, Non-Banking Financial Companies** etc employing 20 or more persons.

**Bank of Baroda Wins EAG Laureate Award on Financial Security**

**State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has **bagged** an **EAG Laureate Award** in the **International Olympiad on Financial Security** held in **Sochi, Russia.**

**About EAG :**

The **Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG)** is a **FATF-style regional body** which comprises **9 countries including India.**

The 9 countries are: **Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.**

EAG is an **associate member** of the FATF.

EAG has organised a contest on '**Best example of AML-CFT Financial Analysis**' amongst the Compliance Officers of the member countries in the **international Olympiad on Financial Security at Sochi, Russia on October 10, 2022.**

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an **intergovernmental organisation combating money laundering** and maintaining **certain interests.**

**About Bank of Baroda :**

Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO): **Sanjiv Chadha**

Headquarters : **Vadodara, Gujarat**

Tagline : **India's International Bank**

It is the **second largest public sector bank in India** after the **State Bank of India (SBI).**

**SEBI releases uniform format for OTC trades in non-convertible securities**

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **issued a uniform format for reporting over-the-counter (OTC) trades** in listed **non-convertible securities (NCS)**



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The new guideline would come into force from **January 1, 2023**.

The development comes after Sebi observed that information on OTC trades in listed non-convertible securities provided to the stock exchanges by the investors is **incomplete and inaccurate**.

### About OTC :

OTC trades are **generally trades** executed between **two market entities** without others being aware of the price at which the transaction was effected.

Under the format, information about **deal type whether brokered or direct - ISIN**, listed or unlisted security, issuer name, coupon rate, issue description, traded price, traded yield, trade date and time, settlement date, settlement status, and reported trade executed on **RFQ (Request For Quote) platform** will have to be disclosed.

SEBI asked **stock exchanges** to **monitor** the compliance of the guideline and bring to the notice of the **regulator periodically**, discrepancies in reporting of OTC trades by investors.

### About SEBI :

Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

The SEBI is the **regulatory body** for **securities** and **commodity markets** in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**.

### **ADB approves \$250 mn policy-based loans to strengthen the logistics sector**

**The** Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$250 million policy-based loan **to** support India's wide-ranging reforms

Aim :

To **strengthen** and **modernize** the **logistics infrastructure**, **improve efficiency**, and **lower the cost** in the logistics sector.

### Key Highlights :



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The loan will finance the first subprogram of the ‘**Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem**’, which supports the government’s efforts to create a comprehensive policy, planning, and institutional framework at the federal, state, and city levels.

This will **rationalize India's high cost of logistics** and **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**.

The program will help to **strengthen supply chains** by **simplifying external trade logistics** and domestic cargo movements, modernizing warehouses, improving business processes with integrated digital platforms, and stimulating private investments in the sector.

India’s recently approved **National Logistics Policy** and **Prime Minister Gati Shakti-National Master Plan** provide **transformative institutional** and **regulatory frameworks** for the holistic development of the logistics ecosystem in the country.

### **RBI signs currency swap agreement with Maldives Monetary**

#### **Authority**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has signed a **Currency Swap Agreement** with the **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** under the **SAARC Currency Swap Framework**.

This is to **provide swap support** as a backstop line of funding for **short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements**.

This agreement will enable the MMA to make drawals in multiple tranches up to a **maximum of USD 200 million** from the RBI.

RBI had signed a similar agreement to provide a **\$400 million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka** in **2020**.

#### **About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

#### **About MMA :**



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Established: July 1, 1981

Location: Male, Maldives

Governor: Ali Hashim

The MMA is the central bank of the Republic of Maldives.

**Paisabazaar & RBL Bank launch 'Duet Credit Card'**

Digital marketplace for consumer credit and free credit score platform Paisabazaar and RBL Bank launched a new co-created credit card 'Duet'.

**About the Card :**

Duet is a **2-in-1 product** that **meets two distinct consumer needs** seamlessly.

It is a **credit card** that offers **cashback** on **purchases** and also a **line-of-credit** from RBL Bank that **instant transfer of money** into the **bank account**.

It will be **part of Paisabazaar's neo-lending product suite** and will **replace Paise On Demand (PoD cards)** on the platform.

The card provides a flat **1% cashback** on all **online and offline spending with no upper limit**.

Duet is a **lifetime free credit card** from **RBL Bank**, with **easy-to-understand direct cashback benefits**.

**About RBL Bank :**

Founded: 1943

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : R Subramaniakumar

RBL Bank, formerly known as **Ratnakar Bank**, is an **Indian private-sector bank**.

**IndusInd Bank ties up with SV CreditLine for co-lending agreement for ₹500**

**Cr**

The **non-banking finance company SV CreditLine** and the **private sector lender IndusInd Bank** have signed a **co-lending collaboration** for a **₹500 crore loan** targeted solely towards **women borrowers**.

**Key Highlights :**



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The agreement will **help rural women access affordable loans** which they could use for a **wide range of economic activities** such as **agriculture, animal husbandry, trading, and local manufacturing**, among others-

One of India's biggest and **most reputable non-banking financial companies** is **SV Creditline Limited (SVCL)** established in **2010**.

SVCL provides a **variety of small credit facilities** to **women** in the **low-income segment** with an **annual household income of Rs. 125,000 in rural areas and Rs. 200,000 in urban areas**.

**Note :**

SV CreditLine Group CEO Vivek Goyal

**About IndusInd Bank :**

Founded: April 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: Sumant Kathpalia.

**SEBI introduces credit rating-wise investment limit for active debt funds**

**The** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a credit rating-based single issuer limit **for investment for most actively managed** debt mutual fund schemes.

**Key Highlights :**

**According to the SEBI, the above investment limits may be extended by up to 2% of the NAV of the scheme with prior approval of the** Board of Trustees **and** Board of Directors of the asset management companies, **subject to compliance with the** overall 12% limit specified in clause 1 of 7th Schedule **of MF Regulation**.

**According to the rules, a mutual fund scheme shall not invest more than 10% of its net asset value in debt and money market securities of companies rated 'AAA'.**



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For companies rated 'AA', the exposure cannot be larger than 8%.

While the limit is set at 6% for 'A'-rated companies.

The limits can be extended by another 2% with prior approval of the board of trustees and the board of directors of the asset management company.

**IDFC First Bank & NASSCOM COE partner to promote the startup ecosystem**

IDFC FIRST Bank and the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Centre of Excellence (COE) has partnered to grow the innovation ecosystem through an exclusive range of banking solutions.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between IDFC FIRST Bank and NASSCOM COE appointing the Bank as a Preferred Banking Partner for startups, at an event in Bangalore, Karnataka attended by startup founders.

**Key Highlights :**

IDFC FIRST Bank will offer its curated products and solutions for startups including **Zero Balance Startup Current Accounts**, uniquely designed **Working Capital solutions** for pre-profit startups, and Business Credit Cards for Startups.

The Bank will offer **tailored financial products** to support innovation and entrepreneurship. NASSCOM COE and IDFC FIRST Bank will collaborate across a range of initiatives such as **Investor Connect, knowledge-sharing sessions**, and tech conclaves to engage with the startup community extensively.

**About NASSCOM Center of Excellence :**

CEO : Sanjeev Malhotra

NASSCOM CoE is the **country's largest Deeptech innovation ecosystem** comprising **startups, innovators, enterprises**, and the government.

**About IDFC FIRST Bank :**

Founded: October 2015

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra



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MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan

IDFC First Bank is an **Indian Private Sector Bank** that is owned by IDFC, an integrated infrastructure finance company.

**ADB approves \$780 mn loans to expand Chennai's metro rail network**

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a \$780 million multitranche financing facility (MFF) to **build new lines** and **improve the connectivity** of the **metro rail system at Chennai**, the capital of India's Tamil Nadu, with the city's existing bus and feeder services.

The project will **expand Chennai's metro rail system** to **provide a safe and integrated transport solution** essential to **improving urban mobility** and making the city **more liveable**.

**Key Highlights :**

The project will **construct 10.1 km** of an elevated section between **Sholinganallur to State Industries Promotion Corporation**, including **9 metro stations** and system components; **10 km** of the underground section between **Lighthouse and Meenakshi College** including 9 stations. It also includes **31 km of system components**, such as electrical, mechanical, power, and telecommunication infrastructure, between **Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus to Okkiyam Thoraipakkam**.

ADB will provide an **additional \$1 million technical assistance (TA) grant** to **help the Chennai Metro Rail** with the planning and management of the metro system's multimodal integration.

**Background :**

In **2021**, **ADB** and the **Indian government** signed a deal for a **\$500 million loan** to **expand Bengaluru's metro rail network** by constructing two new lines of **56 km length**.

**ADB** has committed **\$57.75 billion** for **826 projects** in **India** of which **18.85 billion** is for **188 transportation projects**.

In **2021**, ADB committed a record **\$4.6 billion** in **sovereign loans** to **India**.

ADB also committed **\$36.51 million** in **technical assistance** and **\$3 million** in grants under the **sovereign portfolio**.

**About ADB :**



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Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 countries

**SEBI amends norms to bring in buying, and selling of mutual funds under insider trading rules**

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **amended norms** to **bring buying and selling of mutual fund units** under the ambit of insider trading rules.

At present, insider trading rules apply to dealing in securities of listed companies or those proposed to be listed, when in possession of **Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPS)**.

The units of **mutual funds** are **specifically excluded** from the definition of securities under the rules.

**Key Highlights :**

**Asset management companies (AMCs)** will have to **disclose** the details of holdings in the units of their mutual fund schemes, on an aggregated basis, held by the AMC, trustees, and their immediate relatives on the platform of stock exchanges.

It has prescribed a **minimum standard of code** of conduct for designated persons in line with provisions of existing insider trading rules.

The compliance officer of the AMC would determine the closure period during which a designated person cannot transact in units of the mutual fund.

The proposal to bring MF units under insider **trading regulations** was first mooted by the **Sodhi Committee** in **2013**.

However, the regulator decided to exclude these when the regulations came into force in **2015**.





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**ADB approves \$300 Million Loan to Improve Roads and Regional Trade in India**

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a \$300 million loan to **upgrade more than 300 kilometers of state highways** and major district roads in **Assam**, including **six road sections** in the **state's western, central, and southern regions**.

**About the Project :**

The project will **expand state highways and major district roads** from **single-lane to two-lanes** and introduce **new climate- and disaster-resilient structures**.

It will establish **pedestrian and public transport facilities, elevate highways in flood-prone areas**, and include **landslide prevention structures** in **hilly and mountainous areas**.

The project will strengthen the capacity of the **Assam Public Works (Roads) Department** in **managing road assets, integrate climate and disaster resilience in road projects, and ensuring safeguards such as environment, resettlement, and indigenous peoples' concerns** are considered.

The roads to be upgraded under this project are connected to **South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) corridors** and borders with **Bhutan and Bangladesh** and are expected to **boost cross-border trade and transport**.

The project will **complement the multimodal logistics park** being built in **Jogighopa** and a future one in **Silchar** to serve road, rail, inland waterway, and air transport facilities.

To **protect wildlife and habitats** in project areas, **viaduct structures** will be constructed to **avoid human-elephant conflict** in the **elephant habitats**.

**Edelweiss Mutual Fund launches the fourth tranche of 'BHARAT Bond ETF'**

**Edelweiss Mutual Fund** has launched the **fourth tranche of BHARAT Bond ETF – India's second corporate bond ETF (exchange-traded fund)**.



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**About BHARAT Bond ETF :**

Bharat Bond ETF is an initiative of the **Government of India**, from the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management**.

It will provide retail investors with an option to explore the **'safe' debt mutual fund category**, which was earlier dominated by institutional investors.

It will also help **deepen India's debt market penetration**.

Edelweiss proposes to raise an initial amount of **Rs. 1,000 crores** with a **green shoe option of Rs. 4,000 crores**.

So far, **5 maturities of Bharat Bond ETFs** have been launched - **2023, 2025, 2030, 2031, and 2032**.

**Salient Features :**

The ETF will invest in constituents of the Nifty Bharat Bond Indices, consisting of **AAA-rated public sector companies**.

The benchmark index it will follow will be the **Nifty Bharat Bond Index – April 2033**.

**Investing Amount :**

The **minimum investment** is **Rs 1,000** and in multiples of Re 1 thereafter.

For retirement funds, qualified institutional buyers, and non-institutional investors, the minimum investment amount is **Rs 2,00,001** and in multiples of Re 1 thereafter.

**Note :**

Managing director and CEO, Edelweiss Mutual Fund: Radhika Gupta,

**IRDAI increases limits for intermediaries & corporate agents can distribute products of 9 insurers**

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has **notified increased limits** for **corporate agents (banks)** and **insurance marketing firms (IMFs)**.

Corporate agents (banks) can now enter into a tie-up with as many as **9 life insurers, 9 general insurers, and 9 health insurers**.



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**Insurance marketing firms (IMFs) can now have distribution tie-ups with a maximum of 6 life insurers, 6 general insurers, and 6 health insurers.**

IRDAI's move to **open the bancassurance channel** for insurers is part of its effort to achieve the **long-term goal of 'insurance for all' by 2047.**

**About the amendments :**

The amendments to regulations about the registration of Indian insurance companies are aimed at **promoting ease of doing business** and simplifying the process of setting up an insurance company in India.

Investment through **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** has been made optional for **Private Equity (PE) Funds** enabling them to invest directly in insurance companies, providing more flexibility.

**Investments up to 25%** of the paid-up capital by a **single investor** (50% for all investors collectively) will now be treated as 'investor' and investments over and above that will only be treated as promoter".

A new provision has been introduced to allow the promoters to **dilute their stake up to 26%**, subject to the condition that the insurer has a **satisfactory solvency record** for the preceding 5 years and is a listed entity.

Corporate agents and IMFs were earlier permitted to tie up with only 3 and 2 insurers, respectively, in each segment.

IRDAI move to open the bancassurance channel will give customers **wider choice** and **access to insurance plans.**

**About IRDAI :**

Founded: 1999

Headquarters: Telegana, Hyderabad

Chairperson: Debasish Panda

The IRDAI is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Gol & is tasked with **regulating** and **licensing** the **insurance** and **reinsurance** industries in India.

**StocX.in launches India's first private market index**



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**StocX.in**, an **internet unlisted securities portal**, has **launched India's first private market index** often known as **StocX Private Market Index (SPMI)**.

StocX.in constructed the StocX Private Market Index utilizing a technique often known as "**Change Percentage**".

Until now, there was **no method** to **monitor** the **value actions** of privately traded securities (i.e the shares of corporations that aren't listed within the inventory market).

The largest problem in developing such an index is the **availability of value**.

The index is computed utilizing **1000** as the **bottom worth** as on **1 January 2022**.

The index will monitor the costs of **greater than 30 corporations** actively traded within the unlisted market and supply evaluation and developments by way of knowledge analytics.

**Centre's fiscal deficit touches 45.6 pc of the full-year target at end-**

**Oct**

According to the data released by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, the **government's fiscal deficit** in end-October touched **45.6%** of the **full year's Budget Estimate**.

**Key Highlights :**

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit difference between **expenditure and revenue** was **Rs 7,58,137 crore** during the April-October period of 2022-23.

In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was **36.3%** of the budget estimates for 2021-22.

For **2022-23**, the fiscal deficit of the government is estimated to be **Rs 16.61 lakh crore** or **6.4%** of the **GDP**.

As per the CGA data, the **net tax revenue** at **Rs 11.71 lakh crore** was **60.5%** of BE 2022-23.

During the corresponding period of 2021-22, the tax revenue (net) was 68.1% of that year's BE.

**About the fiscal deficit of India :**

The government describes the fiscal deficit of India as "the **excess of total disbursements from the Consolidated Fund of India, excluding repayment of the debt**, over total receipts into the Fund (excluding the debt receipts) during a financial year".



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It is calculated as a **percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, or simply as total money spent more than income.

Fiscal Deficit = **Total expenditure of the government (capital and revenue expenditure) - Total income of the government (Revenue receipts + recovery of loans + other receipts).**

### **PNB HFC launched the affordable home loan scheme Roshni for Tier 1 & Tier 2 cities**

PNB Housing Finance (HFC) unveiled a low-cost home loan program Roshni which enables individuals to apply for loans under this scheme ranging from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh.

#### **Key Highlights :**

This launch is in line with PNB Housing Finance's long-term goal of enabling and assisting an individual's desire to purchase a home.

Recently, the PNB HFC opened branch offices focused on Roshni in the following cities: **Chennai, Coimbatore, Ghaziabad, Hyderabad, Indore/Ujjain, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Rajkot, and Varanasi.**

The program offers a variety of loans for self-building, home expansions and renovations, plot purchases combined with construction, loans against property, and the purchase of property investment.

#### **Who is Eligible :**

Loan applicants eligible for this are **first-time credit borrowers**, self-employed without a professional role, and **salaried from a low-income group** with a **family income as low as Rs. 10,000 to the middle-income group category.**

#### **About PNB HFC :**

Founded: 11 November 1988

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

MD & CEO: Girish Kousgi

PNB Housing is a **registered housing finance company** with National Housing Bank (NHB).



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**ADB approves \$250 mn loans to strengthen India's logistics sector**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to support the Government of India's wide-ranging reforms.

**Aim :**

To **strengthen** and **modernize** the country's logistics infrastructure, improve efficiency, and **lower the cost** in the logistics sector.

**Key Highlights :**

The loan will fund the **first sub-program** of the **Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) Program**.

The sub-program supports the government's efforts to **create a comprehensive policy, planning, and institutional framework** at the **federal, state, and city levels**.

This will **rationalize India's high cost of logistics and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.

It also supports the **ministry of commerce and industry's initiatives** to issue standards for warehousing, which would **encourage operational efficiency** and private-sector investment.

**Tamilnad Mercantile Bank signs pact with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**

**Private sector lender Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)** has partnered with **life insurance firm Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** to **sell term, annuity, and other value-packed products** of the private life insurer across its **over 500 branches**.

The agreement to this effect was signed by the **TMB's MD & CEO S. Krishnan** and **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance MD & CEO Tarun Chugh**

Under this strategic partnership, **New and existing customers of the bank** would be able to avail of the services of Bajaj Allianz Life offerings including **savings, retirement, and investment products**.

**About TMB :**

Founded: 11 May 1921

Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO: S.Krishnan

**About Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance :**



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Founded: 2001

Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra

CEO: Tarun Chugh

### **ADB & IIFL HFL initiate policy dialogue around green affordable housing**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and IIFL Home Finance (IIFL HFL) organized 'Kutumb' in Delhi to discuss the scope of **green affordable housing** in India.

The 'Kutumb' was launched with an event titled '**Green Affordable Housing Ecosystem**' in Delhi.

#### **About Kutumb :**

Kutumb endeavors to **promote green, sustainable, future-ready, and affordable housing** by actively collaborating and consulting with developers, architects, and rating agencies.

In **February 2022, IIFL HFL signed a \$68 million loan** with ADB to **improve financial access** to **affordable green housing** for the **economically weaker sections** and **lower-income groups** in India.

#### **About ADB :**

Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 countries

### **Road transport ministry to launch Surety Bonds Insurance Product for Infrastructure Sector**

The **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** is set to **launch India's first-ever surety bonds insurance product** for **highway contractors** on December 19, 2022, to **boost liquidity** in the **infrastructure sector**.

This comes **2 years after** the **union ministry directed** the **Insurance Regulatory and Developmental Authority of India (IRDAI)** to explore the feasibility of surety bonds.

#### **About surety bonds :**



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A surety bond is a **three-way agreement** between the **principal, surety, and obligee**.

It is **different** from **corporate bonds** and **financial guarantees**.

A surety is a company that provides a **financial guarantee** to the **obligee (usually a government entity)** that the **principal (business owner)** will fulfill their obligations.

It refers to the **performance or delivery obligation** to complete the insured project, the corporate bonds refer to the financial obligation to repay debts or loans.

If the principal fails to perform in this manner, the bond will cover the **resulting damages or losses**.

A surety bond is provided by the insurance company on behalf of the contractor to the entity which is awarding the project.

These bonds are mainly **aimed** at **infrastructure development** to **reduce indirect costs** for **suppliers** and **contractors**.

This helps in the diversification of options hence acting as a **substitute for a bank guarantee**.

**Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) (Surety Insurance Contracts) Guidelines, 2022** came into force in **April 2022**.

The premium charged for all surety insurance policies underwritten in a financial year, including all installments due in subsequent years for those policies, should **not exceed 10%** of the total gross written premium of that year, subject to a **maximum of Rs 500 crore**.

The limit of the guarantee should **not exceed 30% of the contract value**.

**Benefits of surety bond insurance products introduced for highway contractors :**

The new mechanism will **help boost liquidity** in the infrastructure sector by freeing up the working capital of the constructors that are stuck as bank guarantees.

These funds can be used by contractors to **expand their business** and further boost the infrastructure of the country.

This will **help address** the **challenges** associated with **highway construction**.

**About the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) :**

Union Minister : Nitin Gadkari





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Minister of state: General V. K. Singh

Secretary : Mrs Alka Upadhyaya

### **Banks should not ask for verification at the branch level if e-KYC has been done - RBI**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that **banks** should not ask for **verifications/updates** at **branch level** in case a customer has done **e-KYC** or those who have completed the **KYC (know-your customer) process on the C-KYC portal**.

Bank customers who have completed their **KYC verifications online** can do the **annual updates** as well as changes if any in their details online.

Customers who have uploaded their KYC details on the **central KYC (C-KYC) portal** should not be asked for verification by any bank.

In such a case, the customer can just mail or message from the registered email ID or mobile to the bank to access the KYC details from the C-KYC portal.

### **About KYC :**

The KYC is the method of a company that **verifies** the **customer's identity** and **assesses** possible risks in a business relationship from **criminal intentions**.

Here is a required document serving as identification evidence and **address proof - Passport, Voter ID, Driving Licence, PAN card, and Aadhaar Card**.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced **Know your customer (KYC) guidelines for all banks** in India. In **2004**, RBI directed that all banks ensure that they are fully acquiescent with the KYC provisions by **December 31, 2005**.

The main aim of KYC was to **prevent money laundering, terrorist financing, and theft**.

### **Finance Ministry allows PSUs to invest in debt schemes of all mutual funds**

The finance ministry **in an office** memorandum allowed public sector undertakings (PSUs) to invest in debt schemes **of** all mutual funds.



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**Earlier, provisions limited central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to investment in public sector mutual funds only, in which the government held more than 50% share.**

Key Highlights :

**The period of maturity of any instrument of investment shall not exceed 1 year from the date of investment, except in the case of term deposits with banks and government securities where it can extend up to three years.**

**The department of investment and public enterprises (DIPAM) in the official memorandum announced that the guidelines are based on proposals received from CPSEs, mutual funds, and private sector banks citing liberalization of policies and the introduction of new monetary instruments for trade-in short-term funds.**

**Only Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna CPSEs are permitted to invest in debt-based schemes of mutual funds.**

**However, these guidelines will not apply to state-owned banks and insurance companies.**

**It also bars the involvement of any broker or agent in any form on either side.**

**The guidelines issued by DIPAM on the investment of surplus funds by CPSEs supersede the earlier guidelines issued by the department of public enterprises in 2017.**

**The eligible instruments available for the investment of surplus funds by CPSEs include treasury bills, government securities, term deposits with scheduled commercial banks, commercial banks' instruments, loans or deposits with CPSEs, and mutual funds.**

**Canara HSBC Life Insurance Launches Non-Participating 'Guaranteed Fortune Plan'**



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**Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched a new “Guaranteed Fortune Plan” a non-linked, non-participating individual savings scheme offering life cover and a lump sum amount on outliving the policy term.**

The product offers **two plan** options:

Guaranteed Savings Option

Guaranteed Cash Back Option.

**About Guaranteed Fortune Plan :**

According to the Canara HSBC Life Insurance, the **1st option** provides a **lump sum on outliving the policy term.**

The **2nd option** offers **customers guaranteed cash back** at the end of every 5th policy year, with an opportunity to defer the amount till maturity or withdraw it earlier.

In addition to cashback, the 2nd option also gives policyholders a **lump sum payment** at the end of the policy term.

The plan also includes a unique feature called **CARE (Claims Accelerated for Relief & Ease) Pay Benefit.**

This in-built benefit pays **100% of total premiums paid (excluding underwriting extra premiums and taxes)** on intimation of death.

**About Canara HSBC Life Insurance :**

Founded: 2008

Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana

MD & CEO: Anuj Mathur

It was a joint venture between **Canara Bank (51%), HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) Holdings Limited (26%), and Punjab National Bank (23%).**

**HDFC Bank partners with Startup India to launch 6th Parivartan SmartUp Grants**



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**Private Sector lender HDFC Bank in partnership with the Government of India's flagship initiative 'Start-up India' launched its sixth Parivartan SmartUp Grants, the annual grants program for social start-ups**

**Aim :**

**To identify start-ups** working in the social impact space and support them through monetary grants to their incubators.

The grants have been offered under the **aegis of Parivartan**, the umbrella name for the bank's social initiatives.

**Key Highlights :**

The bank has been enabling start-ups through its **state-of-the-art Smart-Up program**, which provides **specialized banking** and **value-added services** to **entrepreneurs**.

So far, the bank has disbursed over **Rs 30 crore** to **more than 45 incubators** which supported over 165 start-ups working in areas like environment, agri-business, ed-tech, waste management, healthcare, and skill development sectors.

The bank will also focus on building capacities of incubators and startups working in **tier-II & III cities**.

**About HDFC Bank :**

Founded: August 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

**Trucknetic partners with DBS Bank India to provide trucking solutions**

**India's Uber for Trucks, Trucknetic**, has **partnered with DBS Bank** as a logistics partner on their **BusinessClass platform**.

**Aim :**

**To offer comprehensive digital banking, logistics, value-added services, and deals to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** across the country.



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Trucknetic's partnership with DBS Bank for its SME platform will **help accelerate** its mission to **provide world-class, reliable, and cost-effective logistical solutions to small businesses** and the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India.**

**About Trucknetic :**

Founder : Arham Pratap Jain

Trucknetic is **India's first digital platform** to book all kinds of trucks, including EVs.

It makes use of superior expertise like AI, ML, and knowledge analytics to provide **environment-friendly** and **cost-effective logistical solutions.**

**Universal Sompo General Insurance partners with Zopper to launch a special integrated insurance offering**

**Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited** has **partnered** with an **insurance infrastructure Application Programming Interface (API) platform, Zopper,** to roll out a **special integrated offering for customers.**

**Aim :**

To cover **1 million assets** by offering users **personalized insurance solutions,** as well as a **hassle-free customer experience** from policy generation to claims management

Through this partnership, customers will have access to **buy insurance** seamlessly along with an option to **purchase a protection plan.**

**About Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited :**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Sharad Mathur

Universal Sompo General Insurance is a **Joint Venture** of **Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Karnataka Bank, Dabur Investment Corp,** and a **leading general insurer from Japan, Sompo Japan Insurance Inc.**

**IndusInd Bank enters into Rs 500 crore co-lending pact with SV Credit Line**



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The **non-banking finance company SV CreditLine Limited (SVCL)** and the **private sector lender IndusInd Bank** have **signed a co-lending collaboration** for a **₹500 crore loan** targeted solely towards **women borrowers**.

The agreement will **help rural women access affordable loans** that they could use for a wide range of economic activities such as **agriculture, animal husbandry, trading, and local manufacturing**, among others.

**About SVCL :**

Established: 2010

Vans Pte. Ltd. and SV Corporation Pvt. Ltd. are the businesses that promote SVCL, which the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has registered as an **NBFC-MFI under Section 451A**.

SVCL provides a variety of small credit facilities to **women** in the **low-income segment** with an annual household income of **Rs. 125,000 in rural areas** and **Rs. 200,000 in urban areas**.

The **company's Business correspondents (BC) partners** are **IndusInd Bank, Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, MAS Financial Services Limited, DCB Bank, and IDBI Bank**.

**About IndusInd Bank :**

Founded: April 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia

Tagline: We Make You Feel Richer

**HDFC ERGO partners with NIIT to create a large pool of developers**

**HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company**, a leading general insurance company in India, has partnered with **NIIT**, a global talent development corporation, to launch **HDFC ERGO Technocrat – Advance Dot Net Developer Program** to **create a large pool of developers**.

It will create ready-to-deploy talent, who can play a pivotal role in offering **technology-powered insurance solutions**.



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**About HDFC ERGO Technocrat – Advance Dot Net Developer Program :**

The program will be delivered through **live, instructor-led sessions** and will also offer a stipend to the participants.

The applicants will have to **clear a 2-level assessment test**, post which they will receive a provisional offer letter from HDFC ERGO.

NIIT is a **leading Skills and Talent Development Corporation** that is building a manpower pool for global industry requirements.

**About HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited :**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD: Ritesh Kumar

HDFC ERGO is a **51:49 joint venture firm** between **HDFC** and **ERGO International AG**, one of the insurance entities of the Munich Re Group in **Germany**

**ASK Capital gets Central Bank of Ireland nod to launch India-based fund**

**ASK Capital** has **received approval** from the **Central Bank of Ireland** to launch an **India-based fund ASK Indian Entrepreneur Fund** through the **UCITS** route.

**Aim :**

To **raise USD 500 million** from **global investors** to take **high-return bets on enterprises** promoted by **Indian entrepreneurs** over the **next 3 years**.

ASK is the **fourth asset or wealth management firm in India** to receive approval for a **UCITS (Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities) fund**.

**Kotak AMC, Whiteoak Capital, and UTI AMC** already have such funds.

**About UCITS :**



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UCITS is a **regulatory framework of the European Commission for the management and sale of mutual funds.**

The UCITS label serves as a **stamp of quality and reliability** for **overseas investors**

**Key Highlights :**

The UCITS vehicle ASK Indian Entrepreneur Fund will be modelled on **ASK's flagship portfolio management services (PMS), ASK Indian Entrepreneur Portfolio (IEP).**

UCITS Fund provides global investors with **familiar, tax-efficient, and convenient access** to the **high-growth Indian equity markets.**

With UCITS approval in place, o reach out to institutional investors, endowments, pension funds, family offices, and investors via private banks across **Europe, the Middle East, Latin America,** and parts of Asia

MD & CEO of ASK Capital: Sameer Dev

**The government repays IL&FS loans to ADB & KfW to fulfil the commitment**

The **central government** has **repaid the sum of Rs. 1109 crore and Rs. 29 crores** to the **Asian Development Bank** and **German state-owned lender KfW**, respectively, to **fulfil guarantees** offered to **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS).**

The government **provided loan guarantees;** as a result, it has taken the place of the lenders and entered the list of IL&FS creditors.

**About the Loan :**

**Government dues** and **creditor dues** are handled separately under the **bankruptcy waterfall mechanism**, which establishes the order of priority for various claims.

The government-guaranteed loans were used to fund initiatives carried out by IL&FS companies. To meet its commitments as guarantors, on **30 June 2022**, the government made **payments totalling Rs 1,109 crore to ADB and Rs 29 crore to KfW.**





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According to IL&FS' recent status report for the quarter that concluded in **September 2022**, the company secured a loan from ADB in August 2002 for **\$50.4 million**.

In **November 2005**, a further loan from **KfW Frankfurt** for **54 million euros** was obtained.

### About IL&FS :

Founded: 1987

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

IL&FS is an **Indian state-funded infrastructure development and finance company**.

### **CBDT Exempts NRIs Without PAN From E-filing Form 10F Upto March 2023**

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has **exempted non-resident Indians (NRIs) without permanent account numbers (PANs) from e-filing Form 10F up to March 2023**.

This will apply to those NR taxpayers who are not having a PAN and are not required to have a PAN as per relevant provisions of the **Income-tax Act, 1961** are exempted from mandatory electronic filing of Form 10 F till 31 March 2023,

The CBDT in **July 2022** mandated **electronic filing** of the form but this created a hurdle for non-resident taxpayers as in certain cases, a non-resident payee is not required to obtain a PAN under the Act.

### About Form No. 10F :

Form No. 10F is an **important document to claim the benefit of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA or Tax Treaty)**.

To claim the benefit of any DTAA in respect of any income earned in India, a **non-resident payee** is required to furnish certain details in **Tax Residency Certificate (TRC)** along with Form No. 10F, as per **Section 90(5)** of the Act read with **Rule 21AB** to the Indian payer at the time of withholding of taxes.

### About CBDT :



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It is a **statutory body established** as per the **Central Board of Revenue Act, of 1963**.  
It is **administered** by the **Department of Revenue** under the **Ministry of Finance**.

**RBI Shortlists 7 Global Consultancy Firms to Use AI, ML to Improve Regulatory Supervision**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **shortlisted 7 global consultancy firms**, to **use artificial intelligence (AI)** and **machine learning (ML)** for **supervisory functions**.

7 applicants have been shortlisted for taking part in the **request for proposal (RFP) process** for the **selection of consultant(s)**.

**List of 7 firms shortlisted by RBI :**

Accenture Solutions Private Limited  
Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd  
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP  
Ernst and Young LLP  
KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP  
McKinsey and Company,  
PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.

In **September 2022**, the RBI **invited expressions of interest (Eoi)** for engaging consultants for **use of advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning** for generating supervisory inputs.

**RBI's supervisory jurisdiction extends** over banks, urban cooperative banks, NBFCs, payment banks, small finance banks, local area banks, and credit information companies, and selects all Indian financial institutions.

It undertakes supervision of these entities to assess their **financial soundness, solvency, asset quality, governance framework, liquidity, and operational viability** to **protect depositors' interests** and **financial stability**.



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**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**SBI donates ₹4.26 cr to rejuvenate lakes in the Kolar district of Karnataka**

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has **sanctioned** a **donation of ₹4.26 crore** to **rejuvenate 7 major lakes** in the **Kolar district** of **Karnataka**.

**Key Highlights :**

SBI will undertake the rejuvenation of 7 major lakes as part of its **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** - **Manjalanagara Amnikere** and **S Vadigepallikere** in **Srinivaspura Taluk**, **Peddapallikere** in **KGF**, **Tambihallikere** and **Channegowdanakere** in **Kolar Taluk**, **C Hosurkere** in **Mulabagal Taluk** and **Rajalukere (WS)** in **Bangarpet Taluk** of **Kolar District**.

The rejuvenation would include **bund development** and **channel development** for the 7 lakes.

Earlier in **2022**, the **Finance Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman** chose **Kolar district** as the **district for implementing the rejuvenation of lakes** under the **Amruth Sarovar Yojana**.

As a part of this, **75 tanks or lakes** would **undergo rejuvenation work (desilting, bund strengthening, channel work, etc.)**, using resources from **MGNREGA**, the **FM's MPLADS** funds, and also a component of **CSR**.

**About SBI :**

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara is its chairperson.

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.



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Tagline: The Banker to Every Indian.  
It is a nationalized public sector bank.

**HDFC Bank partners with LEAF to provide financial aid to marginalized farmers**

Ooty, Tamil Nadu (TN) headquartered Lawrenceedale Agro Processing (LEAF) has entered into a **strategic partnership** with private sector lender **HDFC Bank** to **offer customized financial products and services to marginalized farmers.**

**Objective :**

To **expand the financial accessibility and inclusivity of farmers** and the **scope of the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) ecosystem**

**Key Highlights :**

The bank would extend its specialized services and facilities to **farmers, agri-producers,** and other rural communities.

With this deal, **4 lakh farmers** across the 3 states stand to benefit.

Following the MoU, HDFC Bank would work with LEAF Farmers Network in the operational areas under LEAF in **Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.**

**About HDFC Bank :**

Founded: August 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan



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**SEBI gives nod to AIFs to raise money from FPIs**

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued a framework for the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) in India will now be able to raise money from Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).

At the time of onboarding investors, the manager of an AIF will have to ensure that FPIs are residents of a country, the securities market regulator of which is a signatory to the International Organisation of Securities Commission's (IOSCO) Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding, or a signatory to a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with SEBI.

**Key Highlights :**

Investors contributing **25%** or more in the corpus should not be a person mentioned in the Sanctions List notified by the **United Nations Security Council**, and should not be a resident in a country **identified** in the public statement of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.

The investor should also not be from a country that has not made **sufficient progress** in **addressing** the **deficiencies** or has not committed to an action plan developed with FATF to address such deficiencies.

**About Alternative Investment Funds:**

It refers to **any privately pooled investment fund**, (whether from Indian or foreign sources), in the form of a trust or a company or a body corporate, or a **Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)**.

**About SEBI :**

Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

It is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Government of India (Gol).



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**Paytm board approves Rs 850-crore share buyback via open market**

The **board of One97 Communications Ltd**, the listed entity that runs **Paytm**, approved a share **buyback program worth ₹850 crores** via an **open market route** through the stock exchanges **method**.

The company will undertake a buyback of up to **₹850 crores (excluding buyback taxes and other transaction costs)** at a **maximum price of ₹810 per share**.

**Key Highlights :**

Assuming a full buyback of ₹850 crore and applicable buyback taxes, the **total outlay** will be more than **approximately ₹1,048 crores**.

When a publicly listed company buys its shares from existing shareholders, it's known as a **share buyback**.

The **maximum limit** of buy-back is **25 % or less of the aggregate paid-up capital and free reserves** of a company.

**About Paytm :**

Founded: August 2010

Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Paytm is an **Indian digital payment and financial services company**.

**RGICL launches 'Reliance Health Infinity Policy'**

**Reliance General Insurance Company Limited (RGICL)** has launched the first-of-its-kind **premium health insurance product – 'Reliance Health Infinity Policy'** that offers limitless **benefits**.

**About 'Reliance Health Infinity Policy' :**

The policy is available in individual and family floater, covering up to 8 members, and categories and offers sum-insured options starting from **₹5 lakh to ₹5 crores**.

It has features like **MoreGlobal Cover, Maternity Cover, OPD Cover, unlimited restoration of the sum insured, and 15-plus useful add-on benefits**.



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It also rewards customers for being fit both financially and physically by offering India's first credit score-based discount and **Body Mass Index (BMI)**-based discount on the premium. Children above 90 days of age and adults between the age of 18 to 65 years are covered in this policy.

The basic plan of the Policy is well-rounded and provides coverage against critical expenses like Organ donors, Pre-&-Post hospitalization, Daycare procedures, emergency ambulance, and special treatments.

The policy has also introduced smart discounts like **Credit Score-based (first in the country), BMI- (Body Mass Index)-based, and Stay Healthy discounts to reward customers for staying fit both financially and physically.**

The Reliance Health Infinity policy can be bought for a 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year policy tenure

**About RGICL :**

Founded: 17 August 2000

CEO: Rakesh Jain

Reliance General Insurance Company Limited is an India-based private insurance company and is part of Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, wholly owned through Reliance Capital.

**Cashfree Payments enables eUPP to provide educational institutions with instant and secure payments for parents and students**

India's leading payments and API banking solutions company, **Cashfree Payments**, is enabling **eUPP (eLite Unified Payment Platform)**, a fee payment management system for schools and colleges, to offer an instant and secure fee payments experience for end users

Currently, through this partnership, more than 500 educational institutions across the country are leveraging Cashfree Payments' payment collections suite for their payment needs.

**About eUPP :**

**eUPP is an online fee payment management system for schools, colleges, universities, and other educational institutions.**



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It brings all educational expenses on a single platform and provides maximum benefits to families, students, and parents from their expenditures towards education-related activities.

eUPP is owned by **Connexrm Pte Ltd, a Singapore** Headquartered company, and has a portfolio of products under its umbrella to help an institution cover the entire paradigm of their requirements.

**Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Inks Pact With Kotak Mahindra General Insurance**

Private sector lender **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (TMB)** has entered into a strategic alliance with **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Co. Ltd.**, for marketing the products of the insurance arm of **Kotak Mahindra Bank**.

To offer customer-centric choices in every product, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank executed the agreement for marketing the general insurance products under the tie-up with **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd.**

In Nov 2022, **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank tied up with Cholamandalam General Insurance and Max Life Insurance Company** to offer their insurance products.

**About TMB :**

TMB was founded in 1921 as the Nadar Bank but changed its name to Tamilnad Mercantile Bank in November 1962

Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO: S.Krishnan

Tagline: Be a Step ahead of life

**About Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd :**

Founded: 2015

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Suresh Agarwal





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**SIDBI partners with M1xchange to provide liquidity to MSMEs**

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), **the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing, and development of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has partnered with M1xchange as the financier.**

**This move is expected to bring liquidity to MSMEs at competitive interest rates.**

**This is a highly effective and efficient solution for addressing the issue of the delayed payment of MSMEs.**

**About M1xchange :**

MD & CEO: Mr. Sundeep Mohindru

**M1xchange offers early liquidity to MSMEs within 24 hours through its online bidding platform through the end-to-end digital process.**

It is one of 3 Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platforms, the 2 others are RXIL & InvoiceMart.

**TReDS is regulated by the RBI which enables discounting of bills of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) resulting in an improvement of cash flow and liquidity and overall improvement in the functioning of MSMEs.**

M1xchange provides online invoice discounting and factoring solutions, purchase bill and trade receivables discounting system,

To date, M1xchange facilitated bill discounting of more than Rs 37,000 crores to over 14,000

MSME suppliers spread across 1,400 towns across the country at a competitive rate of interest.

The TReDS looks forward to increasing its footprints in digital factoring by 25% to 30% in the current fiscal year 2022-23.

**About SIDBI :**

Founded: 2 April 1990

Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann



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SIDBI is the apex regulatory body for the overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.

It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Gov.

**IREDA signs Rs. 4,445 crore loan agreement with SJVN Green Energy Ltd. for a 1,000 MW Solar power project**

**Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** signed a loan agreement for **Rs. 4,444.71 crores with SJVN Green Energy Ltd. (SGEL, a subsidiary of SJVN Ltd.)**, for a 1,000 MW Solar power project at Bikaner, Rajasthan.

In the presence of Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA and Shri Nand Lal Sharma, CMD, SJVN, Shri Pradipta Kumar Roy, DGM (IREDA) and Shri S. L. Sharma, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (SGEL) signed the loan agreement at the corporate office of IREDA.

**Key Highlights :**

The IREDA-funded project will connect to the 400/220 KV substation Bikaner-II (near Bikaner).

SJVN has bagged the project through the tender floated by IREDA under the CPSU Phase-II

(Tranche III) Scheme for the development of Grid connected Solar PV Power Project through a competitive Bidding Process based on Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support.

**About SJVN Green Energy Ltd :**

Founded: April 2022

Headquarters: Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

CEO: S.L.Sharma

**About the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) :**

Cabinet Minister: Raj Kumar Singh

Minister of State: Bhagwanth Khuba

**Only about 13% recovery in written-off loans during the last 5 years**

**According to the Finance Ministry data presented in the Rajya Sabha, only about 13% of the loans written off by the scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) during the last 5 financial years have been recovered**



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**Key Highlights :**

Total recovery of over ₹1.32 lakh crore from written-off loan accounts made during the last 5 financial years.

In response to two separate questions on the issue, the Ministry presented data on write-off and recovery.

As per inputs received from RBI, SCBs (scheduled commercial bank) wrote off an amount of over ₹10.09 lakh crore during the last 5 financial years (Fiscal Year 2017-18 to the Fiscal Year 2021-22).

**NPAs (non-performing assets), including those with full provisioning made on completion of 4 years, are removed from the balance sheet of the bank as a write-off.**

Banks write off NPAs to clean up their balance sheet, get a tax benefit and optimize capital, by RBI guidelines and policies approved by their boards.

Further, as per RBI data on domestic operations, “stressed assets, including restructured standard assets, as a percentage of gross advances in SCBs, has declined from 9.8% as on March 31, 2014, to 7.8% as on March 31, 2022.

**About scheduled commercial banks :**

The scheduled commercial banks are those banks that are included in the second schedule of the RBI Act 1934 and which carry out the normal business of banking such as accepting deposits, giving out loans, and other banking services.

The scheduled banks are further classified into:

SBI & Associates

Nationalized Banks

Other Public Sector Banks

Private Banks

Foreign Banks

Regional Rural Banks



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**HDFC Securities launches investor education and market analysis platform**  
**‘Roots’**

Leading Indian stock brokerage firm, **HDFC Securities has launched Roots, a dedicated platform providing comprehensive investor education and market analysis.**

The site offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets.

The biggest USP of the platform is that it produces content that is being searched on Google by current or prospective investors and traders.

**The Blog section of Roots is updated with articles addressing all aspects of investing in the Indian financial markets, from intraday trading to ETFs, and more.**

The portal also includes a UGC section (User Generated Content) where investors and traders can suggest topics they want to learn more about.

**About HDFC Securities Limited :**

Founded: 2000

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dhiraj Relli

HDFC Securities Limited is a financial services intermediary and a subsidiary of HDFC Bank.

**AU Small Finance Bank and HDFC Life announce Bancassurance Tie-up**

**AU Small Finance Bank, India's leading small finance bank, and HDFC Life, one of India's leading insurers, entered into a corporate agency arrangement for soliciting insurance plans of HDFC through the bancassurance business model.**

**Aim :**

To enrich the Bank's life insurance offering by enabling its customers to access the digital platform at touch points of HDFC Life for servicing.

**About the Partnership :**



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The partnership would enable diverse customers of AU Small Finance Bank to access the entire range of insurance products offered by HDFC Life, thus fulfilling their need for financial protection.

**About bancassurance :**

**Bancassurance is an arrangement between a bank and an insurance company, through which the insurer can sell its products to the bank's customers.**

Both the bank and the Insurance companies benefit.

**Aim :**

To offer insurance products or insurance benefits to the bank's customers.

The bancassurance sector is regulated by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

**About AU Small Finance Bank :**

Headquarters: Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal

It was founded as vehicle finance company AU Financiers (India) Ltd in 1996 and converted to a small finance bank on 19 April 2017.

**About HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd :**

Founded: 2000

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Vibha Padalkar

It is a joint venture between Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC), one of India's leading housing finance institutions, and Abrdn, a global investment company.

**Tata AIA Life Insurance opens Emerging Opportunities Fund**



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**Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA) has launched a new Emerging Opportunities Fund that will invest in mid-cap companies and emerging market leaders**

**Objective :**

To **generate capital appreciation** in the **long term** by investing in a portfolio of stocks that offer opportunities in the mid-cap space and emerging leaders in the new-age sectors.

The **New Fund Offering (NFO) window** will remain open from **15th December to 30th December 2022 at Rs 10 per unit**, which is **applicable only during the NFO period**.

**About the Emerging Opportunities Fund :**

The new offer will provide **consumers with a unique opportunity** to benefit from the **long-term growth potential of equity** while securing their loved ones with the protection of a life insurance cover.

Investments in the funds can be made through **Tata AIA's ULIP offerings like Fortune Pro, Wealth Pro, Fortune Maxima, and Wealth Maxima**.

Besides, investors' funds will also be diverted to **Tata AIA's Param Rakshak Solutions**.

The fund can invest up to **30%** of the portfolio in equity and equity-related instruments falling outside the mid-cap range.

**About Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited :**

Founded: 1 April 2001

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Naveen Tahilyani

**BoB proposes to sell its majority stake in Nainital Bank**

**State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) plans to sell its majority stake in Nainital Bank.**

The bank has authorized the issuance of an advertisement inviting **expressions of interest (EOI)** through a **preliminary information memorandum (PIM)** from **interested parties (IPs)**.

BoB currently holds **98.57%** of the **total equity share capital of NBL**



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It has decided to bring in a **strategic partner** in its **subsidiary Nainital Bank Ltd (NBL)**.

The strategic partner will help the Bank of Baroda to **reduce its stake in percentage terms**.

**About Nainital Bank :**

Founded: 1922

Headquarters: Nainital, Kumaon, India

MD & CEO: Dinesh Pant

The Nainital Bank Limited is a **scheduled commercial bank**.

It is a **wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank of Baroda**.

Nainital Bank was originally **promoted** by the **Late Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant**.

In **1974**, RBI directed the Bank of Baroda to manage the affairs of NBL.

**Equitas Small Finance Bank signs MoU with Controller General of Defence accounts**

**Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited**, one of the leading Small Finance Banks (SFBs), **signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Controller General of Defence Accounts, Ministry of Defence, Government of India**.

The MoU will allow Equitas to be a **SPARSH (System for Pension Administration (Raksha) service center** to **provide data verification** for pensioners.

**Note :**

**Equitas** is the **first small finance bank inducted** for the **SPARSH program**

The **Ministry of Defence** also signed the **MoU** with **five other banks** viz. **Indian Postal Payment Bank, Union Bank of India, Axis Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd., and Bandhan Bank**.

**About the MoU :**

Under this MoU, **Defence pensioners** and **their families** can avail of a few services for the pension account from branches PAN India.

**Key Services :**



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Annual issuing of life certificate (digital or manual)

Change of bank details for pension accounts

Information about pensioners and their accounts.

Also, offer the best interest rates for senior citizens along with a host of other value-added services like **insurance benefits (IHO)** and attractive reward points program.

**About Equitas Small Finance Bank :**

Founded: 2016

Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO : Vasudevan P N

**State Bank of India to begin overseas rupee trade with smaller nations**

**State Bank India (SBI)** will **start overseas trade** in **rupee** with **smaller countries like Mauritius** and **Sri Lanka** to **steer clear** of **any transactions** with **Russia** which carries the risk of sanctions by the West.

In all **18 such special rupee accounts** have been opened by **11 banks**, including 2 in Russia and one in Sri Lanka, following approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

**Key Highlights :**

**Union Bank of India** has **opened** a **special rupee account** of **Ros Bank Russia** while **Chennai-based Indian Bank** has **opened** such accounts with **three Sri Lankan banks**, including **Colombo-based NDB Bank** and **Seylan Bank**.

To be sure, **no specific Indian bank** has been authorized by the government for **facilitating rupee trade** with any particular country, and all interested banks are allowed to open such accounts with any country of their choice.

Given that about **30-35 countries**, including those from **Asia, Scandinavia, and Africa**, have expressed interest in **better understanding** the **proposed rupee trade mechanism** for possible adoption, the number of Vostro accounts is expected to rise shortly.





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The Finance Ministry has asked the **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** and the **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)** to spearhead an **awareness campaign** to sensitize stakeholders about the **rupee trade**.

The RBI had in **July 2022** notified the **new mechanism** for **settling international trade** in the **rupee**.

This was aimed at not just reducing the rupee against the dollar but also **internationalizing the domestic currency**.

**About SBI :**

Founded: 1 July 1955

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

**About Mauritius :**

President: Prithvirajsing Roopun

Prime Minister: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

Capital: Port Louis

Currency: Mauritian rupee (MUR)

**About Sri Lanka :**

President: Ranil Wickremesinghe

Prime Minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative), Colombo (executive and judicial)

Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

**RBI extends Market trading hours to pre-pandemic level**

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** extended the **hours of trading** for a **number of the markets** that it regulates; the **new timings from 9 am to 5 pm** will come into effect from 12 Dec 2022.

**Key Highlights :**



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Under the new timings, the **call/notice/term money market** will close at **5 pm**, the **market for Commercial paper and Certificates of Deposit** will close at **5 pm**, **Repo in Corporate Bonds ends at 5 pm** and **Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives** will end at **5 pm**.

The **timing of Government Securities (Central Government Securities, State Development Loans, and Treasury Bills), Foreign Currency (FCY)/Indian Rupee (INR) Trades** including **Forex Derivatives** will be **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**.

The **tri-party repos** in government securities shall continue with the post-pandemic trading hours of **9 am to 3 pm**

In **April 2020**, the RBI announced **shortened market hours** for all trading segments in light of the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Trade timings for all market segments were revised to **10 am to 2 pm** at that time.

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**Bank of Baroda Launches the 2nd edition of Green Ride with Milind Soman**

**Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, has launched the 2nd edition of Green Ride – Ek Pehal Swachh Hawa Ki Aur, an initiative with environmental advocate and fitness enthusiast, Milind Soman.**

Under this initiative, Milind will embark on an **8-day sustainable journey** on a bicycle and an **electric scooter, promoting eco-friendly transportation, a green lifestyle** as well as the **importance of health & fitness.**

The **1400 km Green Ride** will be **flagged off from Mumbai** on December 19 and conclude in **Mangalore, Karnataka** on December 26, 2022.



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Under a unique initiative called “Plant A Tree”, the Bank will plant a fruit-bearing tree on behalf of its customers for **every Auto Loan or Home Loan** disbursed over the **next three years**.

**About BoB :**

Founded: 20 July 1908

Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat

Chairman: Hasmukh Adhia

MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha

**Axis Bank takes over RCom’s enterprise arm, Globalcom**

**Reliance Communication’s (RCom) enterprise business, Globalcom IDC Ltd, has been taken over by Axis Bank, due to the non-payment of dues.**

RCom had received notice from **Axis Trustee Services Limited** seeking to **sell 100% equity shares of Globalcom.**

Axis Bank has taken over Globalcom to recover RCom’s direct dues to the bank.

RCom received another email from Axis Bank stating that it has invoked the **pledge over 20,99,994 (100 percent) equity shares of Globalcom.**

According to **RCom’s disclosure, RCom and Reliance Infratel owe ₹1,401.03 crores and ₹1,404.03 crores, respectively, to Axis Bank against this loan.**

Recently **Reliance Jio acquired Reliance Infratel, for ₹3,500 crores.**

In **2016, RCom and Reliance Infratel Limited** availed a **loan facility of ₹565 crores and ₹635 crores, respectively** from the State Bank of India.

**About Axis Bank :**

Founded : 3 December 1993

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

Axis Bank is the **third largest private sector bank in India**

**About RCOM :**



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Founded: 15 July 2004

Headquarters: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

RCom was an **Indian mobile network provider** that offered voice and **2G** and **3G** and **4G data services**.

In **February 2019**, the company **filed for bankruptcy** as it was **unable to sell assets to repay its debt**.

**RBI Imposes Rs2.66 Crore Penalty On Bank Of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2.66 crores** on **Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC(India Operations)** for **non-compliance with regulatory directions** on **“Cyber Security Framework in Banks”**.

The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the **provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act)**.

**Reason :**

The bank **failed to implement systems to detect unusual and unauthorized, internal or external activities** in its database.

The penalty is based on **deficiencies in regulatory compliance** and is **not intended** to pronounce upon the **validity of any transaction or agreement** entered into by the bank with its customers.

**RBI has also imposed penalties on 20 cooperative banks**, including 17 from Gujarat for contravention of various norms

The penalty on 17 co-operative banks ranges between **Rs 50,000 - Rs 7 lakh**

**About Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC :**

Founded: 16 March 1971

Headquarters: Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC

CEO: A.Rahman Saif

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935



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Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**IDFC FIRST Bank announces zero-fee banking on savings accounts**

On the **occasion** of its **foundation day**, **IDFC FIRST Bank** has **announced zero-fee banking on savings accounts**.

**Key Highlights :**

The bank mentioned that it had waived fees on **25 commonly used banking services** related to savings accounts such as cash deposit and withdrawal at branches, **third-party cash transactions, demand drafts, immediate payment service (IMPS), National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), cheque book, SMS alerts, interest certificates, insufficient balance for ATM transactions, international ATM usage.**

**Who can avail of the service?**

Customers, who are maintaining **at least Rs 10,000 average monthly balance** in their savings account, will be offered these services **free of cost**.

**About IDFC FIRST Bank :**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan

IDFC FIRST Bank was founded by the **merger** of **Erstwhile IDFC Bank** and **Erstwhile Capital First** on **December 18, 2018**.

It is the **first universal bank** to offer **monthly interest credit** on savings accounts, lifetime free credit cards with dynamic and low annual percentage rates

**Paytm & HDFC ERGO launch 'Payment Protect' insurance policy to protect mobile transactions**

**One97 Communications Limited (OCL)**, which owns the brand **Paytm**, in **association with HDFC ERGO General Insurance**, a leading general insurance company in India launched a **group insurance plan** called '**Paytm Payment Protect**'.

**Aim :**



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To insure transactions are made through the **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** across all apps and wallets.

**About 'Paytm Payment Protect' :**

With the new insurance offering, which will come at **Rs 30 per annum**, users would be able to secure themselves against **mobile fraudulent transactions up to Rs 10,000**

This product is **aimed** to **enhance the digital payments experience** and **increase the adoption** of the same in the country.

**Higher cover options for cover up to Rs 1 lakh per annum** will soon be added to the product.

**About HDFC ERGO General Insurance :**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD: Ritesh Kumar

HDFC ERGO is a 51:49 joint venture firm between **HDFC** and **ERGO International AG**, one of the insurance entities of the **Munich Re Group in Germany**

**Bandhan Bank signs MoU with Defence Ministry to extend services to defence pensioners**

**Bandhan Bank** has signed the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)**, Ministry of Defence (MoD), Govt. of India (GoI) for **extending the banking services** to the **Defence Pensioners** and their families.

The bank is aligned with the vision of the government in being a **one-stop solution** to all pension related activities of defence pensioners under the Outreach Programme for Defence Pensioners on **System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH)**.

The MoU was signed in **New Delhi**, in the presence of **Shri. Sham Dev**, IDAS, Controller, O/o PCDA (Pensions), **Prayagraj**, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, **Shri. Giridhar Aramane**, IAS, Defence Secretary, Government of India, **Smt. Rasika Chaube**, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) and **Shri Debraj Saha**, Head – Govt. Business, Bandhan Bank.

**Key Highlights :**

The Bandhan Bank will **provide services to Defence Pensioners** and their families through **557 branches**.

The Defence Secretary virtually inaugurated a SPARSH Service Centre in **Delhi Cantonment**.



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It offers various services such as service requests and **grievance redressal, annual life certification, Pensioner Data verification (PDV)**, and **managing profile changes** including Aadhar number, PAN number, postal address and bank details.

**About Bandhan Bank :**

Founded : 2015  
Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal, India  
MD & CEO : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

**About CGDA :**

Headquarters : Delhi Cantt, Delhi  
Additional charge of the CGDA : Rashika Chaube  
CGDA **heads the Defence Accounts Department (DAD)**, which is one of the oldest government organisations in India.  
CGDA functions under the **Ministry of Defence of India.**

**DBS Bank India partners with Gofrugal Tech to empower SMEs towards ONDC**

DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL) has **partnered with GoFrugal Technologies Pvt Ltd**, a **seller-centric platform**, which offers **omnichannel ERP solutions** and **claims to empower micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)** and **retail merchants to adopt Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).**

**About the Partnership :**

The partnership furthers DBS Bank India's commitment to **reimagining SME banking** through **innovation** and **providing digital solutions beyond traditional banking.**

Through this partnership, DBS Bank India is **integrating its digital solutions** with Gofrugal Technologies to **help small businesses catalogue** their products quickly and expand their sales channels via ONDC.

Earlier, in **April, 2022 DBS Bank India** joined hands with **start-up venture capital fund Anthill Ventures** and **evangelist network Headstart Network Foundation** to launch **DBS Business Class foundedED** to support promising start-ups in India.

**Note :**



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CEO of Gofrugal Technologies : Kumar Vembu

**About DBS Bank India Limited :**

Established : 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Surojit Shome

**About ONDC :**

The government launched ONDC in **April 2022** as an **alternative to global e-commerce giants**.

ONDC, an initiative by the Government of India, is a platform based on an **open protocol** that will **enable local commerce** across mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking and travel etc.

**Aim :**

To **create new opportunities** by offering the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** a level playing field.

**Indian Bank launches special fixed deposit of 555 days with returns up to 7.15%**

**Indian Bank** has **launched** a new special retail term deposit dubbed "Ind Shakti 555 days".

The bank also announced the **availability** of the "IND SHAKTI 555 DAYS" special retail term **deposit product**, which has a **minimum amount of Rs. 5000** and runs for **555 days** with an **interest rate of 7.00%** for the **general public** and **7.15%** for **senior citizens**.

**IND SHAKTI 555 DAYS – RATE OF INTEREST**

Public	7.00%
Senior Citizen	7.15%

**Revision of Interest Rates on Retail Domestic Term Deposits :**

Period	Less than Rs 2 Crore
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	Existing (%p.a)	Revised (%p.a)
7 days to 14 days		
	2.80	2.80
15 days to 29 days	2.80	2.80
30 days to 45 days	3.00	3.00
46 days to 90 days	3.25	3.25
91 days to 120 days	3.50	3.50
121 days to 180 days	3.85	3.85
181 days to less than 9 months	4.50	4.50
9 months to less than 1 year	4.75	4.75
1 year	6.10	6.10
Above 1 year to less than 2 years	6.30	6.30
2 years to less than 3 years	6.50	6.50
3 years to less than 5 years	6.40	6.25



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5 years	6.40	6.25
Above 5 years	6.30	6.10

**Above Indian Bank :**

Founded : 15 August 1907

Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO : Shanti Lal Jain

**RBI asks Razorpay, Cashfree to hold off onboarding new merchants**

Payment companies **Razorpay** and **Cashfree Payments** have received notices from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to withhold onboarding any **new online merchants** to their platforms, pending their audit for the **payment aggregator/payment gateway licences (PA/PG)**.

**Key Highlights :**

**Razorpay, Pine Labs, and Stripe** were among the **first ones** to get an **in-principle nod** to provide PA/PG services.

As part of the migration to a full PA licence, Razorpay will have to make some **systematic upgrades** and **migrations** to an escrow account from a nodal account, among a few other things.

**Razorpay** was granted the in-principle approval for a PA licence in **July, 2022**.

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar



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**SEBI board approves phasing out shares buyback through stock exchanges**

Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) decided to gradually phase out the buyback of shares by companies through the stock exchange route to address the drawbacks associated with the existing mechanism.

At present, for share buyback, companies have both the options of the stock exchange and tender offer.

**Key Highlights :**

A SEBI committee, headed by HDFC vice-chairman and CEO Keki Mistry, proposed the mechanism of share buybacks through open market transactions.

**The minimum utilization of the amount for buyback through the stock exchange has been increased to 75% from 50% currently.**

Buybacks will be undertaken through a separate window on stock exchanges until then.

The timeline for completion of buybacks through tender offers has been reduced by 18 days.

SEBI has also accepted the recommendations of a working group on improving governance standards at exchanges – new rules include increased accountability of directors, stricter investment policy, and data sharing.

SEBI has also given a green light proposal for Execution Only Platforms for direct plans of Mutual Fund schemes.

The SEBI will also reduce the time taken for registration of FPIs to facilitate ease of doing business.

**About SEBI :**

Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Govt.

**NSE Gets SEBI's In-Principle Nod To Set Up Social Stock Exchange As Separate Segment**



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The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** received in-principle approval from the market regulator **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, to set up a **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** as a separate segment of the NSE.

The idea of SSE was first floated by **Finance Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman** in her Budget speech for the **financial year 2019-20**.

**Key Highlights :**

The government through gazette notification has declared a new security “**Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP)**” under the **Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956**.

Currently, the regulations have prescribed the **minimum issue size as Rs 1 crore** and the **minimum application size for subscriptions as Rs 2 lakh**.

Under the new rules, SSE will be a separate segment of the existing stock exchanges.

**Social enterprises eligible to participate** in the SSE will be entities **NPOs** and **for-profit social enterprises** having social intent and impact as their primary goal.

The social enterprises will have to engage in a social activity out of **16 broad activities listed** by the regulator.

The **eligible activities** include **eradicating hunger, poverty, malnutrition, and inequality; promoting healthcare, supporting education, employability, and livelihoods; gender equality empowerment of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, (questioning), intersex, asexual, and (agender) (LGBTQIA+) communities; and supporting incubators of social enterprise**.

Corporate foundations, political or religious organizations or activities, professional or trade associations, and infrastructure and housing companies, **except affordable housing**, will not be eligible to be identified as a social enterprise.

**Note :**

NSE MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan

**Tata Power gets ₹450 crores sustainable trade finance facility from Japan's MUFG Bank**

**Tata Power** has received a **Rs 450 crore "sustainable trade finance facility"** from **MUFG (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group) Bank of Japan** to fund its solar projects in India.



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This credit facility was extended for **two solar projects** under **TP Kirnali Limited (TPKL)**.  
TPKL is a **100% subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)**.

**Key Highlights :**

MUFG has extended the financing to fund TPKL's two solar power projects -

A **100 MW renewable project** in **Parthur, Maharashtra**

A **120 MW green energy project** in **Mesanka, Gujarat**.

It is the first sustainable trade finance facility offered by MUFG in India and TPKL will utilize the funds towards **generating renewable energy capacity**.

MUFG will open up opportunities to explore raising more green finance as Tata Power expands its **clean energy portfolio** to contribute towards **India's net-zero targets**.

Meanwhile, Tata Power **aimed** to become **carbon net zero before 2045** and MUFG has announced its commitment to achieving **net zero emissions** in its finance portfolio by **2050** and its operations by 2030

**About Tata Power :**

Founded: 18 September 1919

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Praveer Sinha

Tata Power Company Limited is an **Indian electric utility company** and is part of the Tata Group.

**About MUFG Bank, Ltd :**

Headquarters: Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan

It was established on January 1, 2006, following the **merger** of the **Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Ltd.** and **UFJ Bank Ltd.**

**Canara Bank hits business milestone of Rs 20 lakh crore**

**Canara Bank** has achieved a milestone of **crossing** the **total global business** of **Rs 20,00,000 crore**.

**Stock of Canara Bank** closed at **₹291.45 apiece** on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), down by 6.54%.



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**About Canara Bank :**

Established : 1906

Headquarters: Bengaluru.

MD & CEO : Lingam Venkata Prabhakar

Canara Bank is an **Indian public sector bank** under the control and ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

**Honda Cars India partners with Indian Bank to provide vehicle loans**

**Indian Bank** has **partnered with Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL)** to **provide vehicle finance** for its **customers**.

The partnership will offer easy **loan disbursement, reasonable interest rates, special offers, flexible policies** and **simplified process**.

The customers can avail of financing benefits across over **5,700 branches** of Indian Bank and HCIL dealer network across the country.

**About Honda Cars India :**

Founded : 1995

Headquarters : Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

President & CEO : Takuya Tsumura

**About Indian Bank :**

Founded : 15 August 1907

Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain.

**CSB Bank partners with OneCard and Mastercard to launch a co-branded credit card**

**CSB Bank (erstwhile Catholic Syrian Bank Limited)**, one of the oldest private sector banks in India, in **collaboration with Mastercard** and **OneCard** has **unveiled** its **first consumer credit card – CSB Bank OneCard-** in India.



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The launch aligns with the bank's growth strategy and its **vision** to **enhance customer experience with innovative digital banking solutions.**

**About the co-branded credit card :**

The co-branded credit card is a **metal credit card** loaded with **rewards, privileges** and **safety** and **security features.**

Customers can easily tap-and-pay through OneCard on all merchant outlets across the country and enjoy a **1% Forex rate** when travelling abroad.

With **zero joining and annual fees**, the card provides **5X rewards** on the Top 2 spend categories every month.

**About CSB Bank Limited :**

Founded : 26 November 1920

Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala, India.

MD & CEO : Pralay Mondal.

**About OneCard :**

Co-founder & CEO : Anurag Sinha

**Axis Bank crosses Rs 100 crore in AUM for retirement business**

**Axis Bank** has **received a regulatory nod** to **act** as a **pension fund manager** and has already crossed **Rs 100 crore** in **assets under management (AUM)** for its **retirement business.**

The bank received a commencement of business certificate from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** on September 20, 2022 and the AUM has been managed in the **first 45 days** of the business.

The bank has launched a **step-down subsidiary Axis Pension Fund Management** through its **subsidiary Axis Asset Management Company**, which marks its foray into the retirement business.

The Axis Pension Fund will **capitalise** on the **investment management capabilities** and **distribution strength** of the group and **aims** to be the **preferred retirement solutions provider.**

**About Axis Bank :**

Founded : 3 December 1993



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Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

**J&K Bank signs MoU with Administration of Ladakh union territory**

**Jammu and Kashmir Bank signed a memorandum of understanding** with the **Administration of Ladakh union territory**, conferring preferential status to each other.

According to the MoU, the Ladakh UT Administration would **nominate J&K Bank** as '**preferred banker**' for all its banking-related services, while as, J&K Bank would give the '**most favoured client**' status to **UT Administration** and its active permanent employees who maintain the their salary accounts with the Bank.

**Lieutenant Governor Ladakh (UT) R K Mathur** also **handed over** the keys of the **e-rickshaws** provided by **J&K Bank** to the **University of Ladakh** besides the commitment letter under which J&K Bank would **provide support to 50 tuberculosis (TB) patients** from Kargil as part of their **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities**.

Mathur announced to launch of '**public participatory programmes**' across Ladakh wherein the UT administration in collaboration with councils and panchayats will work with the Bank in the **identification of beneficiaries** on a large scale who can avail loans from the bank under **different employment generation schemes**.

**About J&K Bank :**

Founded : 1 October 1938

Headquarters : Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India

MD & CEO : Baldev Prakash

J&K Bank functions as a **universal bank** in Jammu & Kashmir and as a **specialised bank** in the rest of the country.

**Karnataka Bank goes live on ICEGATE**

**Karnataka Bank** has **gone live** on the **Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE)**, the **national portal** of Indian Customs of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, enabling its **customers to pay customs duty online**.





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The integration of Karnataka Bank on ICEGATE portal will **enable** all its **individual** and **corporate customers** to **pay customs duty** at their **convenience**, enabling smooth conduct of their business.

**About Karnataka Bank Limited :**

Founded : 18 February 1924

Headquarters : Mangalore, Karnataka, India

MD & CEO : Mahabaleshwara M. S

**Worldline ePayments India gets RBI's in-principle nod to act as a payment aggregator**

**Worldline ePayments India (WEIPL)**, a leader in **digital payments**, has **received in-principle authorisation** from the **Reserve Bank Of India (RBI)** to **act** as a **payment aggregator (PA)**. WEIPL received the communication from RBI on **Dec 20, 2022**.

The authorisation by the RBI was under the **provisions** of the **Guidelines on Regulation of Payment** dated **March 17, 2020**.

The RBI has been proactive in **introducing regulations** and **frameworks** to **help** the **entire digital ecosystem** and to **increase** the **adoption** of **digital payments** further.

**About WEIPL :**

Chief Executive Officer of Worldline India : Ramesh Narasimhan

WEIPL, **part of Worldline group**, offers solutions for all sorts of payment needs offering **in-store, online, and omnichannel payments** to its customers.



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**IFSCA introduces a new framework to boost distribution of capital market products from Gift City**

Gift City regulator International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has come up with a **regulatory framework** for the **distribution** of **capital market products** and **services from international financial services centres (IFSCs)**.

With this move, distributors of capital market products can register with the IFSCA, and undertake **global distribution** from these IFSCs and offer their services to clients in various jurisdictions.

Currently, there is **only one IFSC in India GIFT City in Gujarat**.

**Key Highlights :**

In Gift City, **distributors** are **permitted** to **enter into arrangements** with other distributors (called associated distributors) from India, IFSC and foreign jurisdictions.

The capital market services that can be provided out of the IFSCs include **portfolio management services** and **investment advisory services**.

Distributors such as **banking units, finance companies, broker-dealers** and those with a **net worth more than \$1,50,000** are permitted to invest in select countries where the omnibus structure is allowed, subject to adequate measures such as prior consent of clients, maintenance of records, compliance with KYC and AML/CFT norms, etc.

A **comprehensive code** of conduct has also been prescribed to **ensure distributors maintain high standards of integrity, disclosure, diligence, promptitude** and **fairness** in their dealings with clients.

**About IFSCA :**

Headquarters : Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Chairman : Injeti Srinivas

The IFSCA is a **statutory authority** established under the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 (“IFSCA Act”)** with a **mandate** to **develop** and **regulate** the financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (‘IFSC’).

It will consist of **nine members**, appointed by the central government.



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**IRDAI to introduce 'Bima Vahaks' to expand insurance force**

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** will soon introduce "**Bima Vahaks**" in each gram panchayat

**Aim :**

To **enhance** the **insurance force** in **India**.

The announcement was made by **Rakesh Joshi**, a member of the IRDAI at the **Business Standard BFSI Insight Summit 2022** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

**About Bima Vahaks :**

Each Gram Panchayat will have a 'Bima Vahak' who would be tasked to **sell** and **service simple parametric bundled insurance products**, Bima Vistar, covering health, property, life, and **personal accident**.'

The insurance companies have adopted a state each and with the help of state governments are looking to **develop state-level insurance plans**.

This would **improve penetration** in the areas that do not seem to have much attention from the larger players.

It intends to form a **women-centric insurance distribution channel**, which is likely to foster greater trust and build awareness about insurance products in the rural parts of India.

Through Bima Vistaar, the committee will **aim** to bring to the forefront schemes like **parametric insurance** among others, to **provide wide coverage** for **rural India** in the event of **natural disasters**, such as **floods**, and **earthquakes**.

**About IRDAI :**

Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

Chairperson: Debasish Panda

The IRDAI is a **regulatory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India **tasked** with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in **India**.

**HDFC Bank Signs MoU with Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)**



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**HDFC Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) nodal agency of the Government of Kerala to engage more deeply with the start-up community promote entrepreneurship in Kerala.**

The MoU was signed by **Rajesh Krishnamoorthy**, Circle Head – Ernakulam Circle, Kerala, and **Anoop Ambika CEO, of Kerala Startup Mission.**

**Key Highlights :**

The Bank will **extend** its full suite of specialized services and facilities tailored for start-ups, known as **Smart-Up**, to all the firms associated with KSUM.

With this MoU, HDFC Bank and KSUM will work together in **mutually beneficial areas.**

HDFC Bank and KSUM have been collaborating **since 2019** when an MoU was signed for a year.

**About KSUM :**

Founded: 2006

Headquarters: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

CEO: Anoop Ambika

KSUM is the **central agency** of the Government of Kerala for **entrepreneurship development** and **incubation activities** in **Kerala, India.**

**About HDFC Bank :**

Founded: August 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline: We Understand Your World

**Infibeam Avenues receives RBI nod for Bharat Bill Payment license**

**India's first listed payments infrastructure firm, Infibeam Avenues Ltd has received a Perpetual Licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its bill payments business, BillAvenue.**



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The license will allow BillAvenue to function as a **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**.

As a BBPOU, BillAvenue operates as both a **biller** and **customer operating unit** onboarding billers and agent institutions to **service customers**.

**About BillAvenue :**

BillAvenue is a **unified, interoperable online bill payment platform**, built on the **National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI)** Bharat BillPay infrastructure to provide 'anytime, anywhere' bill payment facilities to customers across India through a network of **small & medium agents to large Agent Institutions (AI)**.

BillAvenue services telecom, broadband companies, cable TV, DTH players, electricity distribution companies, LPG & Gas distribution companies, FASTAG, health insurance, life insurance, NBFCs, and municipalities.

The license will help the company offer safe, secure, and uninterrupted services to our **18,000 plus billers**, agent institutions, and our network of one million agents spread across 2,000 cities and towns in India.

**About Infibeam Avenues Ltd :**

Headquarters: Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Managing Director: Vishal Mehta

**SEBI expands committees on cyber security and information systems**

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **expanded two** of its committees – the **High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS)** and **Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC)**

**Aim :**

To **strengthen cyber security frameworks** and **cyber resilience requirements**.

**About HPSC-CS :**

The committee on cyber security has been expanded to **8 members from 6 earlier**.



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**Chair - Navin Kumar Singh**, Director General (DG) at National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC).

**New Members :**

**G Padmanabhan**, ex-executive director, Reserve Bank of India

**Sushil Kumar Nehra**, Additional Director, Cyber Security Division, MeitY

**Roles & Responsibility :**

The 8-member committee **oversees** and **guides cyber security initiatives**.

Also it advises SEBI in **developing** and **maintaining cyber security** and **cyber resilience requirements** aligned with global best practices and industry standards by the **needs** of the **Indian capital market structure**.

**About ISSC :**

The SEBI also **expanded** its **panel** on the **Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC)** to **7 members, chaired by Prof Krishnamurthy**.

**Roles & Responsibility :**

The panel **approves Information Security Policies, suggests amendments** to the existing ones, and provides inputs and suggestions to take urgent actions on cyber security incidents of SEBI-regulated entities.

The move comes at a time when **Central Depository Services (India) (CDSL)**, the largest depository in India by a number of accounts, faced cyber security issues in **November, 2022** which impacted settlement activities.

**About SEBI :**

Established on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch



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The SEBI is the **regulatory body** for **securities** and **commodity markets** in **India** under the **ownership** of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Government of India.

**Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launches 'Respect Senior Care Rider' for senior citizens**

**Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**, one of the **leading private general insurers of India**, has **launched** its **unique health insurance rider 'Respect Senior Care Rider'**.

**About 'Respect Senior Care Rider' :**

It is one of the **first health insurance riders** from the Company, which will **offer 360-degree assistance** for **senior citizens**.

The company collaborates with Strategic Partners to provide a seamless services experience for customers by providing them with a **24 × 7 direct connection** in **under 30 seconds** with the **medical support & emergency platform** that will activate rapid response within 10 minutes.

Rider available in **3 plans**. ie..

**Plan 1** offers Planned and emergency Ambulance Services, Concierge Services such as Home Assistance/ Daily Care, and Cyber, Travel Legal Assistance.

**Plan 2** offers services like Physiotherapy Service at home, Nursing Care at home and Tele-Consultation Services for Psychological Conditions.

**Plan 3** provides a smartwatch with fall detection technology, which tracks and records key vitals like SP02, Body Temperature, Medicine Reminder, Heart Rate, SOS

This rider is available to people over **50** who have health insurance through their company.

The **price** of the product starts from **INR 700** and **ranges up to INR 7,500** excluding GST

**About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited :**

Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Tapan Singhel

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance is a **joint venture** between **Bajaj Finserv** and **Allianz SE**.



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**Indian Banks' GNPA's decline to 5% in September 2022 - RBI report**

The **Gross non-performing assets (GNPA)** ratio of **Scheduled Commercial banks (SCBs)** has **declined sequentially to 5%** as of **September 2022** from the **peak levels** of around **9%** in **2017-18** led by lower fresh slippages.

The **reduction in NPAs** was mainly contributed by **written-off loans** in the case of **PSBs (public sector banks)**, while the upgradation of loans was the primary driver for asset quality improvement for **PVBs (private banks)**, the central bank stated in its report on **Trend and Progress of Banking in India for 2021-2022**.

**Key Highlights :**

As of **March 2022**, **gross NPAs** were at **5.8%**, **lower than 7.3%** in **2021**.

Over the same period, the net NPA ratio **improved to 1.7% from 2.4%**.

The share of large borrowers accounts, those with a **total exposure of ₹5 crores** and above comprised **47.8%** of the total advances in **2021-22** compared with **48.4%** in **2020-21**.

Correspondingly, their share in total NPAs also declined to **63.4%** from **66.4%**.

On the other hand, the share of **special mention accounts-0 (SMA-0) loans** that are **overdue for 0-30 days** shot up for both PSU and private banks as of March 2022, reflecting temporary stress among borrowers.

The share of restructured standard advances to gross loans also **increased by 110 bps for all borrowers** and **50 bps for large borrowers**.

This was **lower than the increase of 30 bps** for all borrowers and **40 bps** for large borrowers in 2020-21, owing to the RBI's resolution framework for restructuring stressed retail loans and MSME loans during the pandemic.

However, the share of **SMA-1 and SMA-2 loans**, which **indicate impending stress for longer time buckets declined** to their **lowest levels since March 2016** for all accounts.

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das





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Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**Indian Bank launches 'MSME Prerana' flagship program in Rajasthan**

**Indian Bank**, one of the leading public sector banks in the country, has **launched** its **flagship business mentoring program** for **Micro Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) entrepreneurs - 'MSME Prerana'** in Rajasthan.

"MSME Prerana", is a **first-of-its-kind initiative** for the MSME sector in the country by any bank.

**Aim :**

To **empower MSME Entrepreneurs** through **skill development** and **capacity building training** in their local languages, assisting them in acquiring necessary financial and managerial skills, capacity to handle the crisis in business, and understanding of dynamics of credit rating and risk management.

Indian Bank has already conducted this online program in **7 languages across 10 states**.

**About Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) :**

MSMEs are **regulated** under the '**Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Act, of 2006**'.

Cabinet Minister: Narayan Rane

Minister of State: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

**Micro enterprises :**

The Enterprises with an **annual turnover of less than Rs 5 crore** and the **maximum investment** in plant and machinery or equipment shall **not be more than 1 crore rupees**.

**Small Enterprise:**

The enterprises where the investment in plant and machinery or equipment **does not exceed 10 crore rupees** and turnover does not exceed **50 crore rupees**.

**Medium Enterprise:**

The enterprises where the investment in plant and machinery or equipment **does exceed 50 crore rupees** and turnover **does not exceed 250 crore rupees**.

**About Indian Bank :**



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Founded: 15 August 1907

Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

MD & CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain

Tagline: Your own Bank

**ADB approves USD 125 mn loan to improve urban services in TN**

Multilateral funding agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **\$125 million (about 1025 crore) loan** to develop **climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment**, and **drainage and water supply systems** in **3 cities Coimbatore, Madurai & Thoothukudi** of **Tamil Nadu (TN)**.

**Signatories :**

**Rajat Kumar Mishra**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance signed for the GoI.

**Hoe Yun Jeong**, Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission signed for ADB.

The financing is the **third** and the **last tranche** of the **\$500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF)** for the Program approved by ADB in **2018** to build priority water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in strategic industrial corridors across **10 cities** in TN.

**About the Projects :**

The financing will support the development of **two sewage treatment plants** in **Coimbatore** with **529 kilometres** of sewage collection pipelines, install 14 pumps and lift stations and build 14 km of sewage pumping mains.

In **Thoothukudi**, a **climate-resilient stormwater drainage system** will be developed.

In **Madurai**, the project will support the commissioning of **813 km** of new water supply distribution pipelines that will connect **163,958 households** to 115 newly established district-metered areas with smart water features to reduce non-revenue water.

In **Coimbatore** and **Madurai**, **two all-female self-help groups** will be trained on the benefits of household connection to the sewage collection system, water conservation, sanitation, and health and hygiene.

**About ADB :**



**Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs**  
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Established: 19 December 1966

Headquarters: city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership: 68 members

ADB is a **regional development bank**.

**Spice Money Partnered with Axis Bank for Financial Inclusion in Rural India**

Fintech player **Spice Money** has **partnered** with private sector lender **Axis Bank** to **facilitate the opening of instant, zero-balance savings or current accounts** for **rural citizens** through its **Adhikari network**.

**Aim :**

To bridge the **rural-urban divide** and **bring financial inclusivity** by providing access to banking products at the doorstep, thereby financially empowering thousands of rural citizens living in the hinterlands of India

A regulated entity under the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the fintech firm delivers various financial services such as cash deposits and **withdrawals, insurance premiums, bill payments, and loans** to the **rural masses**.

Recently, the company has come on board the government-promoted e-commerce platform **ONDC (Open Network Digital Commerce)** to facilitate **smaller merchants** in rural locations.

**About ONDC :**

Founded: December 31, 2021

ONDC is a **private non-profit Section 8 company** established by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** of the Government of India to **develop open e-commerce**.

**Aim :**

To **create a facilitative model to revolutionize digital commerce**, giving greater thrust to the penetration of retail e-commerce in India

**About Spice Money :**

Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India



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CEO: Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

The Spice Money network, comprising more than **10 lakhs Adhikaris**, covers more than 18,000 pin codes, 700 districts, and 5,000 blocks, serving over 10 crore households.

### **About Axis Bank :**

Founded : 3 December 1993

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

Axis Bank is the third largest private sector bank in India.

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### **Banking & Finance**

#### **IRDAI makes KYC details mandatory from Jan 1, 2023**

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has **mandated** that **all policyholders must provide** their **Know Your Customer (KYC) details** when purchasing any type of insurance policy from **January 1, 2023**.

The rule applies to **all types** of **insurance - life, general, and health insurance**.

#### **Key Highlights :**

**Currently, KYC documents** are **only required** when making a **claim worth over Rs 1 lakh**.

Under the new insurance rule, KYC documents will be required even while purchasing a new policy.

With this, experts believe that the claim process may become **faster** and **more seamless** as the insurers will have a detailed profile of customers.

Until now, sharing KYC documents was a **voluntary choice** while purchasing a policy.

However, with the new move, the **Aadhaar card, PAN (Permanent Account Number) card**, and photo of the customer have become mandatory for the purchase of new insurance policies.

Although KYC documents are required for the renewal of existing policies, customers will be provided **sufficient time** to intimate the details.



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The **time limit** will be **2 years** for **low-risk policyholders** and one year for others, including high-risk customers.

**About IRDAI :**

Established: 1999

Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

Chairperson: Debasish Panda

The IRDAI is a **regulatory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India, and is **tasked with regulating** and **licensing** the **insurance** and **reinsurance industries** in **India**.

**SBI Card partners with Punjab & Sind Bank to launch co-brand credit cards**

**SBI Cards and Payment Services** has **partnered with Public sector bank Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)** to **launch co-brand credit cards** for the **bank's customers**.

The collaboration also marks the **introduction** of '**credit cards**' as a new product segment under the bank's portfolio.

Both partners have rolled out **3 card variants** :

**PSB SBI Card ELITE**

**PSB SBI Card PRIME**

**PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card.**

**Key Highlights :**

**PSB SBI Card ELITE** will be **offered** at a **joining fee** of **INR 4999 plus taxes** while **PSB SBI Card PRIME** will be offered at **INR 2999 plus taxes** & **PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card** at **INR 499 plus taxes** respectively.

Both **PSB SBI Card ELITE** and **PSB SBI Card PRIME** will be available on the **VISA platform** and **PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card** on the **RuPay platform**.

**PSB SBI Card ELITE** and **PSB SBI Card PRIME** have been designed to offer lifestyle privileges and the best-in-class experience to **premium** and **mass premium customers**, respectively.

**About Punjab and Sind Bank :**



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Founded: 24 June 1908

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

MD & CEO : Swarup Kumar Saha

About SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd :

Founded: October 1998

Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana

MD & CEO : Rama Mohan Rao Amara

**IDBI Bank signs agreement to transfer IDBI Mutual Fund to LIC Mutual Fund**

**IDBI Bank signed an agreement to transfer schemes from IDBI Mutual Fund (IDBI MF) to LIC Mutual Fund (LIC MF).**

The decision has been taken to comply with **Section 7B** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) Mutual Fund Regulations.**

**Key Highlights :**

LIC completed the takeover of IDBI Bank, the sponsor of IDBI Mutual Fund, in **January 2019.**

SEBI rules restrict a **single promoter** to own more than a **10% stake** in **multiple asset management companies (AMCs).**

Since **IDBI Bank, the** parent of IDBI MF, is majority owned by LIC, the transfer is necessary.

While IDBI Bank is the **sponsor** of **IDBI Mutual Fund, LIC** has its own fund house, LIC Mutual Fund.

**Credit card spending fall for the first time Since July - RBI Data**

Credit card spending **was** lower **by 11%** in November 2022 falling **for the** first time since July 2022 to ₹1.15-lakh crore, **signalling a slowdown from the peak levels seen during the festival season.**

**As per data released by the** Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Credit card spending **touched a peak** of ₹1.29-lakh crore **seen in October 2022.**

**Key Highlights :**



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The bank-wise data revealed that HDFC Bank saw a 13% decline in its credit card spending from October 2022, whereas SBI card saw a decline of nearly 10%, ICICI Bank 15%, and Axis Bank an 8% drop.

In terms of the number of cards, issuers added a total of 13 lakh cards during the month, lower than the 17 lakh cards added in October 2022

This took the aggregate count to 8.1 crore credit cards as of the end of November 2022.

The net addition in cards-in-force during November 2022 was led by SBI Card, which saw cards increasing by 3.9 lakhs, followed by HDFC Bank which saw an addition of 2.4 lakh cards, Axis Bank of 2.1 lakh cards.

On the other hand, ICICI Bank saw a net reduction in its number by 1.1 lakh cards.

**Govt hikes interest rate on NSC, senior citizen savings scheme from Jan - March 2023**

The Finance Ministry increased interest rates on many small savings schemes including senior citizen savings schemes and National Savings Certificates (NSCs).

However, the interest rates on the Public Provident Fund (PPF), and the girl child savings scheme - Sukanya Samridhi savings scheme - will remain unchanged.

The new rates will be applicable on fresh deposits between January 1 and March 31, 2023.

The hike in the interest rates is between 20 basis points and 110 basis points.

This is the second successive revision but mostly on non-tax savings schemes.

The hike is in line with the upward revision of interest rates on bank deposits.

Still, small savings will fetch higher than bank deposits.

**Small Saving Scheme - Interest rates :**

Savings Scheme	Interest Rate (%) Oct-Dec 2022	Interest Rate (%) Jan-Mar 2023	Compounding Frequency
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Post Office Savings Account	4.00	4.00	Annually
Post Office Time Deposit 1 Year	5.5	6.6	Quarterly
Post Office Time Deposit 2 Year	5.7	6.8	Quarterly
Post Office Time Deposit 3 Year	5.8	6.9	Quarterly
Post Office Time Deposit 5 Year	6.7	7.0	Quarterly
Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 Year)	5.8	5.8	Quarterly
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	7.6	8.0	Quarterly & Paid
Post Office Monthly Income Scheme	6.7	7.1	Monthly & Paid
National Savings Certificate (NSC)	6.8	7.0	Annually
Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.1	7.1	Annually





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Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.0	7.2	Annually
Sukanya Samridhi Yojana	7.6	7.6	Annually

**Key Highlights :**

According to a Finance Ministry notification, rates for **deposits up to 5 years** as well as NSC, **senior citizen savings scheme** and **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)** where income accruing are taxable have been hiked by up to **1.1 percentage points**.

With the revision, **senior citizen savings schemes** will earn **40 basis points** more at 8% during the January-March period.

Similarly, a **one-year term deposit** with post offices would earn **6.6%**, for two years (**6.8%**), **three years (6.9%)**, and **five years (7%)**.

About KVP, the government has hiked the interest rates to **7.2%**, thereby maturing in **120 months**.

Currently, KVP yields a 7% rate with a maturity period of **123 months**.

**The monthly income scheme** would **earn 40 basis points** more at **7.1%**, while the **National Savings Certificate (NSC)** has been **raised by 20 basis points to 7%**.

The interest rate on the **girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi Yojana** was retained at **7.6%**, and for the **Public Provident Fund (PPF)** it has been kept **unchanged at 7.1%**.

**Savings deposits** will continue to earn **4% per annum**.

Since **2016**, interest rate resetting has been done based on **yields of government securities** of the corresponding maturity with some spread on the scheme for senior citizens, as advised by the **Shyamala Gopinath Committee**.

**MahaMetro Raises Rs 3,568 Cr. for the Second Phase of Nagpur Metro from ADB & EIB**



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The **MahaMetro Corporation** has **finalized debt arrangements** for the **second phase** of its **project in Nagpur**.

It would be **raising a loan of Rs3,586 crore** from the **Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **European Investment Bank**.

The **first phase** of the **project** was funded by **France's AFD** and **KFW**, a **German agency**.

The **second phase** is **expected** to be **completed by 2026**.

Both together had chipped in **630 million Euros**.

**Contribution :**

For the Project, the **ADB** would be contributing **200 million dollars**, and **239 million dollars** would be contributed from **EIB**.

The **total amount estimated** for the **second phase** of the project is estimated to be around **Rs 6,700 Crores**.

Out of this amount, around **Rs, 3,100 Crores** will come from the **central** and **state government** in the **form of equity capital**.

The phase includes **4 extensions** covering a distance of **43.8 KMs**.

The extension is from **Khapri to Butibori** and from **Automotive Square to Kanhan**.

Also, from **Prajapati Nagar Station**, it will reach **Kapsi via Hingna** from **Lokmanya Nagar Station**.

**About ADB :**

Founded : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 members

**About EIB :**

Founded: 1958

Headquarters : Kirchberg, Luxembourg

President : Werner Hoyer

**ADB grants \$100 million to Shriram Finance for vehicle loans to women entrepreneurs**



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**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

Multilateral funding agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has **sanctioned USD 100 million (about ` 830 crore)** to **Shriram Finance Limited (SFL)**, a part of Shriram Group to provide **vehicle loans to women entrepreneurs**.

The USD 100 million **External Commercial Borrowing (ECB)** is a **5-year loan** and is under SFL's Social Finance framework to provide credit towards the purchase of new and used vehicles throughout India.

The loan can be used for **vehicle finance for commercial purposes** for BS VI-compliant vehicles and electric vehicles, specifically, **finance women entrepreneurs**, catering to under-developed states of the country.

It will **empower** and **promote** the **social and economic status** of **underserved communities**.

Besides the ADB loan, SFL has also successfully raised **\$250 million** from **US Development Finance Corporation** and **\$ 475 million** through a **144A Bond** from the **international market** in 2022.

**About ADB :**

Founded : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 members

**About SFL :**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman: Jugal Kishore Mohapatra

**Tata AIA Life introduces Emerging Opportunities Fund with Ulips**

**Tata AIA Life Insurance** has **launched Emerging Opportunity Fund**, and **ULIP plans (Unit Linked Insurance Plans)** which can **spend money** on **mid-cap firms** and **rising market leaders** with the potential to generate important future development.



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The purposes for ULIP plans with the **New Fund Offering (NFO) window** will stay open until **31 December 2022**.

**Key Highlights :**

Investments within the Fund might be made using Tata AIA's ULIP choices like **Fortune Pro, Wealth Pro, Fortune Maxima, and Wealth Maxima**.

The Fund may also be hooked up to **Tata AIA's Param Rakshak Solutions**.

The fund can make investments as much as **30%** of the portfolio in fairness and fairness-associated devices falling outdoors the mid-cap range.

**About Tata AIA Life Insurance :**

Commenced Operation: 2001

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Naveen Tahilyani

Tata AIA Life Insurance Company (Tata AIA Life) is a Joint Venture (JV) between **Tata Sons** and **AIA Group Limited (AIA)**.

**HDFC Bank Collaborates with Microsoft as part of its digital transformation journey**

India's largest private sector bank, **HDFC Bank, partnered with Microsoft** in the **next phase** of its **digital transformation journey** and unlocked business value by transforming the application portfolio, **modernizing the data landscape**, and securing the enterprise with Microsoft Cloud.

HDFC Bank as a part of its **Future Ready strategy** is developing in-house IPs as well as partnering with several companies including **FinTechs'** to co-create technology IPs.

The bank will leverage **Microsoft Azure** to consolidate and modernize its enterprise data landscape through a **Federated Data Lake** to scale its information management capabilities across enterprise reporting, and advanced analytics using **artificial intelligence (AI)**.

**Key Highlights :**

The IP is **built on the Microsoft Azure stack**, the solution will enable the bank to democratize and monetize its data landscape catering to several business units, spanning multiple systems, reports, and processes.



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The solution is powered by its **unified architecture**, collaborative engineering environment, industry-leading security, and ecosystem of AI/ML-based deep learning capabilities.

The Bank will also leverage Microsoft Power Platform's industry-leading **low code, no code capabilities** to set up an **App Innovation and Automation Factory**.

The App Factory will enable the Bank to **migrate, modernize** and **transform** its application portfolio.

HDFC Bank will also leverage **Microsoft 365**, to adopt a modern, integrated, and secure Digital Workplace covering **3 critical areas of transformation** – **employee collaboration, app modernization**, and **secure remote work**.

**About HDFC Bank :**

Founded: August 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

**About Microsoft India :**

Founded: 1990

Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

President: Anant Maheshwari

India Country Manager: Ashutosh Gupta

Managing Director: Sashi Sreedharan

Microsoft India Private Limited is a **subsidiary** of the **American software company Microsoft Corporation**.

**Niva Bupa Health Insurance signs corporate agency agreement with Sundaram Finance to strengthen its distribution**

**Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited (formerly Max Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited), signed a corporate agency agreement with Sundaram Finance Limited.**

Under the pact, Sundram Finance will **offer Niva Bupa's select range of indemnity plans** to its growing range of existing and past customers.



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Some of the innovative retail products being offered by Sundaram Finance to its customers include **ReAssure** – Niva Bupa’s highest-selling comprehensive family floater plan, **Senior First**, a tailor-made plan for Senior Citizens, and **Health Recharge**, a Super Top Up plan.

**About Niva Bupa Health Insurance :**

Founded: 2008

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

CEO: Krishnan Ramachandran.

**About Sundaram Finance Limited :**

Founded: 1954

Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

MD: Rajiv Lochan

**Yes Bank partners with Microsoft to transform the mobile banking experience**

**YES BANK** has **partnered with Microsoft** to **introduce** a next-generation mobile application (app) to **provide customers** with a **personalized banking experience**.

Yes, Bank will leverage Microsoft’s Azure platform to create the app which will offer customers a host of services such as **online payments, shopping, rewards, and offers**, as well as customized dashboards.

**About the app :**

The new app will run on **Microsoft's enterprise-grade cloud platform**.

With the support of the app, Yes Bank **aims** to scale up various services by bringing merchants and ecosystem partners onto a common platform.

This will empower the Bank to cater to the **diverse financial needs** of customers across **loans, payments, deposits, investments, and cards**.

**About Yes Bank :**

Founded: 2004

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar



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Tagline: Experience Our Expertise

**Bandhan Bank unveils 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign**

**One of the fastest-growing banks in the country**, Bandhan Bank, launched **its** integrated marketing campaign featuring cricketer Sourav Ganguly **as its** brand ambassador.

**This is the** first time **that** Bandhan Bank **has appointed a** pan-India brand ambassador.

**Key Highlights :**

The campaign was conceptualized by **Leo Burnett Orchard**, which was brought in as the bank's creative agency in **August 2022**.

The 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign emphasizes the '**trust**' that the brand has been able to earn in **7 years** as a Bank and over the last two decades in the various avatars before the Bank.

The campaign uses the analogy of Ganguly's career, who became the Bank's customer soon after the Bank was launched 7 years ago, to showcase the **trust of customers** and stakeholders that the brand has been able to achieve.

About Bandhan Bank :

**Founded: 2015**

**Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India**

MD & CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

**SBI, ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank Continue To Be Systemically Important Banks In India - RBI**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **2022 lists of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** based on the data collected from banks as on March 31, 2022.

The **top three Indian lenders -State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank** continue to be D-SIBs.

RBI places these banks in appropriate buckets upon their **Systemic Importance Scores (SISs)**.

**Key Highlights :**

**ICICI Bank** and **HDFC Bank** have been placed in the **first bucket** while **SBI** has been placed in the **third bucket**.



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ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank have to maintain additional **CET1** at **0.20%** of their **Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs)**.

SBI has to maintain **Additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1)** at **0.60%** of its RWAs.

The additional CET1 requirement for D-SIBs has become fully effective from **1 April 2019**.

In **2014**, RBI issued the **framework** for dealing with **Domestic Systemically Important Banks**.

**SBI** and **ICICI Bank** had become D-SIBs in **2015** and **2016**.

**HDFC Bank** was also classified as a D-SIB in **2017**.

SIBs are perceived as **'Too Big To Fail'** and their functioning is critical for essential banking services in the Indian Economy.

**About D-SIBs :**

D-SIBs in simpler terms are those banks whose **failure can impact the whole** of the **financial system** and **create instability**.

The RBI first issued the framework for dealing with D-SIBs on **July 22, 2014**.

The D-SIB framework requires the **central bank** to **disclose** the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from **2015**.

**India Accelerator collaborates with ICICI Bank & Infosys Finacle to promote the startup ecosystem in India**

**India Accelerator**, a seed-stage accelerator program has **launched** the **i3 Launchpad**, a program created to nurture and co-innovate with the **startup ecosystem** in **India**.

This has been developed in collaboration with **ICICI Bank** and **Infosys Finacle**, part of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly-owned product subsidiary of Infosys.

**Aim :**

To **support a community of entrepreneurs** who are on a mission to create brands that can have a global impact.

**About i3 Launchpad :**

It is designed to **help startups** accelerate their success by **leveraging mentorship, resources,** and **opportunities from Infosys Finacle, ICICI Bank, and India Accelerator (IA)**.





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It is open to start-ups across all industries and aims to onboard **two cohorts a year** with a target of **12-18 start-ups** in each.

The **first cohort** will include **fintech, enterprise tech, Software as a Service (SaaS), prop tech, wealth tech, sustainability, green tech, and insurance tech.**

**About IA :**

Founded: 2017

Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana

Founder & CEO: Ashish Bhatia

**RBI released the fifth volume of Reserve Bank history (1997-2008)**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **fifth (5th) volume** of Reserve Bank history (1997-2008).

The 5th volume covers the **11 years from 1997 to 2008.**

**Key Highlights :**

The process of preparation for this volume was **started by RBI** in **2015** under the **guidance of an Advisory Committee.**

**Dr. Narendra Jadhav**, a former Member of Parliament and former Principal Adviser & Chief Economist of the Reserve Bank chaired this committee.

A team of writers led by the economic historian **Dr. Tirthankar Roy** has **prepared** the volume. Other members of the team were **K. Kanagasabapathy, N. Gopalaswamy, F. R. Joseph, and S.V.S. Dixit.**

The volume covers the **developments in policies** and operations in major functional areas during the period which was marked by two major crises in the global economy, i.e., the **Asian financial crisis** and the **global financial crisis.**

It covers the tenures of **three Governors.**

It covers the latter part of **Dr. C. Rangarajan's tenure**, the complete tenure of **Dr. Bimal Jalan**, and a major part of **Dr. Y. V. Reddy's tenure.**

**About RBI :**



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Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**RBI launches Utkarsh 2.0 for the period 2023-2025**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** has **launched Utkarsh 2.0**, the **second phase** of its **medium-term strategic framework** for the **period 2023-2025**.

**About Utkarsh 2.0 :**

“Utkarsh 2.0 builds on the strengths of Utkarsh 2022, retaining the **6 vision statements** along with the **core purpose, values** , and **mission statement**.

**6 vision statements of Utkarsh 2.0 :**

Excellence in the performance of its statutory and other functions

The strengthened trust of citizens and Institutions in the RBI

Enhanced relevance and significance in national and global roles

Transparent, accountable, and ethics-driven internal governance

Best-in-class and environment-friendly digital and physical infrastructure

Innovative, dynamic, and skilled human resources.

**About Utkarsh :**

The **first strategy framework (Utkarsh 2022)** covering the period **2019-2022** was launched in **July 2019**.

It became a **medium-term strategy document** guiding the Bank’s progress toward the realization of the **identified milestones**

**Issues related to cards, net banking top complaint areas at OBO - RBI report**

According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Report**, **issues** related to **Automated Teller Machine (ATM)/debit cards** and **mobile/electronic banking** were the **top grounds** of **complaints** received at the **Office of Banking Ombudsman (OBO)** from **April 1 to November 11, 2021**.



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**Key Highlights :**

The volume of complaints received under the **Ombudsman Schemes/Consumer Education and Protection Cells** during **2021-22 increased** by **9.39%** over the previous year and stood at **4,18,184**. Of these, **3,04,496 complaints** were **handled by** the **22 Offices** of **RBI Ombudsman (ORBIOs)**, including the complaints received under the three erstwhile **Ombudsman Schemes** till **November 11, 2021**.

Complaints related to **ATM/ debit cards** were the **highest** at **14.65%** of the total, followed by **mobile/ electronic banking** at **13.64%**.

The rate of disposal of complaints by ombudsmen improved to **97.97%** in **2021-22** from **96.59%** in **2020-21**.

The coverage of RBIOs was extended to include the **non-scheduled Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** with a deposit size of **Rs 50 crore** or above as at the end of the previous Financial Year. **Credit Information Companies (CICs)** were brought under RBI-IOs with effect from **September 1, 2022**.

Between November 12 and March 31, 2022, a total of **1,86,268 complaints** were received under the RBI-OS.

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**Axis Bank partners with OPEN to launch a fully digital current account**

India's third largest private sector bank, **Axis Bank**, has **partnered** with the world's fastest-growing digital banking enterprise, **Open Financial Technologies Pvt Ltd (OPEN)**, to **provide a fully native digital current account journey** for its customers



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**Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs), freelancers, homepreneurs, influencers, and more** would benefit from the **fully digital current account**.

This is Axis Bank's **first-ever partnership** with a fintech player to launch a **fully digital current account**.

**Key Highlights :**

The current account holders will get access to Axis bank's over **250 banking services** along with OPEN's financial automation tools for **business management including payments, accounting, payroll, compliance, expense management**, and other such services.

The authentication process of the digital current account will be completely online using **PAN (permanent account number)** and **Aadhaar** followed by a **Video KYC (know your customer)**.

**About OPEN :**

Founded: 2017

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Co-founder and chief executive officer: Anish Achuthan

It operates **SME neo-banking platform Open Money**, the embedded finance platform, **Zwitch**, and the enterprise digital banking platform for banks, **BankingStack**.

The **100th Unicorn from India**, Open is backed by leading global investors like **IIFL Finance, Temasek, Google, Visa, and Tiger Global**, amongst others.

**About Axis Bank :**

Founded : 3 December 1993

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

**SEBI allows reclassifying govt holding in IDBI Bank as 'public' after-sale**

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **allowed** the central government's request to **reclassify** its shareholding in **IDBI Bank** after its disinvestment as a **"public holding"**

This is subject to the condition that the government's voting rights in the bank will **not exceed 15%** of the total voting rights after the sale.



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**Key Highlights :**

After disinvestment, the bank must make an application to the stock exchanges for reclassification of the government holding under the **public category**.

The new acquirer must ensure compliance with the **minimum public shareholding (MPS)** requirements within one year of the sale.

Now, the government and state-owned **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** hold a little over **94%** of **IDBI Bank** and are classified as its co-promoters.

While the **government** holds a **45.48% stake**, **LIC** holds around **49.24%**, and the remaining **5.28%** is **public shareholding**.

The government is selling a **30.48% stake** in the **bank**, while **LIC** will sell **30.24%**.

After the sale, the government will be left with **15%** and LIC will have a little over **19%** stake in the bank.

**About SEBI :**

Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

The SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Gol.

**Annapurna Finance Pvt applies for a universal bank license**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **received** an **application** from **Odisha-based Annapurna Finance Pvt Ltd (AFPL)**, formerly known as **Annapurna Microfinance Pvt Ltd**, under the Guidelines for **'on tap' Licensing of Universal Banks** in the Private Sector.

The microfinance institution was the **only entity** to apply for a universal bank license during the quarter that ended on **December 31, 2022**.



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As per the RBI's 'on tap' licensing guidelines, the **initial minimum paid-up voting equity capital** for a universal bank should be **Rs 500 crore**.

In **May 2022**, the RBI **rejected 4 applications** it had received for setting-up universal banks. The applicants rejected were UAE Exchange and Financial Services Ltd, **Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Ltd (REPCO Bank)**, **Chaitanya India Fin Credit Pvt Ltd**, **Pankaj Vaish**, and others.

In **2021**, the RBI announced a **5-member Standing External Advisory Committee**, headed by **former RBI deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath**, for evaluating applications for universal banks and small finance banks.

### **SEBI issues debt broker license to Zerodha-backed GoldenPi Technologies**

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has issued a **debt broker license** to **Bengaluru-based fintech firm GoldenPi Technologies**.

With this, **GoldenPi** became the **first online bond platform** provider to **receive a debt brokerage license** from SEBI.

In **Nov 2022**, **SEBI introduced regulations** for **online debt trading platforms** which stated that **no company** or individual shall act as an **online bond platform provider (OBP)** without the certificate of registration as a stock broker under the **SEBI Regulations, 2021**.

### **About GoldenPi Technologies :**

Founded: 2017

CEO and co-founder: Abhijit Roy

Currently, the **Zerodha-backed company** offers more than 100+ bonds and debentures on its online platform in the form of **daily listings**.

It has more than 3.7 lakh active users on its platform, investing in corporate bonds, **Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD)**, **Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)**, and other fixed-income assets.

### **SEBI extends relaxation on dispatching hard copies of financial statements**

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** extended the **relaxation** to listed companies from **dispatching physical copies** of **financial statements till September 30, 2023**.



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Earlier, the regulator had given similar relaxations to listed companies **till December 2022.**

**Key Highlights :**

The **Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) rules** require listed companies to **dispatch a hard copy** of the statement containing salient features of all the **documents - financial statements, board's report, and auditor's report** to those shareholders who have not registered their email addresses.

The listed entities are required to send hard copies of full annual reports to those shareholders who request the same.

Separately, the SEBI has eased the rules for entities, which listed their **non-convertible securities**, from dispatching hard copies of annual reports to debenture holders.

**Dhanlaxmi Bank launches retail internet banking services DhanDelight & mobile banking app DhanSmart**

**Dhanlaxmi Bank** has **launched all new retail internet banking DhanDelight** and the **retail mobile banking app DhanSmart.**

The new services are built on an **omnichannel platform** having various features covering different banking needs of customers.

DhanDelight and DhanSmart have the latest information system security features to **provide secure banking.**

**About DhanDelight :**

The **latest UI (User Interface) and UX (User Experience) provide a refreshing user experience** and will **enable customers** to do financial transactions more securely.

**About DhanSmart :**

The mobile app also offers a **dark theme** to **improve visual ergonomics, reduce eye strain,** and helps in **conserving battery power.**

The applications come with value-added features such as **biometric authentication** for mobile users, a dashboard for internet users, user-defined themes, soft token for transaction



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authentication, credit card reports, online subscriptions of various social security and other schemes, online financial transactions and payments, etc.

**About Dhanlaxmi Bank :**

Founded: 14 November 1927

Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India

MD & CEO: J. K. Shivan

**IndusInd Bank partners with British Airways & Qatar Airways to launch a multi-branded credit card**

**IndusInd Bank**, in a **first-of-its-kind initiative**, partnered with **British Airways Executive Club** and **Qatar Airways Privilege Club**, to **introduce** the **unique multi-branded credit card**, powered by **Visa**.

The card was made available to consumers in the **first quarter** of the **financial year 2023 - 2024**.

**About the Card :**

The credit card will be available in the Infinite variant of Visa.

It will offer **best-in-class rewards** and benefits to **elevate** the **international travel experience** of customers.

Through this proposition, members will soon be able to **collect Avios**, the rewards currency for British Airways Executive Club and Qatar Airways Privilege Club, by signing up and choosing their preferred loyalty program.

At the time of application, this credit card will give customers the **flexibility** to choose their preferred airline loyalty program and select their **preferred travel destination** to collect maximum Avios.

**About IndusInd Bank :**

Founded: April 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia





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Tagline: We Make You Feel Richer

**RBI lifts restrictions on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** lifted restrictions related to **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (M&M Finance)** on recovery operations via **third-party collection agents**.

The lifting of restrictions followed submissions made by M&M Finance and its pledge to **strengthen recovery practices** and outsourcing arrangements while tightening the process of onboarding third-party agents and **strengthening its accountability framework**.

The RBI action came after reports of a 27-year-old pregnant woman being allegedly crushed to death on **15 September 2022** in **Jharkhand**, by a tractor being driven by a recovery agent acting on behalf of M&M Finance.

**About M&M Finance :**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Dr. Anish Shah

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL) is an **Indian rural non-banking financial company**

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**ICICI Bank launches digital solutions for exporters**

**ICICI Bank** has launched a **first-of-its-kind initiative** in the industry, **digital solutions** for **exporters**, and a **comprehensive set of banking** and **value-added services** on a **single platform**.

**Aim :**



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To **simplify** the **journey of exporters** by decongesting the **current time-intensive manual procedures**, thereby significantly improving their operational efficiency.

**Key Highlights :**

The set of solutions digitises the entire export life-cycle from the discovery of export markets, export finance, and foreign exchange services to the receipt of export incentives.

It also offers industry-first facilities such as **instant disbursement of Export Packing Credit (Insta EPC)** and **Trade Application Programming Interface (APIs)**.

Insta EPC provides **export finance instantly**, while Trade APIs enable the smooth handling of export transactions directly from exporters' ERP systems, thereby providing greater convenience.

**Insta EPC:**

Exporters, having a relationship with the Bank, will get the convenience of **Export Packing Credit (EPC)** instantly and digitally.

This facility can be availed through **Trade Online**, the Bank's flagship digital platform for **export-import transactions**.

**Digital Letter of Credit facility (e-LC):**

The exporters can avail of the e-LC facility, which acts as a digital repository as well as makes LC available on a **real-time basis**, for verification of trade terms.

**Electronic Bills of Lading (e-BL):**

The Bank has partnered with leading e-BL service providers to facilitate the **end-to-end digital movement** of trade documents across the world.

This results in **efficient working capital management** by **reducing turnaround time** to a couple of days from the existing industry practice of **8-10 days**



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**Trade APIs:**

The Bank offers Trade APIs, a **future-ready industry-first solution**, for the seamless handling of export bills.

The range of APIs includes **Remittances, Letters of Credit, and Bank Guarantees.**

The Trade API solution provides the exporters with a **simplified 'Do-It-Yourself (DIY)'** experience anytime anywhere.

With APIs in place, exporters can initiate transactions via their ERPs directly with the Bank, thereby enhancing productivity

**Trade accounts:**

Trade accounts offer foreign currency accounts namely **Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Accounts (EEFC).**

This is a Current Account that allows exporters to hold their foreign currency earnings in the account, **without converting** them to **local currency.**

This feature of the account helps exporters to **reduce** their **foreign exchange transaction costs.**

It also offers **specialized Current Accounts** like **One Globe Trade Account (OGTA)** for export and import-related transactions.

**Paperless exports solutions:**

The Bank's digital solutions like **e-Softex (catering to IT/ITeS exporters)** and e-DOCs have simplified exporters' journey across various stages by offering digital filing of documents, settlement, and reconciliation of export invoices, among others.

**Foreign exchange solution:**

Exporters can book forex deals over the phone or online through **digital platforms** to get **flexibility** and **transparency** in **booking rates.**



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**About ICICI Bank :**

Founded: 5 January 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

**Aegon Life Insurance launches iTerm Prime Insurance plan**

**Aegon Life Insurance** has launched the **iTerm Prime Insurance plan**, which will cater to the needs of **self-employed individuals** with a **special 10% discount** (5% discount in addition to a 5% online discount for all) on **1st-year premium**.

The policy also offers special add-on features like **critical illness cover** and **accidental death**.

**About iTerm Prime Insurance plan :**

The iTerm Prime plan is designed to **promote life insurance access** in developing India.

It offers a **minimum sum assured** of **Rs 25 lakhs**, with no upper limit on a consumer's requirement.

The plan can be purchased online through a **completely paperless process** and **requires zero documentation** or uploads.

The product also offers a **'Special Exit Value' option** that allows the policyholder to get all premiums back when they turn **55 years old**.

It is designed to **encourage emerging India** to gain access to life insurance.

The policy also offers a death benefit, which is the highest of **11 times** the **annualized premium** or **105%** multiplied by the **total premiums** paid as on the date of death or base sum assured.

**About Aegon Life Insurance :**



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Founded: 2008

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD and CEO: Satishwar Balakrishnan

It is a **joint venture** between **Dutch Aegon N.V.**, a multinational insurance, pensions, and asset management company, and **The Times Group** (also called Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd), one of India's largest media conglomerates.

### **GST collections stand at Rs 1.49 trillion in Dec 2022**

**According to the** Finance Ministry, the Goods & services tax (GST) collections for December 2022 **stood at** Rs 1,49,507 crore, 2.5% more than Rs 1,45,867 crore **collected in** November 2022.

**However, on a** year-on-year basis, GST revenue **collected for** December 2022 **was** 15% **higher than the collections of** December 2021, **which was** Rs 1,29,780 crore.

#### **Key Highlights :**

**The** gross GST revenue **collected during December 2022 is** Rs 1,49,507 crore, **of which** CGST is Rs 26,711 crore, SGST is Rs 33,357 crore, IGST is Rs 78,434 crore (**including Rs 40,263 crore collected on import of goods**) and cess is Rs 11,005 crore (**including Rs 850 crore collected on import of goods**).

**The** total revenue **of the** Centre **and the states after regular settlements in** December 2022 is Rs 63,380 crore **for** CGST **and** Rs 64,451 crore **for the** SGST.

Monthly GST revenues **have been** higher than Rs 1.4 trillion **for the** 10th month in **a row**.

### **World Bank's flagship Gender Toolkit launched**

The 'Toolkit on Enabling Gender-Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India' was launched at a session organized by the **World Bank (WB)** & the **Chennai Urban Metropolitan Transport Authority** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.

#### **Key Highlights :**

**Women** are among the **largest users** of **public transport** across Indian cities & around **84%** of **trips** made by **women** are estimated to be by public transport.



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The toolkit has been designed in response to a **2019 World Bank-supported survey** of **6,048 respondents** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

This survey found that **between 2004 and 2019**, men shifted to two-wheelers to commute to work, while women used auto-rickshaws or taxis, which tend to be more costly (per trip) than two-wheelers.

**India** has amongst the **lowest female labour force participation** rates **globally**, at **22.8%** in **2019-20**.

This toolkit has practical tools that can help policymakers and private or community-based organizations **ensure safe** and inclusive public spaces and public transport for women in India.

**Key features of the Gender Toolkit :**

The Gender Toolkit is a **two-volume guide** that proposes a **4-pillar implementation framework** for **urban bodies** to design a **gender-responsive urban mobility** and **public spaces program**.

The **1st pillar** focuses on the **assessment of the ground situation**, including the understanding of gender differences in mobility patterns, safety concerns, and gaps in policies and infrastructure.

The **2nd pillar** recommends **integrating gender** as a lens while planning and promoting gender inclusivity among policymakers and institutions.

The **3rd pillar** focuses on **awareness creation** and **capacity building**

The **4th pillar** emphasizes **strengthening** the **infrastructure** in a way that is gender inclusive.

**About World Bank :**

Established: December 1944

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

President : David Malpass

**RBI to issue green bonds worth Rs 16,000 cr in two tranches in Jan, Feb**



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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **has announced that the maiden** Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) **would be** issued **in** two tranches **for an** aggregate amount of Rs 16,000 crore.

The first auction **of** Rs 8,000 crore **would be done on** January 25 **while the second for an equal amount will be held on** February 9, 2023.

Date of Auction	Amount in (Rs Crore)	Security-wise Allocation
January 25, 2023	8000	i) 05 Year SGrB for Rs 4,000 crore ii) 10 Year SGrB for Rs 4,000 crore
February 09, 2023	8000	i) 05 Year SGrB for Rs 4,000 crore ii) 10 Year SGrB for Rs 4,000 crore

The proceeds will be utilized for funding public sector projects seeking to **reduce carbon emissions**.

**Key Highlights :**

In **Union Budget 2022-23**, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced that **sovereign green bonds** will be issued for **mobilizing resources for 'green projects'**.

**About Green bonds :**

Green bonds are issued by **companies, countries, and multilateral organizations** to exclusively fund projects that have positive **environmental or climate benefits** and provide investors with **fixed-income payments**.



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The projects can include **renewable energy, clean transportation, and green buildings**, among others.

**Aim :**

To **mobilize Rs 16,000 crore** through the issuance of green bonds in the current fiscal ending **March 2023**.

**All eligible green expenditures** will include public expenditure undertaken by the government in the form of investment, subsidies, grants-in-aid, or tax foregone (or a combination of all or some of these) or select operational expenditures.

The **eligible expenditures** will be limited to government expenditures that occurred a **maximum of 12 months** before the issuance of the green bonds.

**Nuclear power generation, landfill projects, alcohol/weapons/tobacco/gaming/palm oil industries, and hydropower plants** larger than **25 MW** have been excluded from the framework.

The **Ministry of Finance** has **constituted a Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC)** including members from relevant ministries and **chaired** by the **Chief Economic Advisor**.

The GFWC will meet at least **twice a year** to support the Ministry of Finance (MoF) with the selection and evaluation of projects and other work related to the Framework.

**Feature of sovereign green bonds :**

The Sovereign Green Bonds' objective is to **mobilize resources** for **green infrastructure** as part of the government's overall market borrowings in 2022-23.

**Issuance Method:** SGrBs will be issued through **Uniform Price Auction**.

**Non-competitive bidding facility:** About **5%** of the notified amount of sale will be reserved for retail investors as specified under the '**Scheme for Non-competitive Bidding Facility** in the auction of Government of India Dated Securities and Treasury Bills'.

**Eligibility for Repurchase Transactions (Repo):** SGrBs will be eligible for **Repurchase Transactions (Repo)** as per the terms and conditions mentioned in Repurchase Transactions (Repo) (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2018 as amended from time to time.





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**Eligibility for Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):** SGrBs will be reckoned as eligible investments for SLR purposes.

**Underwriting:** The underwriting in the auction of SGrBs by the Primary Dealers will be as per the “**Revised Scheme of Underwriting Commitment and Liquidity Support**” issued by the RBI.

**When-issued Trading:** SGrBs will be eligible for “When Issued” trading by the guidelines on ‘Transactions in the When Issued market in Central Government Securities’ issued by the RBI.

**Tradability:** SGrBs will be eligible for trading in the secondary market.

**Investment by Non-residents:** SGrBs will be designated as specified securities under the ‘**Fully Accessible Route**’ for investment in Government Securities by non-residents.

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**MFs’ AUM grows 5.4% in CY22, SBI MF widens lead – AMFI**

**According to the latest data by the** Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), **the** average assets under management (AUM) **for the** domestic mutual fund (MF) industry grew 5.4% **year-on-year to** Rs 40.2 trillion **for the quarter that ended December.**

**The growth in assets was primarily due to incremental flows into equity schemes, driven by monthly systematic investment plans of Rs 12,000-13,000 crore.**

**Key Highlights :**

**SBI MF** and **Mirae MF** clocked the **fastest growth** among large AMCs.

The former now has assets of over **Rs 7 trillion** and has widened the lead over **ICICI MF** and **HDFC MF**, **ranked** number **2** and **3**, respectively, with assets of over Rs 4 trillion each.

Mirae’s assets have grown **15.7% to Rs 1.15 trillion** in the past year.



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HDFC MF, Axis MF, IDFC MF, and Aditya Birla Sun Life MF were among the **top 10 asset managers** that clocked a negative growth during the year, with the last two seeing a de-growth of around 5%.

### **About AMFI :**

Founded: 1995

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO: N.S.Venkatesh

Members: 44

The AMFI is the **regulatory body** for the **mutual fund** sector in India.

It is a division of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India.

### **RBI Directs Banks to Improve Financial Statement Disclosures**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has asked **banks** to make **enhanced disclosures** relating to material items in their notes to accounts wherever any item under the head “Other Liabilities and Provisions” and “Other Assets” **exceeds 1%** of the total assets.

### **Aim :**

To **enhance transparency** in banks’ financial statements through disclosures.

### **Key Highlights :**

Currently, if any item under the subhead “Miscellaneous Income” under the head “Other Income” exceeds 1% of total income, banks have to give particulars in the notes to accounts.

Similar instructions exist in the case of the subhead “**Other expenditure**” under the head “Operating Expenses”.

The RBI also asked payments banks to disclose particulars of all such items in the notes to accounts, wherever any item under “**Other Income**” - “**Commission, Exchange, and Brokerage**” **exceeds 1%** of the total income.

Its instructions relating to “**Financial Statements - Presentation and Disclosures - Disclosure of material items**” apply to **all commercial banks**.



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These instructions shall come into **effect** for disclosures in the notes to the annual financial statements for the year ending **March 31, 2023**, and onwards,” per the central bank’s directions.

**India’s Fastest Payment app - PayRup launched**

**PayRup** (<https://payrup.com/>), India’s fastest payment app was launched by **Mahadevappa Halagatti** in Lulu Mall, **Bangalore, Karnataka**.

PayRup is built on **cutting-edge technology** of **web 3.0**.

It provides an **advanced digital payment experience** with outstanding user experience.

**About PayRup :**

PayRup opens **24/7 customer care facilities** for **help** and **support** for users.

Customer support desk runs with leading **Customer Relationship Management (CRM)** technologies and is supported by global standards.

It ensures the **5 dimensions** of service quality and follows **SERVQUAL (Service Quality) standards** to provide the best service experience.

PayRup users can pay **utility bills** and **landline bills**, recharge their mobile, broadband, DTH, and purchase Gift Cards.

PayRup services are planned to expand across various **financial instruments**, including multiple payment services such as school fees, pay rent, and other payment collection services.

Recently, PayRup has announced **ticketing** and **booking services** for flights, buses, and hotels.

**About PayRup :**

Established : 2017

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka

**RBI issues revised list of accredited credit rating agencies**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **revised list** of **accredited credit rating agencies (CRAs)** to assign risk weight to assets for **capital adequacy** purposes by the banks.

The **6 credit rating agencies** are



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Acuite Ratings & Research Limited (Acuite)  
Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE)  
CRISIL Ratings Limited  
ICRA Limited  
India Ratings and Research Private Limited (India Ratings)  
INFOMERICS Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd

In **October, 2022** **RBI dropped Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited** from the list of **accredited rating agencies**.

**About CRAs :**

Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) are companies that **evaluate** the **financial condition** of issuers of debt instruments.

CRAs are **regulated by SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992**.

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**Axis Bank & IISc sign MoU to establish Centre for Mathematics and Computing**

**Axis Bank** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka** to establish a **Centre for Mathematics and Computing** at the Institute.

**Note :**

The Axis Bank Centre for Mathematics and Computing is **India's first comprehensive Academic Research Centre** on Mathematics and Computing.



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**Key Highlights :**

It will be spread **across 1.6 lakh square feet** and will have **state-of-art labs** and programs for faculty and students from different departments of the institute.

It is expected that over **500 engineers** and scientists will benefit from the Centre every year.

The Centre will play a vital role in building the nation's future as many contemporary and futuristic areas such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Data Science** rely on the foundations of mathematics and computing.

Mathematics and Computing are at the core of critical disciplines like **Computational Fluid Dynamics, Computational Biology, Quantum Computing, Precision Medicine, Digital Health, Climate Science, Materials Genomics, Cybersecurity, AI, ML, and Data Science.**

**About Axis Bank :**

Founded : December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

**Standard Chartered Becomes First Foreign Bank to Trade Bond Futures in China**

**Standard Chartered China** has just become the **first foreign-invested bank** in **China** to engage in **Chinese treasury bond futures trading.**

The move comes as China steps up efforts to **draw global investors** amid months of foreign money outflows from its **\$20-trillion bond market.**

**Key Highlights :**

Standard Chartered Bank (China) Ltd had completed its **first treasury bond futures transaction** in **China**, with the **permission of regulators.**

Treasury bond futures are a **key tool** to **manage interest rate risks**, and **China's opening up** of the market will allow **foreign investors** to **better participate** in its onshore bond market and **promote yuan internationalisation.**

**Recent News :**



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In **February 2022**, Standard Chartered Group would **invest USD\$300 million** in its **China-related operations** over three years, to **double their relevant profit** contribution by the **end of 2024**.

**About Standard Chartered plc :**

Headquarters : London, England, UK

Standard Chartered plc is a **multinational bank** with operations in consumer, corporate and institutional banking, and treasury services.

**Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Partners with Clootrack to Boost Customer Experiences**

**Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited** (“Kotak General Insurance“) has **partnered** with **Clootrack**, an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven, real-time customer experience platform**.

**About the Partnership :**

The partnership will help Kotak Mahindra General Insurance understand gaps in the market to **improve** its **customer experience**.

This will empower Kotak Mahindra General Insurance with insights into its **non-life insurance products** through **customer feedback**.

Clootrack’s AI-driven comprehensive intelligent customer experience analytics platform will help Kotak Mahindra General Insurance understand **why customer experience drops**.

**About Kotak Mahindra General Insurance :**

Founded: 2015

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Suresh Agarwal

**About Clootrack :**

CEO: Shameel Abdulla

Clootrack is a Kochi-based start-up for customer experience analytics.



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**NABARD raises Rs 5,000 crore through 3-year bonds**

The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has raised around **Rs 5,000 crore via 3-year bonds**, in the **first issue of fundraising** through bonds in **2023**.

The coupon for the **3-year bond** was **7.63%**.

The yield on government bonds with similar maturity was above **7.16%**.

**Key Highlights :**

The issue by NABARD had a **base size of Rs 2,000 crore plus a green-shoe option of Rs 3,000 crore**.

Meanwhile, **Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)** is likely to **raise to Rs 3,000 crore** through a **10-year paper (maturing in January 2033)**.

The base size is **Rs 500 crore** with a **green-shoe option of Rs 2,500 crore**.

REC is also looking at issuing **medium-term paper (about 41-42 months)** to raise to Rs 3,000 crore from the market.

At present, corporations are not able to file papers for bond offerings with the **ministry of corporate affairs** due to technical work underway at portals.

**About NABARD :**

Founded : 12 July 1982

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

It was established on the recommendations of **B. Sivaraman Committee** (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament).

The NABARD is an **apex regulatory body** for the **overall regulation of regional rural banks** and apex cooperative banks in India.

It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol.**



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**SEBI extends trading hours in case of an outage at stock exchanges**

Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has issued a **standard of procedures (SOP)** for the **handling of stock exchange outages** and extension of trading hours due to the outage.

**What is a Stock Exchange outage?**

Stock Exchange Outage means **stoppage of continuous trading**, either suo-moto by exchange or by reasons beyond the control of the stock exchange.

Further, stoppage of continuous trading shall not include a trading halt on account of the **index-based market-wide circuit breaker**.

**Timeline for the necessary communications :**

Communication of such outages by exchanges to be made **within 15 mins** to all market participants.

According to the SEBI's circular, if the affected stock exchange resumes to normalcy **at least one hour** (excluding 15 minutes of the pre-opening session, if applicable) before the normally scheduled market closure then trading hours on that day will remain unchanged.

Besides, the exchange will have to inform Sebi through a dedicated **email**.

**About SEBI :**

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** , Gol.

**HDFC Capital achieves \$376-mn initial close for scheme 2 of H-CARE 3**

**HDFC Capital**, a subsidiary of HDFC Ltd has achieved the initial close of **\$376 million** for **Scheme 2 of HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund – 3 (H-CARE 3)** to provide long-term,





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flexible funding across the lifecycle of affordable and **mid-income housing projects** including early-stage funding

**Key Highlights :**

H-CARE 3 Scheme 1 & 2 and HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Funds – 1 & 2 have created a **US\$3.1 billion funding platform**, rated as one of the world's largest private finance platforms focused on developing affordable housing.

The company's primary investor in H-CARE 3 Schemes 1 & 2 is a wholly owned subsidiary of the **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**.

H-CARE 3 will provide **long-term, flexible funding** across the lifecycle of affordable and mid-income housing projects including early-stage funding.

It will also invest in technology companies (**construction technology, fin-tech, sustainability-tech**, etc) engaged in the **affordable housing ecosystem**.

**South Indian Bank launches MSME online portal**

The **South Indian Bank (SIB)** launched a **Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) online portal** providing instant online '**In Principle**' approval of up to **₹1 crore**.

**MSME enterprises** are the most important pillars of the Indian economy and the govt. is also working towards making the sector stronger.

This development is against the backdrop of the central government considering making India a **5 trillion economy**

SIB is facilitating MSME's to get **instant funds**.

This initiative will **help thousands** of **micro and small businesses** to take quick disbursements.

**About SIB :**

Founded : 1928

Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala, India

MD & CEO : Murali Ramakrishnan



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Tagline : Experience Next-Generation Banking

**ADB & Gol sign USD 300 million loans to improve connectivity in Assam**

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **\$300 million loan** to **upgrade over 300 kilometers** of state highways and **major district roads (MDRs)** in **Assam**.

**Signatories :**

**Rajat Kumar Mishra**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and **Nilaya Mitash**, Officer-in-Charge, India Resident Mission, ADB, have signed the agreement of the **Assam South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Corridor Connectivity Improvement project**.

**Key Highlights :**

The project supports the government of **Assam's flagship Asom Mala road improvement program** to enhance the quality and service of priority sections of state highway and MDR networks and fill critical infrastructure gaps.

The roads to be upgraded under the project, including **6 road sections** in the state's western, central and southern regions, are connected to SASEC corridors linking **India** with **Bhutan** and **Bangladesh** and are expected to **boost cross-border trade and transport**.

The project will **expand state highways** and major district roads from **single-lane to two-lanes** and **introduce new climate-** and **disaster-resilient structures**.

Community schools, water, health, and sanitation facilities, and heritage and tourism sites will be restored in affected indigenous peoples' villages.

To **protect wildlife** and **habitats** in project areas, **viaduct structures** will be constructed to avoid human–elephant conflict in the elephant habitats.

**About ADB :**

Established: 19 December 1966

Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

President: Masatsugu Asakawa



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Membership: 68 countries.

The ADB is a **regional development bank**.

**About Assam :**

Governor : Jagdish Mukhi

Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Capital: Dispur

National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Raimona National Park, Nameri National Park

Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amsang Wildlife Sanctuary, Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary, Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary

**YES BANK partners with BaaS startup Falcon to tap the embedded finance market**

**Yes, Bank** has partnered with **banking-as-a-service startup Falcon** to tap into the **embedded finance market**.

Embedded finance enables the integration of a **non-financial service with a financial service**.

**About the Partnership :**

The partnership will enable YES BANK to provide customers with tailor-made **financial solutions** by leveraging Falcon's wide suite of products, backed by state-of-the-art technological infrastructure.

In addition to this, the bank has also partnered with **Microsoft Corp** for a **mobile application**.

The bank will leverage Microsoft's Azure stack to create the app which will offer customers a host of services such as **online payments, shopping, rewards, and offers** as well as **customized dashboards**, in addition to traditional banking functions.

**About Yes Bank :**

Founded: 2004



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Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO: Prashant Kumar.

Tagline: Experience Our Expertise

**ADB & GoI sign US\$350 million loan to improve the connectivity of the metro rail system in Chennai**

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **US\$350 million loan** to **build new lines** and **improve** the **connectivity** of the **metro rail system** in **Chennai** with the city's existing public transport system.

**Key Highlights :**

The tranche 1 loan is part of the **US\$780 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF)** for the project **approved** by **ADB** on **8th December 2022** to develop 3 new metro lines in Chennai, TN.

The investment project **supports** the **development** of **3 new metro lines - 3, 4, and 5.**

For Line 3, the project will construct **10.1 kilometers (km)** of the elevated section between **Sholinganallur** to the **State Industries Promotion Corporation** of Tamil Nadu-2, including 9 metro stations and system components

Multimodal interchanges and facilities will be established along metro rail corridors to **improve commuters' experience** such as drop-off and pick-up areas, sheltered waiting areas, bicycle facilities, and passenger information.

An additional **\$1 million ADB technical assistance (TA) grant** will **help** the **Chennai Metro Rail Limited** with the planning and management of the metro system's multimodal integration.

**Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance and Punjab & Sind Bank enter into a strategic partnership**

Leading public sector bank **Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)** and **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company (BALIC)** have announced their **Corporate Agency Partnership.**



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**Mr. Swarup Kumar Saha**, MD & CEO, of Punjab & Sind Bank, and **Mr. Tarun Chugh**, MD & CEO, of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, signed the partnership agreement in New Delhi, Delhi, India.

**About the Partnership :**

The collaboration would allow new and existing clients of Punjab & Sind Bank to access a range of **retail life insurance products** from Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, including **term, savings, retirement,** and **investment choices.**

PSB is the **25th Schedule Commercial Bank** to collaborate with BALIC to distribute its life goals-based product suite.

The life insurer will work closely with the bank to enable customers to get seamless service and help them achieve their **long-term financial goals** in a planned manner.

This includes responding to **customer support requests** made via **WhatsApp or a self-service** tool like the Bajaj Allianz Life LifeAssist App, in addition to the well-trained bank employees servicing the life insurance division.

**About Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance :**

Founded: 2001

Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra

CEO: Tarun Chugh

**About Punjab & Sind Bank :**

Founded: 24 June 1908

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

MD & CEO : Swarup Kumar Saha

Tagline: Where Service is a way of life

**SEBI Allows AIFs To Participate In Credit Default Swap Transactions**

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **allowed alternative investment funds** to **participate** in **credit default swaps (CDS)** to **protect buyers** and **sellers.**



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The new norms will facilitate the **deepening** of the **domestic corporate bond segment** & allow business entities to hedge risks associated with the bonds market.

**Key Highlights :**

CDS is a **specific kind of counterparty agreement** that allows the transfer of third-party credit risk from one party to another.

Under the new norm, **Category-I** and **Category-II AIFs** can buy CDS on underlying investments in debt securities only for **hedging**.

While **Category-III AIFs** can purchase CDS for hedging or otherwise, within permissible leverage. Category-II and Category-III AIFs may sell CDS by earmarking unencumbered government bonds or **Treasury bills equal** to the amount of the CDS exposure.

Category III AIFs are allowed to sell CDS, subject to the condition that effective leverage undertaken is within the **permissible limits**.

AIFs will have to report details of CDS transactions to the custodian by the **next working day**. Any unhedged position, which would result in gross unhedged positions across all CDS transactions **exceeding 25%** of investable funds of the scheme of an AIF, would be taken only after intimating to all unit holders of the scheme

Category I and II AIFs would **not borrow funds directly or indirectly** and engage in leverage except for meeting temporary funding requirements for **not more than 30 days**, not more than four occasions in a year, and not more than 10% of the **investable funds**.

Such AIFs which transact in CDS will have to maintain a **30-day cooling-off** period between the two periods of borrowing or engaging in leverage.

**About SEBI :**

Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol**.



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**RBI grants in-principle approval for payment aggregator license to EnKash**

Fintech startup EnKash has got in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a payment aggregator's license.

The license will enable EnKash to broaden its product offerings to millions of businesses for digital transactions.

BharatPe and Hitachi Payment Services have also received in-principle authorization to operate as payment aggregators.

**About EnKash :**

Founded in 2018

Founder: Yadvendra Tyagi

EnKash claims to have assisted 1 lakh businesses to digitize and decentralize their corporate payments.

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**Exim Bank raises \$1 billion via 10-yr sustainability bond issue**

Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) has raised \$1 billion via a 10-year Sustainability Bond issue in the 144A/Reg-S format under its Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Framework.

According to the Exim Bank, the net proceeds of the Sustainability Bond will be used towards eligible projects under the Bank's ESG Framework, including renewable energy; clean transportation; access to essential services and basic infrastructure; affordable housing; and sustainable water and wastewater management.



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This issuance at a **coupon rate of CT10 (US 10-year Treasury Bond) +190 basis points** makes India Exim Bank the first Indian issuer to open the markets for dollar and sustainability bond issuances in **2023**.

**About Exim Bank :**

Established: 1982

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD: Ms. Harsha Bangari

**NPCI allows UPI transactions for non-resident accounts linked to international numbers**

The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has **allowed Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions** for **non-resident bank accounts linked to International mobile numbers of 10 countries**.

The non-resident bank accounts are **Non-Residential External (NRE) & Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO)**.

To start with, NRIs from **Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), United Kingdom (UK)**, can make transactions using the UPI platform.

**Key Highlights :**

Member banks to ensure such types of accounts are only allowed as per the extant **FEMA regulations** and adherence to the guidelines/instructions issued by the concerned regulatory departments of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time.

All the necessary **Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/ Combating of Financing of Terrorism (CFT) checks** and compliance validation/account level validations as per the extant rules **applicable** under the regulatory guidelines shall be the responsibility of the remitter/beneficiary banks.





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The NPCI has asked UPI participants, such as **Paytm, Google Pay**, and more to put in place a mechanism by **April 30, 2023**.

### **About NPCI :**

Founded: 2008

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

### **Startup Funding in India Drops 33% To \$24 Billion in 2022: PwC Report**

According to the PwC India report, titled 'Startup Tracker-CY 22', the **funding for India's startups dropped by 33% to \$24 billion in 2022** in contrast to the earlier year.

### **Key Highlights :**

As per the report, the startups received **more than twice** the funds raised in **2020** and **2019**.

The **startups received a total funding of USD 13.2 billion in 2019, USD 10.9 billion in 2020, and USD 35.2 billion in 2021**.

In value terms, early-stage deals contributed to approximately **12% of the total funding in 2022** compared to nearly **7% in 2021**.

**Growth and late-stage funding deals**, in value terms, accounted for **88%** of the funding activity in 2022.

The average ticket size in the growth-stage deals was **\$43 million** and in late-stage deals was \$94 million in 2022.

The **software-as-a-service (SaaS) segment accounted** for nearly **25%** of all funding activity; it saw an **increase of 20%** in funding values during 2022 as compared to 2021.

The early-stage deals accounted for **60–62%** of the total funding in 2021 and 2022 in volume terms and the average ticket size per deal was **\$4 million per deal**.

**Bengaluru, Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), and Mumbai account** for nearly **82%** of total Indian startups.



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As many as **28% of startups** in the **top three cities** have raised more than **USD 20 million**.

**About PwC :**

Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal

Chairperson: Sanjeev Krishnan

**SEBI allows MFs to switch from active to passive ELSS schemes**

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **allowed mutual funds** with active **Equity-Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS)** to launch passive schemes, a move that will provide a **cost-effective** and **tax-saving alternative to individual investors**.

**Key Highlights :**

Under the procedure, the fund house will have to stop all fresh inflows or subscriptions, including **systematic investment plans (SIPs)** and **systematic transfer plans (STPs)**, to the actively managed ELSS scheme.

Besides, AMCs will provide an option to investors to redeem their units without exit load subject to **lock-in requirements**.

After completion 3 years from the **date of stopping inflows** in the actively managed ELSS scheme, the scheme will be merged with the passively managed ELSS scheme and the investments would be managed through the passively managed scheme.

The investments under the ELSS scheme have a **3-year lock-in period**, which is the shortest lock-in period as compared to other tax-efficient products.

Furthermore, investors can also get a tax deduction of up to **Rs 1.5 lakh per financial year under Section 80C** of the **IT Act**.

The passive ELSS scheme should be based on one of the indices comprising equity shares from the top **250 companies** in terms of market capitalization.

The **assets under management (AUM)** of the ELSS category stood at over **Rs 1.5 trillion** as on **December 31, 2022**.



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**Aditya Birla Health Insurance in Bancassurance Partnership with Punjab & Sind Bank**

**Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Ltd. (ABHICL)**, the health insurance joint venture of **Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. (ABCL)**, signed a **bancassurance** partnership with **Punjab & Sind Bank** for the **distribution of health insurance products** through the bank's network of branches across India.

This partnership will enable ABHICL to expand its national footprint and access Punjab & Sind Bank's widely distributed network of **1,528 branches** and its customers.

**About the partnership :**

Through this Partnership, Punjab & Sind Bank's customers and employees will have **access** to ABHICL's comprehensive suite of **health-first insurance plans, aimed** at encouraging customers to practice a healthy lifestyle through innovative products such as **100% Health Returns<sup>TM</sup> and Chronic's Incentive Wellness To reward with profit.**

Also Management Program, Day 1 covers **Asthma, High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol, and Diabetes; wellness coaching on nutrition and fitness; Counseling on mental health** among others.

With this, ABHICL now has **18 bancassurance companions** with over **70,000 direct promoting brokers**, throughout India.

**About Bancassurance :**

Bancassurance is an arrangement between a **bank** and an **insurance company**, through which the insurer can sell its products to the bank's customers.

**About Punjab & Sind Bank :**

Established: 1908

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

MD & CEO: Swaroop Kumar Saha

Tagline: Where Service is a Way of Life



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**About Aditya Birla Health Insurance :**

Established: 2015

CEO: Mayank Bathwal

ABHICL, a part of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL), is a joint venture between **Aditya Birla Group** and **MMI Holdings of South Africa**

**Union Bank of India partners with Garuda Aerospace sanctions 150 Agri drone loans for Garuda Kisan drones**

**Chennai's drone startup Garuda Aerospace has partnered with the Union Bank of India (UBI) with 150 Garuda Agri Kisan drones receiving sanction for a loan under the Kisan Pushpak Scheme.**

**The drone loan will help farmers to digitize land record operations for crop production, and spraying of fertilizers, chemicals, and pesticides, with the help of drones.**

**About the Partnership :**

The partnership is for the **Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme & Capital Subsidy under submission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM).**

It will be useful for **lead generation, customer acquisition, sourcing of applications**, and due diligence of customers for credit deployment.

The bank has launched the **Union Kisan Pushpak Scheme for financing Kisan drones** to help farmers in **improving their crop yield and enhance their income.**

**About Agri Infrastructure Fund Scheme :**

The Agri Infrastructure Fund Scheme will finance **150 drone applications** that will benefit the farmer community and create **150 skilled pilots** who will engage to become entrepreneurs and improve farmers' income.

**Garuda Kisan drone** is the **first to receive the Agri drone loan in July 2022** from the Union Minister of Agriculture and farmer welfare **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.**

The AIF loans are **collateral-free** and can secure up to **Rs 10 lakh with 3 months** of EMI relaxation and a **5% interest rate** for the youth and farmers.



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This development will help youth to buy drones and will help them earn around **Rs 75,000 to Rs 1 lakh per month.**

Garuda Aerospace has started training **1 lakh youth free of cost** and is targeting to sell 5,000 drones **before Mar. 31, 2023.**

**About Garuda Aerospace :**

Founder and CEO: Agnishwar Jayaprakash

Brand ambassador: Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Garuda Aerospace is the **1st drone Company** to get both **DGCA approvals** for **Type Certification** and **Remote Pilot Training Organization**

**About UBI :**

Founded: 11 November 1919

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : A Manimekhalai

Tagline: Good People To Bank With

**India's retail inflation shrinks to 5.72% for December 2022**

**India's retail inflation** eased to **5.72% in December 2022** primarily on the back of a **decline in food prices.**

Retail inflation stood at **5.88% in November 2022.**

**Key Highlights :**

Food prices account for nearly **40% of India's CPI (Consumer Price Index).**

Food inflation for **December 2022** eased to **4.19%.**

In **November 2022** it was recorded to be **4.67%.**

In the **December 2022 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) retained its **inflation forecast of 6.7%** for **FY23.**

In Dec 2022, MPC raised interest rates by **35 basis points to 6.25%** to tame inflation.

The consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation has remained below RBI's upper tolerance band of **6%** for the second consecutive month.

**About CPI :**



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The Consumer Price Index is a **comprehensive measure** used for the **estimation of price changes** in a basket of goods and services representative of consumption expenditure in an economy.

At the national level, there are **four Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers**.

These are:

CPI for Industrial Workers (IW) - Base Year 2016

CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL)

CPI for Rural Labourers (RL) - Base Year 1986-87

CPI (Rural/Urban/combined) - Base Year 2012

While the first three are compiled and released by the **Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour**, the 4th one is released by the **NSO in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

**The Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** increased by **7.1%** for November 2022.

This is the **highest** in **5 months**.

According to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data**, IIP recorded positive growth after contracting by **4%** in the preceding month.

**SBI launches e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in association with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**

**State Bank of India (SBI)**, the country's largest lender, has launched an **e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility** in association with **National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**.

The introduction of e-BG will **replace** this function with **e-stamping** and **e-signature**.

**Aim :**

To **enhance transparency** and **reduce turnaround time from days to minutes**.

**Key Highlights :**

**NeSL's Digital Document Execution (DDE) platform**, which provides e-Stamp and e-Sign functions, will facilitate the e-Bank Guarantee process.

Beneficiaries will instantly **receive** an **e-Bank Guarantee** on NeSL's platform without further verification.



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This facility will bring about a **revolutionary change** in the banking ecosystem, where bank guarantee is frequently used in large volumes.

Currently, the bank issues these guarantees with **physical stamping** and **wet signatures**.

**About NeSL :**

MD & CEO: Mr. Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri

NeSL is **India's first Information Utility** and is registered with the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** under the aegis of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**.

**Indian Bank to hold special Rupee Vostro accounts of 3 Sri Lanka banks**

**Indian Bank** has received the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** regulatory approval to hold **special rupee Vostro accounts** of **3 banks from Sri Lanka**.

The public sector bank, which has had a **long presence** in the **South Asian island nation**, is expected to activate the special Vostro accounts in about a week.

**About the Vostro account :**

A Vostro account in **local currency** would allow Sri Lanka to import from India without dipping into its **declining dollar supply**.

The INR Vostro facility is part of the **special trade settlement mechanism** finalised by the RBI in **July 2022**.

The Vostro accounts would also **help Sri Lanka** to **utilise** the **rupee** lines extended by India. It would contribute towards **stabilising** the **Lankan economy**.

**Key Highlights :**

**Indian Bank** opened its **first overseas branch** in **Colombo** in **1932**.

Till now, the State of India (SBI) is the other **domestic institution** with which a Sri Lankan bank has opened a Vostro account.

In **2022**, as the currency market in Sri Lanka ran out of dollars, most banks in India virtually **stopped discounting letters of credit (LC)** issued by banks in Lanka.

**About Indian Bank :**

Established : 1907



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Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu

CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain

Tagline : Your Own Bank, Banking That's Twice As Good

**NueGo Forms Strategic Partnership with Paytm for online bus ticket booking**

**India's first premium electric intercity coach services brand, NueGo, has partnered with Paytm, India's leading payments and financial services company and the pioneer of QR and mobile payments, launching a convenient bus ticket booking facility for its customers.**

**About the Partnership :**

This partnership would allow commuters to digitally reserve the seat of their choice in all **NueGo buses** across India, providing a **seamless digital booking experience.**

Paytm will enable commuters to book tickets **without** being **physically present inside** the bus or at the ticket counter, making the travel experience even more seamless.

**About NueGo :**

NueGo, the **flagship inter-city electric mobility coach brand of GreenCell Mobility** is currently playing across India primarily on the **Bhopal-Indore, Delhi-Chandigarh and Delhi-Jaipur routes.**

**Aim :**

To provide **exceptional ride quality** and **in-cabin experience** for inter-city travellers while ensuring a **safer and greener ride.**

**About Paytm :**

Founded : 2010

Headquarters : Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

CEO : Vijay Shekhar Sharma

**Amazon Pay & TSSPDCL join hands to simplify electricity bill payments for customers**

**Amazon Pay** announced an association with **Telangana Southern State Power Distribution Company Limited (TSSPDCL)** to **simplify electricity bill payments** for TSSPDCL customers. With this association, Amazon aims to make electricity bill payments **instant, convenient,** and rewarding for millions of customers.





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**About the Association :**

Through this association, TSSPDCL customers can now pay their electricity bills on Amazon **using Amazon Pay** without any convenience fee and experience secure and seamless transactions without the hassle of standing in billing queues.

The customers also can **earn cash backs** on their **first bill payment** and exciting rewards on their future bill payments.

After filing the necessary details, customers can choose their **preferred payment modes** such as **UPI, Amazon Pay Later, Credit Cards, Debit Cards, Amazon Pay Balance, or Net-banking** to instantly complete the transaction.

**About TSSPDCL :**

Founded : 2 June 2014

Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Chairman & Managing Director : Sri G.Raghuma Reddy

TSSPDCL is among the **largest electricity billers** in India as it caters to 9.2 million customers across 15 districts in Telangana

**Russia's second-largest bank VTB launches direct payments in Rupees**

**VTB - Russia's second-largest bank** has launched a **mechanism** to **receive direct payments in Rupees** discarding the conventional mechanism involving **Dollars** and **Euros**, in a major **boost** to the **India-Russia trade**.

With this, **Russian SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises)** will now be able to **transact** in **INR**, thus simplifying the payments while dealing with their Indian trading partners.

The mechanism of direct settlements allows fixing the **price** of a **product** and the **payment** in the national currency, and to receive individual quotes on market terms.

It also **eliminates preliminary coordination** of the **transactions**.



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**9 Russian banks**, including VTB, **opened special Vostro accounts** in **India** to **facilitate Russian-Indian trade** in November 2022.

**About VTB Bank :**

Founded : 1990

Headquarters : Moscow, Russia

President and Chairman of the Management Board : Andrey L. Kostin

**SIDBI partners with VFS to extend MSME loans up to Rs 5 lakh at 13% pa**

The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has entered into a **partnership** with **VFS Capital** to **extend loans** to the **Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector**.  
VFS Capital will extend MSME loans up to **Rs 5 lakh at a 13% interest rate per annum**.

**Key Highlights :**

Under the scheme, VFS Capital expects to disburse **Rs 30-40 crore** in this financial year.

The loan book of the MFI during 2022-23 is expected to be around **Rs 1,100-1,200 crore** from Rs 805 crore in the last financial year.

VFS Capital is planning to expand its footprint in the north-western part by launching operations in **Rajasthan** by the end of January.

At present, it operates in **13 states** including West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura

VFS Capital also plans to add **35 new branches** this financial year, bringing the number of units nationwide to **270**.

**Note :**

MD and CEO of VFS Capital: Kuldip Maity

**About SIDBI :**

Established: 2 April 1990



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Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann

SIDBI is the apex **regulatory body** for the **overall licensing** and **regulation** of **micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies** in India.

It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry **of Finance** (MoF), Government of India (GoI).

PNB Becomes First Public Sector Bank To Launch Credit Cards For FDs

The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has become **India's first public sector bank (PSB)** to **launch credit cards** for its **fixed deposit (FD) digitally** for **customers**.

**Features :**

Now the customers of the bank will be able to get **RuPay or VISA Credit Cards digitally** against single or multiple FDs with a credit limit of **80%**.

PNB credit card **advantages** over fixed deposits (FD)

No documents

No branch visit

Zero joining costs

Instant virtual credit card issuing

Complete Insurance Protection (on the RuPay variant)

UPI connection on RuPay Credit Card Benefits

Exciting rewards and promotions

**Key Highlights :**

PNB has **raised the interest rate on fixed deposits** across all tenures by **50 basis points** to draw in more deposits.

According to PNB, interest rates for term deposits under **2 crore** held for **1 to 3 years** have increased by **50 basis points to 6.75% from 6.25%** previously.

The rate on the **PNB Uttam Scheme**, which does not offer a premature withdrawal option, has been **increased from 6.30 to 6.80%**.

The bank will continue to provide fixed deposit terms of **666 days** at an **8.1% annual interest rate**



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**About PNB :**

Founded: 19 May 1894

Headquarters: Delhi, India

MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel

Tagline: The name you can bank upon

**South Indian Bank Partners with SAIL for finance dealers**

**South Indian Bank (SIB)** and **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to **provide financial assistance** to the dealers of SAIL across India.

The MoU was exchanged between **Praveen Joy (Head-Transaction Banking Group)** of South Indian Bank and **Surendra Kumar Sharma**, (CGM- Finance & Accounts) of SAIL.

The tie-up allows us to offer SAIL's dealers **financial assistance** for **working capital, especially steel procurement**.

With a network of **928 branches**, the bank will be able to serve the **Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME)** and corporate customers of SAIL located in different geographies.

It will **boost India's steel production**, which aligns with the Central Government's infrastructure and industrial push.”

**About SIB :**

Founded: 1928

Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India

MD & CEO: Murali Ramakrishnan

Tagline: Experience Next-Generation Banking

**About SAIL :**

Founded: 19 January 1954

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

Chairman: Soma Mondal

It is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Steel**, Government of India (GoI).



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**Mastercard expands Girls4Tech program to promote STEM studies among girl students**

**Mastercard** announced the **expansion** of its **signature Girls4Tech, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education program** in India.

The Programme is **supported** by the **Mastercard Impact Fund**, in partnership with the **American India Foundation (AIF)**.

**Aim :**

To reach an **additional 1 lakh female students** across the country by **2024** to encourage them to take up STEM education, this includes **10,800 students** in **Tamil Nadu**.

**Key Highlights :**

This includes **14,400 students** in **Delhi** as well as onboard **40 additional government schools** where STEM courses will be offered to girls aged **8 to 14**.

In **2020-21**, the program reached **17,820 girls** across three districts in Tamil Nadu, to **narrow the gender gap in STEM**.

While women comprise over **43% of STEM graduates in India**, only **14%** go on to pursue scientific research in universities and institutions.

**About Mastercard :**

Founded: 1966

Headquarters: New York, U.S

CEO : Michael Miebach

**LIC launches guaranteed return life insurance plan - Jeevan Azad**

The **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India** has **launched Jeevan Azad (Plan No. 868)**, **aimed at individual savings and life insurance**.

The plan offers an **attractive combination** of **protection** and **savings**.

**About Jeevan Azad :**

LIC Jeevan Azad is a **limited-period payment endowment plan** that provides **financial support** for the family in case of **unfortunate death** of the life assured during the policy term.

The plan **addresses** the **liquidity** needed through a loan facility.



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It also provides a **guaranteed lump sum amount** to the surviving life assured on the date of maturity.

**Features :**

**Sum Assured :**

The **minimum** basic sum assured under LIC Jeevan Azad Plan is **Rs 2 lakh** and the **maximum** basic sum assured is **Rs 5 lakh**.

The policy can be taken for a term of **15 to 20 years**.

**Premium Payment Term Calculation :**

The **premium paying term** is calculated as the policy term minus **8 years**.

**Premium payment Intervals :**

**Premium** can be paid regularly at **yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly intervals**.

**Age Limit :**

The **minimum age** of entry is **90 days** completed and the **maximum age** at entry is **50 years**.

**Death Benefit :**

The **death benefit** is payable on the death of the life assured during the policy term **after the date of commencement** of risk but before the date of maturity.

The death benefit shall be "**Sum Assured on Death**" which is defined as **higher** than 'Basic Sum Assured' or **7 times** of Annualised Premium.

The Death Benefit shall **not be less than 105%** of '**Total Premiums Paid**' up to the date of death

**About LIC :**

Founded: 1 September 1956

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairperson : M R Kumar



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### SEBI Introduces Information Database On Municipal Bonds

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched an **information database on municipal bonds**.

**Ashwani Bhatia**, a whole-time member, of SEBI, **launched** the database at a **two-day outreach program** on municipal bonds and municipal finance organized by the SEBI, in New Delhi as part of efforts to **develop** the **bond markets**.

**Madhabi Puri Buch**, Chairperson, of SEBI, delivered the keynote speech at the event.

#### Participants :

Representatives from the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, municipal corporations, stock exchanges, credit rating agencies, merchant bankers**, and debenture trustees.

#### About the information database :

The information database contains a wide range of information in the form of **statistics** and **regulations, circulars, guidance notes, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** issued by SEBI in respect of municipal debt securities.

The SEBI information database can also be **accessed** by way of a **Quick Response Code (QR Code)**.

SEBI introduced a **regulatory framework** for the issue, listing, and trading of municipal debt securities in **2015** & it was **reviewed** again by SEBI in **2019**.

#### About Municipal Bonds :

Municipal bonds (“munis”) are **debt securities** issued by state and local governments. It is a **good alternative source of finance** to fund projects undertaken by **Municipal Corporations**.

#### Two Types of Municipal Bonds :

**A general obligation bond (GO)** is issued by governmental entities and not backed by revenue from a specific project, such as a toll road.

**Revenue bond** secures principal and interest payments through the issuer or via sales, fuel, hotel occupancy, or other taxes.



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### About SEBI :

Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol.**

### **Reserve Bank of India extends time for Bank Locker Renewal Agreements till Dec 2023**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** extended the **time** for **banks** to **renew** their **customer agreements** for locker facilities to **December 31, 2023**, due to compliance delays.

The **previous deadline** was **January 1, 2023**, communicated through a circular on August 18, 2021.

### **Key Highlights:**

The deadline has been extended to December 31, 2023, for renewals in a phased manner, with **50%** completed by **June 30, 2023**, and **75%** by **September 30, 2023**.

To facilitate the execution of the revised agreements, the banks have been advised to make arrangements, like **ensuring** the **availability of stamp papers**, etc.

Also, there is a need for revision in the Model Agreement drafted by the **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** to fully comply with the revised instructions.

In addition to that, IBA is being advised separately to **review** and **revise** the **Model Agreement** to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the circular dated **August 18, 2021**, and circulate a **revised version** to all banks by **February 28, 2023**.

### **About RBI:**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar





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### **Bombay High Court quashes write-off of YES Bank's additional AT1 bonds**

The **Bombay High Court** has declared the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** order to write off **₹8,300 crores of Additional Tier-1 (AT1) bonds** of **YES Bank** to **ineligible investors**.

The order was passed by **justice SV Gangapurwala** and **justice SM Modak** in a batch of petitions.

The Bombay HC has given YES Bank **6 weeks** for the **implementation** of this order.

#### **Key Highlights:**

Bondholders, including financial institutions like **63 moons technologies ltd** and **Axis Trustee Services Ltd, Yes Bank AT-1 Bond Holders Association**, and a few retail individual investors, have filed these petitions.

Under the plan to revive YES Bank, a **State Bank of India (SBI)** led a consortium of **10 institutional investors** has invested **₹10,000 crores** in **YES Bank**.

RBI had suggested writing off the bonds citing **Basel-III norms**.

The Basel-III norms say that AT1 bonds have **no guarantee**.

Banks issue AT-1 bonds to support their **minimum capital requirements** to fulfill Basel-III norms.

#### **About AT-1 bonds:**

AT-1 bonds are **issued by banks** to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms.

AT-1 tier bonds are **unsecured, perpetual debt instruments**.

It can be written down or changed into equity if the bank issuing them **faces financial difficulty**.

#### **About YES Bank:**

Founded: 2004

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman: Sunil Mehta

MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar

### **RBI asks SBM Bank to stop all remittance transactions under LRS:**



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The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **directed** the **SBM Bank (India) Ltd** to **stop** all **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) transactions** with immediate effect till further orders. The **RBI** under **sections 35A and 36(1)(a) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, has directed SBM Bank to stop LRS transactions.

**Key highlights:**

Under the LRS scheme, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit funds abroad up to **\$ 2,50,000 per financial year (April - March)** for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.

The Scheme was **introduced** on **February 4, 2004**, with a limit of USD 25,000.

In **December 2018**, the **RBI** sanctioned the **Scheme of amalgamation** of the entire undertaking of SBM Bank (Mauritius) Limited, India with SBM Bank (India) Limited which was granted a license to carry on the business of banking in India through a wholly-owned subsidiary.

Meanwhile, the RBI has imposed a **penalty** of **Rs 26 lakh** on **Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad** for non-compliance with the directions issued by it on '**Co-operative Bank-Interest rate on deposits**' and '**Guidelines for the issue of ATM-cum-Debit cards by UCBs**'.

A **penalty** of **Rs 1.5 lakh** has also been imposed on **Samarth Sahakari Bank, Solapur** for contravention of certain norms.

**About SBM Bank India:**

Founded: 1 December 2018

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sidharth Rath .

SBM Bank India is a subsidiary of the State Bank of Mauritius.

It was the first bank to receive a banking license from India's banking regulator RBI to establish a universal banking business in the country as a wholly owned subsidiary.

**Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Mobilises over Rs.30000 Crore:**



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**Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**, has **mobilized** over **Rs 30,000 crore** for taking up projects in the **agriculture infrastructure sector** with a sanctioned amount of **Rs.15,000 crore** under AIF.

With the support of **3% interest subvention**, credit guarantee support through CGTMSE for a loan of up to **Rs.2 crore**, and facility of convergence with other Central and State Govt. The scheme, AIF is providing all-around financial support to the farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, farmer groups like **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**, **Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)**, etc., and many others to create post-harvest management infrastructure and build community farming asset throughout India.

**About AIF:**

AIF is a **financing facility** launched on **8th July 2020** under the visionary guidance of **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, for the **creation** of **post-harvest management infrastructure** and community farm assets.

Under this scheme, **Rs 1 lakh crore** is to be disbursed by the **financial year 2025-26** and the **interest subvention** and **credit guarantee assistance** will be given till the year 2032-33.

**About Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare :**

Cabinet Minister: Narendra Singh Tomar

Minister of State: Shobha Karandlaje, Kailash Choudhary

**SEBI slaps Rs 26 crore fine on Coffee Day Enterprises**

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** imposed a **penalty** of **Rs 26 crore on Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL)**, which runs Cafe Coffee Day, for the diversion of funds from subsidiaries to a company related to promoters.

The company has been directed to pay the fine **within 45 days**.

**Key Highlights :**



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SEBI has directed CDEL to take all **necessary steps** for recovery of entire dues **from Mysore Amalgamated Coffee Estates Ltd (MACEL)** and its related entities along with the due interest that is outstanding to the subsidiaries.

SEBI also directed the company to initiate steps to recover dues of **Rs 3,535 crore, the** amount diverted from **7 subsidiaries of CDEL to MACEL.**

According to SEBI's Whole time director, **Ashwani Bhatia**, out of the total dues of ₹3,535 crore as on July 31, 2019, the subsidiaries have managed to recover a paltry sum of **₹110.75 crores** till September 30, 2022 (within more than three years).

For recovering dues, SEBI has ordered the appointment of an **independent law firm** under the oversight of the **National Stock Exchange (NSE) within 60 days.**

MACEL is almost entirely owned by VGS' family with a **91.75% stake** & VGS' family is a promoter of CDEL.

#### **About SEBI :**

Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol.**

#### **About CDEL :**

CEO : Malavika Hegde

Coffee Day Trading is a subsidiary established in the year **2000** to provide companies with strong potential access to capital and resources.

#### **ADB & loan agreement to upgrade India's Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal:**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Nhava Sheva Freeport Terminal Private Limited



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(NSFTPL) have signed a **loan agreement** of \$131 million or Rs 1066 crore to **upgrade** the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal** located in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

The loan will be used to **improve** the **terminal's infrastructure** and **increase** its **container handling capacity**.

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

The financing package includes **\$61.4 million** from **ADB's ordinary capital resources** and **\$69.6 million** from **Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP)** administered by ADB.

The funds will be utilized to upgrade the existing berths and yards and to install additional **energy-efficient equipment** such as electric quay cranes.

These upgrades will attract vessels operating on **important international shipping lanes**, and help to make international trade more **efficient, transparent, and sustainable**.

**ABOUT NSFTPL:**

NSFTPL is a **special-purpose vehicle** jointly owned by **J M Baxi Ports and Logistics Limited (JMBPL)** and **CMA Terminals**.

**ABOUT ADB:**

Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

**PNB & Aadhar Housing Finance enter into a co-lending partnership to offer home loans:**

**Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd (AHFL)** have entered into a **co-lending agreement** to **offer home loans** at **competitive interest rates**.

**AIM:**

To reach out to a large section of society viz. **economically weaker, lower, and middle-income groups** for providing easy, convenient, and efficient home finance solutions to customers.



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The co-lending framework of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provides a tool for the Banks and NBFCs/HFCs to collaborate, and leverage their respective strengths to **provide affordable solutions** to the unserved and underserved sections of society.

### About PNB :

Founded: 19 May 1894

Headquarters: Delhi, India

MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel

Tagline: Name You Can Bank Upon

### About AHFL :

Established: 1990

MD & CEO : D S Tripathi

AHFL is one of the **largest affordable housing finance companies** in India servicing the home financing needs for purchase.

### India may peg nominal GDP growth at about 11% in the 2023/24 budget:

**India** is likely to peg its **nominal gross domestic product (GDP) growth** at around **11%** during the budget session, marking a slowdown from its estimate for the current fiscal year due to the prospect of weak exports.

### What is Nominal GDP growth?

Nominal GDP growth is the **value** of all the **final goods and services** at **current market prices**. Nominal GDP growth takes into account factors such as **inflation, price changes, changing interest rates**, and **money supply** at the **time of determining GDP**.

### Key Highlights :

The government expects nominal growth of **15.4%** for the current fiscal year that ends on **March 31, 2023**.



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India's gross tax collection growth rate will likely go up to around **8%** with a **nominal GDP** of **10.6%-11%**, compared with 14.5% in the current year, due to the base effect.

A fall in exports and a continued rise in imports to support domestic consumption would lead to a widening **current account deficit (CAD)**.

India's CAD was **4.4%** of GDP in the July-September quarter.

In the Economic Survey of 2022/23, the **real GDP growth** is expected to be pegged at **6.0% - 6.5%**

India aims to achieve a **fiscal deficit** of **4.5% of GDP by 2025/26**.

The current year's **fiscal deficit target** is pegged at **6.4%**.

**AU small finance bank launches innovative v=credit card offering platform – 'Swipe Up':**

India's largest Small Finance Bank, **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)**, launched the **first-of-its-kind platform** in the **credit card industry** - the **SwipeUp platform**.

With the help of this platform, credit cardholders of **any bank** can get an **upgraded card instantly**.

**Other bank credit cardholders** can upgrade their card to one of AU credit cards.

**About the SwipeUp platform :**

SwipeUp platform **primarily focuses** on customers who hold Credit Cards from any other Bank and can benefit from an **upgraded Credit Card matching** their current lifestyle.

It allows cardholders to **compare** their **existing credit cards within seconds**.

These cards will have a **higher credit limit, higher cashback, better reward points, zero membership fees**, and various other features that are an upgrade from their existing credit card.

The new range of cards offers a **high value proposition** to customers, the card **plastic is biodegradable** which is another step towards a **better environment**.

**Recent News :**

In 2023, AU SFB launched **LIT**, a **fully customizable credit card** to help people curate a card specific to their needs.

**About AU Small Finance Bank :**



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Founded: 1996 as AU Financiers (India) Ltd. In 2017, AU Financiers (India) Ltd became a small finance bank.

Headquarters: Jaipur, Rajasthan

Chairman: Raj Vikash Verma.

MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal

**Bank of Baroda introduces Vikram credit card dedicated to soldiers**

On the Occasion of **74th Republic Day celebrations**, Bank of Baroda's (BoB) subsidiary **BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)** has launched **Vikram Credit Card**, the contactless RuPay credit card dedicated to **Indian defense, paramilitary, and police personnel**.

**Mr. Vikramaditya Singh Khichi**, former Executive Director of Bank of Baroda, launched the Vikram Credit Card.

**Features & Benefits of Vikram Credit Card :**

It is a **lifetime-free credit card**

It has attractive reward points and an activation gift of a complimentary **OTT (Over-The-Top) subscription**.

It has an accidental death cover of **Rs 20 lakh**.

**1% Fuel Surcharge Waiver**

EMI (Equated Monthly installments) offers

Periodic merchant offers

Other add-on services

The **Indian Army (Yoddha)**, **Indian Navy (Varunah)**, **Indian Coast Guard (Rakshamah)**, and **Assam Rifles** already have exclusive co-branded credit cards with BFSL (The Sentinel).

**About Bob :**

Founded: 20 July 1908

Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India

MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha

**About BFSL :**





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Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Shailendra Singh

Tagline: Credit Reimagined

**RBI seeks views on securitization of stressed assets:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a discussion paper on the securitization of stressed assets to provide an alternative mechanism for the sale of bad loans, in addition to the existing asset reconstruction route.

The central bank has set out a dozen questions for stakeholders to deliberate and respond to before February 28.

The RBI had first said on September 30, 2022, that it will introduce a framework for the securitization of stressed assets.

Securitization includes the pooling of loans and promoting them to a particular function entity (SPE), which then points to securities backed by the mortgage pool.

One of the many greatest factors open for dialogue is whether or not the securitization of harassed loans ought to solely be restricted to non-performing loans or ought to embrace customary property, too, within the SMA class.

Particular point-out accounts or SMA is these loans that are due between zero and 90 days.

The central financial institution can be searching for feedback on which sort of property must be eligible for securitization like period loans throughout the identical asset universe, big-ticket loans above a sure threshold or small-ticket loans akin to business and residential mortgages, loans to MSMEs and unsecured retail property.

**PSBs, insurers likely drove India's first green Bond auction**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted the auction of green bonds, with a total of 8,000 crore worth of two securities, a 5-year bond and a 10-year bond being sold.

The 5-year and 10-year green bonds were issued at a premium compared to the similar existing maturity sovereign regular bonds.



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This is part of the **Rs 16,000 crore Sovereign Green Bond** auction that the RBI will conduct in the current financial year.

The **second green bond auction** will be conducted on **February 9, 2023**.

**About sovereign bond :**

A sovereign bond is a **specific debt instrument** issued by the government.

Just like other bonds, these also promise to pay the buyer a certain amount of interest for a stipulated number of years and **repay the face value on maturity**.

These bonds are a **source of government financing alongside tax revenue**.

**About Green premium :**

Green premium or greenium refers to the **negative difference** in spreads between **green and non-green bonds** with the same financial characteristics (currency, tenor issued by the same issuer).

The green premium suggests that green bonds have a **pricing advantage** to the issuer over conventional bonds.

These are bonds issued by **any sovereign entity, inter-governmental groups, or alliances and corporations**.

These bonds are launched with the **aim** that the proceeds of the bonds are utilized for projects classified as **environmentally sustainable**.

In **India**, the **framework for the sovereign green bond** was issued by the government on **November 9, 2022**.

The proceeds from the issuance of the green bond will be deposited in the **Consolidated Fund of India (CFI)**, and then funds from the CFI will be made available for **eligible green projects**.

The framework listed investments in **solar, wind, biomass, hydro energy projects, urban mass transportation projects (e.g. metro rail), green buildings, and pollution prevention and control projects**.

The government **excluded projects** such as **fossil fuels, nuclear power generation, and direct waste incineration**.



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The sovereign green bonds **issued** by the **Indian government** will not have any restrictions on foreign investment.

The proceeds will be used to fund other public sector projects which help in **reducing** the **carbon intensity** of the **economy**.

**HDFC life policy holders can now pay premiums with NPCI's UPI 123 pay**

HDFC Life has **collaborated** with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to **enable policyholders** to pay their **premiums** through a **unique voice-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) service, called UPI 123PAY.**

**About UPI 123PAY :**

UPI 123PAY is a **payment facility** through a predefined **IVR (Interactive Voice Response).**

This platform will **enable customers** to **make financial transactions** with or without an internet connection.

A customer has to initiate a secure call from their phone using the **UPI number 080 4516 3571** and complete the UPI onboarding formalities.

UPI 123PAY **enables smartphone** and **feature phone users** to digitally undertake a host of transactions based on **four approaches,**

Voice payment based on IVR number

Proximity sound-based payments

The missed call-based payment approach

App-based scan and pay on feature phones.

Customers can avail of this service in **various regional languages** such as Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Kannada, Tamil, etc.

**About HDFC Life :**

Founded: 2000

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Vibha Padalkar



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HDFC Life is a joint venture (JV) between **Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC)**, one of India's leading housing finance institutions, and **Abrdn**, a global investment company.

**About NPCI :**

Founded: 2008

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

**Equity mutual funds to adopt T + 2 redemption payment cycle from February 1 2023**

**All asset management companies (AMCs) in India** will move to **T+2 - shorthand for "trade date plus two days"**, redemption payment cycle for equity schemes from **February 1, 2023**, in a move to **benefit mutual fund investors**.

The announcement has come on the **heels of Indian equity markets** moving to a **T+1 settlement cycle for all stocks, shortening the settlement cycle** by a day and making the availability of funds a day sooner than at present.

**Key Highlights :**

To pass on this benefit to mutual fund investors, the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** has decided all asset management companies will move to a T+2 redemption payment cycle for **equity schemes** and implement this uniformly with effect from February 1, 2023.

The **T+1 settlement cycle** for Indian equity markets is a **global first**, and the mutual fund industry wants to pass on the benefit to investors by proactively adopting a T+2 redemption payment cycle for equity funds.

**About AMFI :**

Founded : 1995

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman : A Balasubramanian

Chief Executive : N. S. Venkatesh



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As of now, **42 AMCs** that are registered with **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, are **members** of AMFI and manage assets across equity, debt, and commodities.

**Moody's upgrade ratings for PNB, Canara bank and Bank of Baroda to 'Baa3'**

**Global rating agency Moody's Investors Service** has **upgraded** the **long-term local and foreign currency deposit ratings** of **Bank of Baroda (BOB), Canara Bank, and Punjab National Bank (PNB)** from "**Ba1**" to "**Baa3**", reflecting improving credit profile and macro economic conditions.

The global credit ratings agency also upgraded the **Baseline Credit Assessment (BCAs)** of these 3 banks to ba3 from b1.

**Key Highlights :**

The upgrading of ratings and BCA reflects an improvement in **India's macro profile** to "Moderate" from "Moderate" and the **improving credit metrics of the four banks**.

The ratings upgrades of the four banks reflect their **improved asset quality** and **profitability**.

The rating agency flagged risks from **rising interest rates** and moderation in the pace of the country's economic growth.

Still, **loans to small and medium-size enterprises** continue to pose **risks** to the banks' asset quality as Moody's expects this segment to be the **most vulnerable to interest rate rises**.

The **gross non-performing loan ratios** as of the end of **September 2022** for **SBI, BOB, Canara and PNB declined** sharply from levels in **March 2018**.

**About Moody's Investors Service :**

Founded: 1909

Headquarters : New York, United States.

Moody's Investors Service, often referred to as Moody's, is the **bond credit rating business of Moody's Corporation**, representing the company's traditional line of business and its historical name.

**India sells first green bonds worth Rs.8000 crore at 5-6 bps below sovereign yields:**



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**India sold its first sovereign green bonds** worth a total of **80 billion rupees (\$979.61 million)** at yields below comparable government bonds.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has auctioned **₹4,000 crore worth five year bonds** at a coupon rate of **7.10%**, five basis points below the five-year sovereign yield.

Another **₹4,000 crore in 10-year bonds** at **coupon rate** of **7.10%** at coupon rate of **7.29%**, which is **6 basis points below** comparable government securities.

The proceeds from the sale of the green bonds are to be used for 'green' projects such as **solar power, wind** and **small hydro projects** and other public sector projects that help **reduce the economy's carbon footprint**.

The RBI announced a **fully accessible route (FAR)** for investments by non-residents in government securities including **sovereign green bonds**.

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**Paytm & Citibank tie-up for co-branded credit card - Paytm CITI card**

**Citibank** and payments platform **Paytm ( One97 Communications)**, have ended their partnership for a **co-branded credit card Paytm CITI Card**, ahead of the merger of Citibank's consumer banking business with **Axis Bank**.

Both Citibank and Paytm have written to cardholders informing them that the co-branded credit card will be **shut down**, and offering them other cards they could opt for.

**Key Highlights :**

For **existing Citi Rewards Credit Card customers**, the bank has offered to **replace** the Paytm Citi cards with **Citi Cash Back Credit Card**.



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The consent to swap to another Citi-branded credit Card will also serve as consent for transfer of the cardholder's banking relationship with Citibank to Axis Bank.

**Failure to consent**, will lead to **closure** of the Citi Paytm credit card effective **January 30**, as Citi India will **no longer be able** to provide services on the Citi Paytm Credit Card.

In **March 2022**, Axis Bank had announced acquiring Citigroup's retail banking business in India for **₹12,325 crore**, subject to requisite approvals.

**About Citibank India :**

Founded : 1902

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Ashu Khullar

Citibank India is a **foreign bank in India** with a full service onshore platform.

It is a subsidiary of **Citigroup**, a multinational financial services corporation **headquartered** in **New York City, United States**.

**About Paytm :**

Founded : August 2010

Headquarters : , Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Founder & CEO : Vijay Shekhar Sharma

**Star Health and Allied Insurance & Punjab National Bank enter into long term Bancassurance Tie-up**

**Star Health and Allied Insurance**, India's first standalone health insurance company, has renewed its **strategic corporate agency tie-up** with **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** for a **long-term period**.

**About the Agreement :**



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Under this agreement, Star Health's health insurance products will be available through the bank's extensive distribution network of about **10,000 branches** across the country, providing customers with a **one-stop solution** for all their health insurance needs.

The partnership will enable both PNB & Star Health, to **further increase insurance penetration pan India** while making health insurance **easily accessible across regions**.

### **About Star Health and Allied Insurance :**

Founded : 2006

Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Chairman & CEO : V. Jagannathan

### **About PNB :**

Founded : 19 May 1894

Headquarters : Delhi, India

MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel

## Feb 2023 – Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs Banking & Finance

SBI raises Rs 9,718 crore in a second tranche of infrastructure bonds at 7.70%

- The country's largest lender, **State Bank of India (SBI)** has **raised Rs 9,718 crore** through its **second infrastructure bond issuance** at a **coupon rate of 7.70% per annum** for the **15-year money**.
- The coupon rate of 7.70% represents a spread of **17 basis points** over the corresponding **government security yield curve (G-Sec curve)** provided by the **Financial Benchmarks of India Limited**.
- Prior to the latest bond sale, SBI had issued **10-year infrastructure bonds** worth **Rs 10,000 crore** at a coupon of **7.51% on December 6, 2022**.





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### Key Highlights :

- The fund proceeds will be utilised for **enhancing long-term resources** for **funding infrastructure** and **affordable housing**.
- The coupon is the interest rate **periodically paid** out to investors.
- The investors included mutual funds, provident and pension funds and insurance companies.
- This issuance is significant considering this is the **first time** a **domestic bank** is issuing a **15-year infrastructure bond**, helping it in long-term lending to the infrastructure segment.
- Infrastructure bonds are securities that are exempt from the computation of **net demand and time liabilities (NDTL)** – a proxy for deposits.
- Hence, they are not subject to **cash reserve ratio (CRR)** and **statutory liquidity ratio (SLR)** requirements.

### About G-Sec :

- Government Securities, popularly known as G-Sec Bonds, are **debt instruments** issued by the **Central government** to **meet its fiscal needs**.
- The government sells the bonds and uses the funds to pay for **daily projects, special infrastructure, or military operations**.

### About SBI :

- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

### Nigeria launches domestic card scheme AfriGo to boost the cashless economy

- The **Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)** governor **Godwin Emefiele** launched a **domestic card scheme AfriGo** to **boost the cashless economy** & **rival foreign cards like Mastercard and Visa**.

### Aim :



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- To enhance its drive to **make Africa's biggest economy** a **cashless society** and **save** the country **foreign transaction fees**.

**Key Highlights :**

- Nigeria was joining **China, Russia, India** and **Turkey** with a domestic card scheme.
- AfriGo is **owned by CBN and Nigerian banks**.
- AfriGo is meant to provide more options for domestic consumers in a "**cost-effective and competitive manner**".
- Nigeria, Africa's biggest economy, has more than **200 million people** and the majority still use cash because they live in **rural areas** where there are no banks.
- To promote "**financial inclusion**" in remote areas, the CBN announced the launch of a **cash swap programme** introducing a redesigned version of the local currency, the naira.
- **Africa's first digital currency**, the **e-naira**, was launched in **October 2021**.

**About Nigeria :**

- President : Muhammadu Buhari
- Capital : Abuja
- Currency : Naira

**RenewBuy launches customised health insurance plan - RenewBuy Health Wellness plan**

- **RenewBuy** has **launched its first line** of **customised health insurance products**, the **RenewBuy Health Wellness plan** with a **focus** on the **large uninsured segment** beyond the **tier 1 markets**.

**Aim :**

- To bridge that gap and has introduced multiple benefits in **pre-hospitalization** and **Outpatient Department (OPD) treatment** with the newly launched product.

**About RenewBuy Health Wellness plan :**



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- The product offers **new-age health insurance benefits, available in three variants- Gold Plan, Silver Plan, and Wellness Plan** ranging from **coverage of 2-5 lakhs**.
- Up to **70% lower premium** is offered for **senior citizens**, and up to **50% lower premium** is offered for those up to **59 years of age, Maternity cover** with a significantly **shorter waiting period**.
- The plan offers OPD benefits, **unlimited doctor on-call consultation, free lab tests, heavy discounts for offline OPD consultation, modern treatment under a very low sum insured, no cap on room rent**, along with a range of other benefits ( subject to certain T&C).

### About RenewBuy :

- Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana
- CEO : Balachander Shekhar

### IMF expects Indian economy to grow at 6.1% in 2023 & 6.8% in 2022

- According to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, the **Indian economy** is expected to grow by **6.1% in 2023** and **6.8% in 2024**.

### Reason :

- IMF Chief Economist and Research Department Director **Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas** attributed the decline in India's growth rate during 2023 largely due to **external headwinds**.
- The growth of the Indian economy is set to decline from **6.8% in 2022** to 6.1% in 2023.

### Key Highlights :

- The IMF World Outlook further stated that global growth is projected to fall from around **3.4% in 2022** to **2.9% in 2023** and rise to **3.1% in 2024**.
- The growth in **emerging and developing Asia** is likely to rise to **5.3% in 2023** and **5.2% in 2024** after the slowdown to 4.3% in 2022 due to China's uncertain economic conditions.
- The **Chinese economy** is projected to grow by **5.2% in 2023**, which represents rapidly improving mobility & it will fall to 4.5% in 2024.



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- The economy of the **United States** will slow down to **1.4%** in 2023 due to a hike in the Federal Reserve interest-rate.
- **Emerging markets and developing economies** will grow by **4%** in 2023 and **4.2%** in 2024.
- The IMF predicted that global inflation would decrease to **6.6%** in 2023 from 8.8% in 2022.

### About IMF :

- Founded : 27 December 1945
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- MD : Kristalina Georgieva
- Membership : 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)

### Infibeam Avenues becomes India's first payments platform to process retail CBDC transactions

- **Infibeam Avenues's** flagship payments brand - **CCAvenue**, has become the first payment gateway player to process **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** or Digital Rupee transactions for online retail merchants.
- CBDC, is a **robust, efficient, trusted** and legal tender based real-time payment option.
- The aim of the Indian government and the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in launching the Digital Rupee is to reduce the **₹32 lakh crore** of cash in circulation and to save costs associated with cash like currency printing, solve fake currency problems, avoid wear and tear, etc.

### Key Highlights :

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has identified **8 banks** for phase-wise participation in the retail pilot project for CBDC.
- The **first phase** includes 4 banks, namely the **State Bank of India**, the **ICICI Bank**, the **Yes Bank** and the **IDFC First Bank** across **Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru** and **Bhubaneswar**.



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- In the **second phase**, the pilot will be carried out by **Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank** and **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, with the facility being extended to Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla.
- IAL also launched the **CCAvenue Mobile App** - the world's most advanced omni-channel payment platform with the revolutionary TapPay solution.

### Note :

- Recently, Infibeam Avenues Limited received the **Payment Aggregator license** from **RBI**, followed by a perpetual license to operate as **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)** under the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** from RBI.

### About Infibeam Avenues Limited :

- Founded : 2007
- Headquarters : GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India
- Founder & MD : Vishal Mehta

### Canara HSBC Life Insurance Launches its new ULIP product “Wealth Edge”

- **Canara HSBC Life Insurance** has launched “**Wealth Edge**”, a **Unit-Linked Individual Savings Insurance Plan (ULIP)**.

### About Wealth Edge :

- Wealth Edge has been designed to help fulfil the life goals of an individual by providing utmost flexibility.
- The policy also offers options of **single pay** and **limited pay** for all three plans, along with death and maturity benefits.
- The product offers **3 different plans** depending on an individual's need and current requirements.



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- For **Invest Plus**, the **minimum** and **maximum entry ages** are **0 years** and **70 years**, respectively.
- For **Premium Plus** and **Life Plus**, the minimum entry ages are **18 years**, while the maximum entry ages are **50 years** and **70 years**, respectively.
- The **maturity ages** for Premium Plus are minimum **28** and maximum **80** years, while for Life Plus, the maturity age is up to **100 years**.
- The **minimum annual premium** is **Rs. 1.25 lakh per annum** on a yearly mode, and Rs 16,667 on a monthly mode for all the three options.
- The **minimum premium** comes to **Rs. 75,000** on a half-yearly mode and Rs. 43,750 on a quarterly mode.
- The plan allows users to select from 8 different investment funds and access the accumulated capital as needed through the **Systematic Withdrawal Option (SWO) / Milestone Withdrawal Option (MWO)**.

**About Canara HSBC Life Insurance :**

- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana, India
- MD & CEO : Anuj Mathur
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance was a joint venture between **Canara Bank (51%)**, **HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) Holdings Limited (26%)** and **Punjab National Bank (23%)**.

**RBI partially relaxes remittance transaction restrictions on SBM Bank (India) till Mar 15, 2023**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **partially relaxed** the restrictions it had imposed on **SBM Bank (India) Ltd** to stop all transactions under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**.
- This relaxation, available only till **March 15, 2023**.
- It has been decided to partially relax the restrictions by allowing **Automated Teller Machine (ATM)/ Point of Sale (POS) transactions** under LRS through Know Your Customer (KYC) compliant internationally active debit cards issued by the bank



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- On January 23, 2023 RBI had asked SBM Bank (India), the Indian subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius, to immediately **stop transactions** under LRS, following certain material supervisory concerns observed in the bank.

### About LRS :

- The scheme was initially introduced on **February 4, 2004**, with a limit of **USD 25,000**.
- LRS refers to **external remittances** by resident individuals for purposes like studies abroad, medical treatment, maintenance of close relatives, and investments and travel.
- The LRS limit has been later revised in stages consistent with prevailing macro and micro economic conditions.

### About SBM Bank India :

- Founded : 1st December 2018
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sidharth Rath
- It is a **subsidiary** of the State Bank of Mauritius.
- It was the **first bank** to receive a **banking licence** from India's banking regulator **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to establish a universal banking business in the country as a wholly owned subsidiary.

### Digital payments record 24% annual growth at end of September 2022: RBI data

- As per **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) index** that measures the adoption of online transactions, **Digital payments** across the country registered a growth of **24.13%** in a year through **September 2022**.
- The newly-constituted **RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)** stood at **377.46** in **September 2022** against 349.30 in March 2022 and 304.06 in September 2021.
- The RBI-DPI Index has increased across all parameters driven by significant growth in payment infrastructure and payment performance across the country over the period.



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- The RBI had announced the construction of a composite RBI-DPI in **March 2018** as a base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across India.

### About RBI-DPI Index :

- The index comprises **5 broad parameters** that enable the measurement of the deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods.

### List of 5 Parameters :

1. Payment Enablers (weight 25%)
  2. Payment Infrastructure Demand-side factors (10%)
  3. Payment Infrastructure Supply-side factors (15%)
  4. Payment Performance (45%)
  5. Consumer Centricity (5%).
- The index is published on a **semi-annual basis** from March 2021 onwards with a lag of 4 months.

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### Australia to remove British monarchy from new bank notes

- Australia** plans to **drop** the **head** of the **British royal family** from its **five-dollar (\$5 banknote)** in favour of a design that honours the culture of the country's Indigenous people.
- The new note will **replace** the portrait of the **late Queen Elizabeth II** with a tribute to the First Australians, rather than an image of King Charles III.





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- Earlier in **Sep 2022**, the government had already hinted shortly after the Queen's death, that it wouldn't use her son's image on the new banknote.
- The decision followed a consultation with the Federal government.
- The other side of the note will continue to feature the **Australian Parliament**.
- Along with **Canada, New Zealand** and other former colonies of the British Empire, Australia still counts the monarch as its head of state.
- Charles III is **King** of the **United Kingdom** (UK) and the 14 other Commonwealth realms.

### About Australia :

- Prime Minister : Anthony Albanese
- Capital : Canberra
- Currency : Australian dollar (\$)

### New India Assurance (NIA) Launches 'Pay As You Drive' Vehicle Insurance Policy

- **New India Assurance (NIA)** has launched a '**Pay as You Drive**' (PAYD) policy, which offers a **comprehensive motor insurance policy** that charges a premium based on the usage of the vehicle.
- The policy has **two components - third-party cover** and **own-damage cover**.

### Key features:

- Discounts on renewals, coverage beyond distance limit, and enhanced protections such as **nil depreciation, roadside help, return to invoice**, etc.
- For instance, the customer can save money through discounts on renewal premiums, provided the vehicle runs within the specified kilometres.
- Recently, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has allowed insurance companies to launch telematics-based motor insurance covers, like PAYD and **pay how you drive (PHYD)**, enabling vehicle owners to decide how much to spend on their car insurance.

### About NIA :



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- Established : 1919 (nationalised in 1973)
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman & Managing Director : Neeraj Kapur
- The NIA is a central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India (GoI).
- It is **largest nationalised general insurance company** of **India** on the basis of gross premium collection inclusive of foreign operations"

### BOB launches "Bank of Baroda Rashtrabhasha Samman"

- One of India's premier public sector banks, **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, announced the establishment of the '**Bank of Baroda Rashtrabhasha Samman**'.
- The Bank launched this award to stimulate and **promote literary works** in Indian languages.
- The use of all Indian languages is crucial in a multilingual country like India since it adds to the nation's diversity and rich legacy.

### About 'Bank of Baroda Rashtrabhasha Samman' :

- The 'Bank of Baroda Rashtrabhasha Samman' aspires to **encourage mutual exchange** among Indian languages and make the best **Indian literature** available to the entire audience in Hindi.
- The prize **promotes literary translation** in the country.
- This prize will be given to both the original author of the selected literary works and the translator who translated the book from the original regional language into Hindi.
- Every year, the original author and translator of the prize-winning book will receive **Rs. 21.00 lakh** and **Rs. 15.00 lakh**, respectively, under this award.

### About BoB :

- Established : 20 July 1908
- Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO : Sanjiv Chadha



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- It is the **second largest public sector bank** in India after State Bank of India

**Edelweiss Mutual Fund Introduces launches India's first passive short-term index fund**

- **Edelweiss Mutual Fund** has launched India's first open-ended passive short-duration index scheme, called **Edelweiss CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index Fund**.
- The scheme will invest in a diversified portfolio of **Indian Government Bonds (IGBs)** and **State Development Loans (SDLs)**.

**About Edelweiss Mutual Fund :**

- Edelweiss Mutual Funds, **managed by Edelweiss Asset Management Limited**.
- Edelweiss Financial Services Ltd. is the parent company which is in control of the entire group of companies.
- Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Edelweiss AMC : Radhika Gupta

**Reliance Retail becomes the first Indian retailer to accept the Digital Rupee**

- **Reliance Retail** has become the **first Indian retailer** to introduce **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**, also known as the **digital rupee (e₹-R)** at its stores.
- The launch of this facility was in collaboration with **Innoviti Technologies, ICICI Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- At the launch event, **V Subramaniam**, Director of Reliance Retail Ltd, stated that just like the use of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the digital currency will also become a part of India's payment ecosystem.
- The firm has piloted the use of the Digital Rupee in one store in Mumbai and plans to make this facility available in all its stores in Mumbai within the next 3 to 4 months, by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms.
- Reliance was also the **first** to **introduce dynamic QR-based** in-store UPI payments.

**Key Highlights :**

- Reliance Retail has **17,000 stores** spread across 7,000 cities in India.



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- Subramaniam noted that around **70%** of transactions at the company's stores are **digital**, with over 30% of these being through UPI and 30% through credit cards.

### About e₹-R :

- The Reserve Bank of India first introduced the CBDC on **December 1, 2022**, for retail markets across cities in a pilot mode.
- It was initially rolled out in **4 cities**, including **Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru,** and **Bhubaneswar**, and was later extended to 9 other cities.
- 8 banks, including ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, have been identified for phase-wise participation in this pilot.
- Customers of these banks can transact with e₹ through a **digital wallet** offered by their bank.
- Digital Rupee Retail offers key features like convenience and security while **person-to-person (P2P)** and **person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions**.

### About Reliance Retail :

- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Reliance Retail is an Indian retail company and a **subsidiary** of **Reliance Industries**.

### UPI transactions rise 8.03 billion in January

- According to the data by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**-based transactions hit **8.03 billion** in **January 2023** a substantial increase from the 7.82 billion transactions recorded in December 2022.
- The value of transactions hit nearly **Rs 13 trillion** in Jan 2023.
- The rise in UPI transactions coincides with the growth in digital lending.

### Key Highlights :

- In 2022, Digital payments show an increase of 76% in transactions and 91% in value.



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- The Economic Survey 2023 also highlighted the economic growth of the country led by digital infrastructure and how digital enablements are nurturing India's vision of a **\$1 trillion digital economy** by 2025.

### About UPI :

- UPI is an instant **real-time payment system** developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).  
The interface facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions

### GST council to meet on February 18 2023 chaired by FM Nirmala Sitharaman

- The **49th meeting** of the **Goods & Service Tax (GST) Council** is scheduled to be held in **New Delhi** on **February 18, 2023**.
- The GST Council meeting will be chaired by Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- The council is likely to take up issues relating to **taxation on 'pan masala'** and **'gutka' companies**, setting up of appellate tribunals, and GST levy on online gaming, casino, and horse racing.
- The **48th Meeting** of the GST Council was held on **December 17, 2022**, through video conference, under the chairpersonship of the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

### About GST Council :

- Chairperson : Union Finance Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman)
- On **Sep 12, 2006**, the Union Cabinet Chaired by **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** approved the establishment of the GST Council.
- As per **Article 279A (1)** of the amended Constitution, the president should approve to constitute within 60 days of the commencement of Article 279A.



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**NABARD estimates a credit potential of Rs 34082 Cr under the priority sector for J&K**

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and rural development (NABARD)** has estimated a **credit potential of Rs 34082 crore** under the priority sector for the Union Territory (UT) of **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** for the year 2023-24.
- The focus paper was launched in the **Credit Seminar of NABARD**.
- During the seminar, as per paper credit estimates for various sub-sectors of the priority sector were presented, which included **Rs 18,732 crore** for agriculture (Rs 17,312 crore in farm credit, Rs 467 crore for agriculture infrastructure, Rs 676 crore for food and agro-processing) and **Rs 11,167 crore** for MSME segment 2023-24.

**About NABARD :**

- Founded: 12 July 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Shri Shaji K V
- NABARD is an apex **regulatory body** for the overall regulation of **regional rural banks** and apex cooperative banks in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI).
- It was established on the recommendations of the **B. Sivaraman Committee** (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament)

**RBI imposes monetary penalty on North East Small Finance Bank Limited**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹39.50 lakhs** on **North East Small Finance Bank Limited**.

**Reason :**

- For non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Prudential Norms on Income Recognition, Asset Classification, and Provisioning about Advances - Divergence in NPA



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Accounts' and 'Prudential Guidelines on Capital Adequacy and Market Discipline-New Capital Adequacy Framework (NCAF)'.  
• This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of

**Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**

### About North East Small Finance Bank Limited :

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Guwahati, Assam
- Managing Director & CEO. Ms. Kalita.

### RBI imposes monetary penalty on the Bank of Baroda

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹30.00 lakh** on the **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** for non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India – (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Direction, 2016' and Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016.
- This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with section 46 (4) (i) and Section 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

### About BoB :

- Founded: 20 July 1908
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat
- CEO: Sanjiv Chadha.

### SEBI Strengthened framework for green bonds

- Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** strengthened the **framework** for **green bonds** by introducing the concept of **'blue'** and **'yellow' bonds** as new modes of sustainable finance.



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- Blue bonds relate to **water management** and the **marine sector**, while yellow bonds pertain to **solar energy**.
- These are sub-categories of **green debt securities**.

### Key Highlights :

- For this, the SEBI amended norms governing the issue and listing of non-convertible securities.
- These measures have been taken in the backdrop of increasing interest in sustainable finance in India as well as around the globe, and with a view to align the extant framework for green debt securities with the updated **Green Bond Principles (GBP)** recognised by IOSCO.
- SEBI defines Green Debt Securities as debt securities issued for **raising funds** that are to be utilised for projects or assets falling under certain categories.
- Indian companies raised nearly **USD 7 billion** through **ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance)** and green bonds in **2021** compared to USD 1.4 billion in 2020 and USD 4 billion in 2019.
- With regard to the period of subscription, SEBI stated that a public issue of debt securities or non-convertible redeemable preference shares would be kept open for a minimum of **3** and a maximum of **10 working days**.

### About GBP :

- The GBP seeks to support issuers in financing environmentally sound and sustainable projects that foster a **net-zero emissions economy** and protect the environment.
- The GBP, updated as of **June 2021**, are **voluntary process guidelines** that recommend transparency and disclosure and promote integrity in the development of the Green Bond market.

### About Green Bonds :

- Green bonds are **fixed-income financial instruments** which are used to fund projects that have positive environmental and/or climate benefits.





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- It can finance various projects, most often related to **renewable energy** (e.g. wind, solar, hydro), recycling, and clean transportation.

**About SEBI :**

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Gol.

**Fund Of Funds For Startups Committed INR7,980 Cr To 99 AIFs Till Dec 31**

- As on 31st December 2022, under the **Fund of Funds Scheme (FFS)** for **startups**, **Rs. 7,980 crore** has been committed to **99 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**.
- Of this, ₹3,400 crore has been disbursed to 72 AIFs which have, in turn, made investments of ₹14,077 crore in 791 start-ups.
- As reported by SIDBI, FFS has played an important role in wealth creation, employment generation, inclusive growth and recognition for startups.
- Further, a total of **₹477.25 crore** has been approved to **133 incubators** under the **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)** of which ₹211.63 crore has been disbursed as on December 31, 2022.

**Key Highlights :**

- **Karnataka, Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana** and **Tamil Nadu (TN)** are the **top 5 states** in terms of investments received under the FFS scheme.
- Karnataka secured **INR 4,687 Cr** for 240 startups, Maharashtra bagged **INR 3,426 Cr** for 176 startups, Delhi received **INR 2,254 Cr** for 138 startups, Haryana bagged **INR 1,148 Cr** for 60 startups, and TN received **INR 826 Cr** investments for 29 startups.

**About FFS :**



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- The FFS Scheme was established in **2016** in a move to prop up the Indian start-up ecosystem and enable access to domestic capital.
- A corpus of **₹10,000 crore** was earmarked for the scheme, with contributions spread over the 14 th and 15 th Finance Commission cycle based on progress of implementation.
- Under FFS, the Scheme does not directly invest in startups, instead provides capital to SEBI-registered AIFs, known as daughter funds, who in turn invest money in growing Indian startups through equity and equity-linked instruments.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has been given the **mandate** of operating this Fund through selection of suitable daughter funds and overseeing the disbursement of committed capital.
- AIFs supported under FFS are required to invest **at least 2 times** of the amount committed under FFS in startups.

**About Ministry of Commerce & Industry :**

- Cabinet Minister : Piyush Goyal
- Minister of State : Anupriya Patel, Som Parkash

**Instant personal loan up to Rs 5 lakh with zero pre-closure charges launched by Fi Money**

Money management platform **Fi Money** has launched its **lending services** to offer users **instant credit**, in partnership with **Federal Bank**.

- The **instant personal loan service** will provide borrowers with immediate access to credit through a paperless and pre-approved application process.
- The instant loans will be rolled out in a phased manner, with a certain number of users gaining initial access to avail credit from **Rs 50,000 up to Rs 5 lakh**, followed by a full-scale launch for all users in the coming weeks.

**About Fi Money :**

- Co-founder and CEO : Sujith Narayanan



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- Fi is a **Neo Bank in India** with a financial app that has a digital savings bank account with features that help you get better with your money.

### About Federal Bank :

- Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala
- CEO : Shyam Srinivasan
- Tagline : Your Perfect Banking Partner

### RailTel Corp receives ₹253.35 crore project from SBI for 4G connectivity to ATMs

- **RailTel Corporation of India Ltd (RailTel)**, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the **Ministry of Railways**, has received a Work Order from the **State Bank of India (SBI)** for providing **4G LTE (Long Term Evolution) connectivity** to **15,000** offsite Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) spread across India.
- The work order, **valid for 5 years**, is valued at **Rs 253.35 crore (excluding taxes)**.

### What is LTE?

- LTE is a **fourth-generation (4G) wireless standard** that provides increased network capacity and speed for cellphones and other cellular devices compared with third-generation (3G) technology.

### Key Highlights :

- RailTel has been selected through competitive bidding and this SBI project is one of the largest projects providing **last-mile connectivity** on **4G LTE technology** in India.
- The project also includes the establishment of a **Network Operations Centre (NOC)**, backhaul connectivity to the **Data centre & Disaster Recovery centre (DC-DR)** of SBI, a live dashboard for SLA monitoring, 24X7 helpdesk, etc.

### About RailTel :

- Founded : September 2000
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India



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- Chairman and Managing Director : Sanjai Kumar
- It is one of the **largest neutral telecom infrastructure & Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Solutions & Services providers** in the country, owning a pan-India optic fibre network covering several towns & cities and rural areas of the country

**SBI gave Rs 21,000-cr loans to Adani Group firms**

- Country's largest public lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has given **loans** of as much as **Rs 21,000 crore (\$2.6 billion)** to **Adani Group firms**.
- SBI's exposure includes **\$200 million** from its overseas units.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had asked lenders for details of their exposure to the conglomerate following a rout in group companies' stock prices.
- The exposure by various financiers to companies controlled by Gautam Adani has come under increasing scrutiny after their shares plunged following a scathing report from **US-based Hindenburg Research**.
- State-run **Punjab National Bank's** exposure to Adani companies was **70 billion rupees**.
- Private sector **IDFC First Bank Ltd** stated in an exchange filing that the funded outstanding exposure to the Adani Group was **less than 0.1%** of its total loans.
- Meanwhile, **IndusInd Bank Ltd** with a loan book of **29 trillion rupees** stated its exposure to the conglomerate accounted for 0.5% of its loan book.

**About SBI :**

- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

**About Adani Group :**

- Founded : 20 July 1988
- Headquarters : Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman : Gautam Adani



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**Bajaj Allianz Launches Customisable Health Policy - My healthcare plan**

- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** announced the launch of its modular health insurance product 'My Health Care Plan', an umbrella product for **customizable packages**.

**About 'My Health Care Plan':**

- My Health Care Plan offers Sum Insured (SI) options up to **Rs 5 crore**.
- The policy is offered on an individual and floater basis with a **policy term** of **1 year, 2 years, or 3 years**.
- The plan also consists of mandatory coverages like in-patient hospitalisation expenses, pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses, modern treatment methods and advancement in technologies, organ donor expenses, ayurvedic and homeopathic hospitalisation cover, maternity package expenses, and airlift cover, among others.
- The policy also offers **three optional covers** - loss of income cover, major illness and accident multiplier covers, and international cover.

**About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance :**

- Founded : 2001
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : CEO: Tapan Singhel

**IDFC to invest ₹2,200 crore as growth capital in IDFC First Bank**

- The board of **IDFC Limited** gave its **in-principle approval** to infuse **₹2,200 crore** into **IDFC First Bank**, providing growth capital to the lender.
- The capital infusion will take IDFC's shareholding in the bank to up to **40%** from the existing 36.38%.
- IDFC Ltd and IDFC Financial Holding have begun the process of **merger with IDFC First Bank**.
- Further, the IDFC board has declared a special interim dividend of **Rs 11 per share**, due to which the Government of India (GoI), the largest shareholder in IDFC, would receive a payout of **Rs 287 crore**.



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- In **December 2021**, the boards of IDFC, IDFC Financial Holding Company and IDFC First Bank had accorded an in-principle approval to merge IDFC and IDFC Financial Holding with IDFC First Bank.

### About IDFC First Bank :

- Founded : October 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan.
- Tagline : Always You First
- IDFC First Bank is an Indian private sector bank formed by the **merger** of the banking arm of **Infrastructure Development Finance Company** and **Capital First**, an Indian non-bank financial institution.
- It is the **first universal bank** to offer monthly interest credit on savings accounts, lifetime free credit cards with dynamic and low annual percentage rates.

### Number of payment acceptance devices under PIDF expands to 1.87 crore as of Dec 2022

- As per the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's)** latest status update number of **payment acceptance devices**, including physical and digital, deployed under the **Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme** as on December 31, 2022, stood at about **1.87 crore**.
- The **number of physical devices** (PoS, mPoS (mobile PoS), GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network), etc) and **digital devices** (inter-operable QR code-based payments such as UPI QR, Bharat QR, etc.) stood at **4,85,415** (2,45,942 as at September-end 2021) and **1,82,88,974** (55,36,678), respectively.

### About PIDF Scheme :

- The PIDF Scheme, **operationalised** by the RBI from **January 1, 2021**, subsidises the deployment of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure (physical and digital modes) in **tier-3 to tier-6 centres** and northeastern states of the country.



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- From **August 26, 2021**, beneficiaries of **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme)** in Tier-1 and Tier-2 centres are also covered.
- Further, **J & K** and **Ladakh** regions are included as special focus areas from June 9, 2022.
- The PIDF corpus stood at ₹788.20 crore as on December 31, 2022 (₹613.89 crore in November 2021).
- Contribution to PIDF is made by the RBI, authorised card networks and card issuing banks.

### **Bajaj Allianz launches industry-first 'Global Health Care' plan**

- '**Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** in collaboration with **Allianz Partners** has announced the launch of a new health insurance product '**Global Health Care**'.
- It is a **comprehensive health indemnity insurance product** that provides seamless cover to the policyholder for planned as well as emergency treatment available for domestic and international usage.
- The **Unique Selling Proposition (USP)** of the product is that it allows insured members to plan any treatment abroad or in India availing the best medical facilities anywhere across the globe.

### **Key Highlights :**

- The product offers one of the widest sums insured starting from **₹37.50 lakh to ₹3.75 crores** (\$100,000 to \$ 1,000,000).
- It is available with two plans namely '**Imperial Plan**' and '**Imperial Plus Plan**' offering international and domestic Covers.
- The primary differentiator between these plans is that the Imperial Plus is a **high-end variant** with higher sum insured options offered along with enhanced features.
- The domestic cover for 'Imperial Plan' and 'Imperial Plus Plan' provides **in-patient hospitalisation treatment**, and the pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses.
- It offers policyholders the option to choose between worldwide cover, including the USA and exclusion from it.
- This product is offered to resident Indians with a sum insured available on an individual basis for **one year**.



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### About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance :

- Founded : 2001
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : CEO: Tapan Singhel

### Indians remitted Nearly USD 2 billion under LRS scheme in Nov 2022 -RBI

#### Data

- According to the latest data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Indians remitted close to **\$2 billion** in November, 2022 under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) **liberalised remittance scheme (LRS)**.
- **Outward remittances** under the scheme jumped **29% to \$1.99 billion** compared to \$1.54 billion in Nov 2021.
- Sequentially, outward remittances under the scheme were up about **3.5%**.

#### Key Highlights :

- International travel continued to remain over **50%** of the entire outward remittance by Indians under the scheme.
- In **November,2021** outward remittances for international travel touched **\$1.03 billion**, up 2.25 times from the year-ago period.
- According to the RBI data, **outward remittance** for maintenance of close relatives was **\$305.35 million** in November,2022 followed by \$220.90 million on gifts, and \$211.65 million for overseas education.

#### About LRS :

- The scheme was initially introduced on **February 4, 2004**, with a limit of **USD 25,000**.
- LRS refers to **external remittances** by resident individuals for purposes like studies abroad, medical treatment, maintenance of close relatives, and investments and travel.
- The LRS limit has been later revised in stages consistent with prevailing **macro and micro economic conditions**.





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**Muthoot Finance launches NCD issue for 500 crore**

- **Muthoot Finance Ltd** is planning to raise around **Rs 500 crores** through public issue of secured redeemable **non-convertible debentures** (Secured NCDs) of the face value of **Rs 1,000 each**.
- The issue comes with a **base size** of **Rs 100 crore** with an option to retain oversubscription up to Rs 400 crore, aggregating up to a **tranche limit** of **Rs 500 crore**.
- The NCD (Non-Convertible Debenture) issue will be open from **February 8 till March 3, 2023**.
- Muthoot Finance has hiked the interest rates by **0.35-0.50%** compared with the last issue, which was launched in **November 2022**.

**Key Highlights :**

- The NCDs have been **rated AA+** with a stable outlook by ICRA Ltd and are proposed to be listed on BSE and the allotment will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- The **minimum application** in the NCD issue will be **Rs 10,000**
- There are **7 investment options** for the NCDs, with 'monthly' or 'annual' interest payment frequency or 'on maturity redemption' payment with coupon ranging from **7.75% p.a to 8.6% p.a**.

**About NCD :**

- It is a **long term financial instrument** issued by Corporates for specified tenure to raise resources / funds through public issue or private placement.
- NCD are those which **cannot be converted** into **shares or equities**.
- It is a **fixed income instrument** similar to a bank fixed deposit and can be traded on stock exchanges.

**Who all can apply?**

- Institutional Investors such as **public financial institutions, scheduled commercial banks**, among others, and non- Institutional Investors such as **co-operative banks** and **regional rural banks** can apply for the NCDs.



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### Types of NCDs :

- 2 types of non-convertible debentures - Secured NCDs & Unsecured NCDs

### Secured NCDs:

- Secured NCDs are those NCDs that are **backed** by the **issuer company's assets**.

### Unsecured NCDs:

- When the NCDs are based only on the **creditworthiness** of the issuer and **not backed by assets**, they are called unsecured NCDs.

### About Ltd :

- Founded : 1939
- Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala, India
- Chairman : George Jacob Muthoot
- MD : George Alexander Muthoot
- Muthoot Finance Ltd is an Indian financial corporation and the **largest gold loan Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** in the country.

### Paytm Payments Bank Partners with NPCI to introduce RuPay Credit Card on UPI

- India's homegrown **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)**, has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to enable users to **link RuPay credit cards** with **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

### Key Highlights :

- With this, users can pay merchants **both online** and **offline** by scanning the UPI-enabled QR code via the Paytm app, eliminating the need to carry cards all the time.



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- This will increase the usage of RuPay credit cards and provide an **easier experience** for both consumers and merchants.
- Also with this, the Bank has empowered users with convenient payments through a greater acceptance of RuPay credit cards, strengthening the credit card ecosystem in India
- Paytm Payments Bank continues to be a leader in UPI as the largest merchant acquiring and beneficiary bank.
- In UPI, it is a leader in **P2M (peer-to-merchant) transactions**, with the highest merchant partners in its ecosystem.
- Earlier, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the **linking** of RuPay credit cards with UPI for a **digitally enabled credit card** lifecycle experience for users.

### About UPI :

- Introduced : 11 April 2016
- UPI is an **instant real-time payment system** developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

### About PPBL :

- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- MD & CEO : Surinder Chawla
- In **2021** the bank received a scheduled bank status from the RBI.

### About NPCI :

- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- It is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007

**RBI hikes repo rate to 6.5% & projects GDP growth at 6.4% for 2023-24**



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- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hiked the **repo rate** by **25 basis points (bps)** to **6.5%** for **FY 2022-23**, and **5.3%** for the next fiscal.
- Similarly, the **standing deposit facility (SDF)** rate was adjusted to **6.25%** from 6%, and the **marginal standing facility (MSF)** rate and the **Bank Rate** to 6.75%.
- For the next fiscal, the RBI projected a growth rate of **6.4%**.

### Key Highlights :

- The MPC, comprising 3 members from the central bank and 3 external members, raised the key lending rate or the repo rate to 6.50% in a split decision.
- **Shashanka Bhide, Rajiv Ranjan, Michael Debabrata Patra** and **Shaktikanta Das** (4 of the 6 members) voted to increase the policy repo rate by 25 basis points & **Ashima Goyal** and **Jayanth R.Varma** voted **against** the repo rate hike.
- This is the **6th time the** interest rate has been hiked by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) since May 2022, taking the total quantum of a hike to 250 basis points.
- In the latest Economic Survey of the finance ministry, the growth projection was **6-6.8%** for 2023-24.
- FY23 **gross domestic product (GDP)** growth estimate increased to **7%** from 6.8%
- The GDP projections for **Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4** 2023-24 are estimated at **7.8%, 6.2%, 6.0%, and 5.8%**, respectively

### Other Key Features :

- RBI has decided to **restore market hours** for the **Government Securities (G-secs)** market to the pre-pandemic timing of **9 am to 5 pm**.
- The RBI allowed inbound travelers from **Group20(G20) nations** arriving at select airports to use the popular **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** for making payments in the country.
- RBI will launch a pilot project on **QR code-based coin vending machines** in **12 cities**.
- **Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** flows remain strong at **\$22.3 billion** in April-December 2022.

### About MPC :



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- The MPC is a committee constituted by the Central Government and **led** by the **Governor of RBI**.
- It is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate in India.
- The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for **April 3, 5, and 6, 2023**.

### About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

### PhonePe launches UPI international service in 5 countries

- Fintech firm **PhonePe** stated that its users will now be able to pay to **international merchant outlets** in **5 countries**, including the **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan** using **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** system.
- Phonepe Users will be able to make **payments** in **foreign currency directly** from their **Indian bank** like international debit cards

### Key Highlights :

- PhonePe is the **first fintech app** to launch this feature in India.
- Currently, **Indian customers** need to use **foreign currency, credit, or forex cards** to pay at international merchant outlets but with the 'UPI international' payments feature, PhonePe can now use their Indian Bank accounts to pay using UPI.
- Also, NPCI in collaboration with **NIPL (NPCI International Payments Limited)** plans to roll out **UPI International** to more countries, while also enabling greater merchant acceptance in the regions where this feature is currently live.

### About PhonePe :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

- CEO: Sameer Nigam
- PhonePe is an **Indian digital payment** and **financial technology company**.
- It has over **43.5 crore** registered users.

### Airtel Payments Bank launches BizKhata for Small Businesses and Merchants

- **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched - **BizKhata**, a current account with unlimited transactions and instant activation for **small merchants** and business partners across India.

### About Airtel Payments Bank's BizKhata :

- It brings all **business transactions** to one platform and allows them to maintain clear records while enjoying multiple banking benefits.

### Benefits :

- **Unlimited transactions** – Do Unlimited credit and debit transactions.
- **Instant Activation** – Customers can start using the account within 5 minutes of opening it.
- **Zero Minimum Balance** – The account has no minimum balance condition.
- **Safe and Seamless Payment digitization**– Business owners can receive and make online payment transfers to any bank across India through Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unified Payments Service (UPI), National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), and IFT.
- In addition, the account comes linked to a **QR(Quick Response) code** to receive payments from any UPI app.
- **Auto Sweep-out** – Day-end balance above **INR 200,000** will be auto sweep-out to a current account with the partner bank.
- Recently, **Delhi Metro** and **Airtel Payments Bank** have partnered to add more comfort and features to the users of Airtel Payments Bank by providing the top-up (recharge) facility of **Delhi Metro Smart Cards**.

### About Airtel Payments Bank :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Anubrata Biswas



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- It is a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel.
- In **January 2022**, it was granted the **scheduled bank** status by the Reserve Bank of India under the **second schedule of the RBI Act, 1934**

### RBI to allow lending and borrowing of G-Secs & raises market trading hours

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** proposed to permit the lending and borrowing of **government securities (G-Secs)** to further develop the government securities market.
- This will provide investors with an avenue to deploy their idle securities, **enhance portfolio returns** and facilitate wider participation.

### Key Highlights :

- The **market hours** for the government securities market were restored to **pre-pandemic timing of 9 am - 5 pm** (from the current 9 am to 3.30 pm) to move towards normalising liquidity and market operations.

### About G-Sec :

- As per the RBI, a G-Sec is a **tradable instrument** issued by the Central Government or the State Governments and acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.
- Such securities are **short term** (usually called **treasury bills**, with original maturities of less than one year) or **long term** (usually called **Government bonds** or **dated securities** with original maturity of one year or more).
- In **India**, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the **State Development Loans (SDLs)**.
- G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called **risk-free gilt-edged instruments**.

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935



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- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### RBI to launch QR code based coin vending machine to improve the distribution of coins

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is preparing a **pilot project** on **QR code-based coin vending machines (QCVM)**.
- The announcement was made by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** during the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting.

#### Aim :

- To **promote distribution** of **coins**, and enhance the accessibility to coins.
- The pilot project will roll out in 19 locations in **12 cities** across the country.
- These vending machines are planned to be installed at **public places** such as railway stations, shopping malls, and marketplaces to enhance ease and accessibility.

#### About QCVM :

- The QCVM is a **cashless coin dispensation machine** which will dispense coins against debit to the customer's bank account using Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- Unlike cash-based traditional Coin Vending Machines, the QCVM would **eliminate** the need for **physical tendering** of banknotes and their authentication.

### MobiKwik becomes India's first app to offer RuPay Credit Cards on UPI

- India's leading fintech company, **MobiKwik**, has become the **first fintech app** to support **RuPay Credit Cards on Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**.

#### Key Highlights :





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- Customers of MobiKwik can **quickly make payments** to merchants by scanning the UPI QR code and using the UPI PIN for **payment authentication** now that RuPay Credit Cards are directly linked to UPI IDs.
- RuPay credit cards are issued by all major banks (private and public sector) for both commercial and retail use.
- The integration of RuPay Credit Card with UPI is in line with the vision of **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and RBI.
- RuPay Credit Card promotes credit card acceptance in India for merchants who are not part of the credit ecosystem.
- Recently, **PhonePe** has become the **first fintech company** in **India** to allow **UPI payments abroad**.

**About UPI :**

- Launched : 2016.
- It is developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- UPI is an **instant real-time payment system** for transferring money in bank accounts.

**About MobiKwik :**

- Founded : 2009
- Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana, India
- Founders : Bipin Preet Singh, Upasana Taku
- MobiKwik is an **Indian payment service provider**

**RBI to extend UPI access for Retail Payments to inbound travellers in India**

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has proposed to **extend** the **UPI facility** to **inbound travellers** (those who come to visit the country for travelling purpose) for merchant payments; initially to travellers from **G20 countries**.

**Key Highlights :**



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- The new facility will help travellers coming to India to be able to use UPI for **retail payments conveniently**.
- Initially, the UPI facility will be available to travellers from G-20 countries that include **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, United Kingdom, and United States and European Union (EU)**.
- UPI has become a ubiquitous payment instrument for retail electronic payments in India.
- Recently, the **NPCI** allowed UPI platforms to onboard **non-resident account holders (NRE/NRO accounts)** from 10 countries with international mobile numbers with certain conditions.

### **RBI plans to widen the scope of TReDS to improve cash flows for MSMEs**

- At the **Monetary Policy Committee** announcement, RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has announced the **expansion** of the **scope** of **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)**.
- Under the expansion, insurance facilities will be provided for **invoice financing**.
- It will also permit rediscounting of invoices, that is, developing a secondary market in TReDS.
- The RBI has also decided to **permit all entities/institutions** undertaking factoring business to participate as financiers in TReDS.
- These measures are expected to improve the cash flows of the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- Under this mechanism, invoice discounting involves **3 participants**:
  1. MSME Supplier
  2. Corporate Buyer
  3. Financier.

### **About TReDS :**

- The RBI had introduced a framework in December **2014**.
- TReDS is an **electronic platform** for facilitating the financing/discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs through multiple financiers.



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- These receivables can be due from corporates and other buyers, including Government Departments and **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)**.
- It is now proposed to expand the scope of TReDs by
- providing insurance facility for invoice financing
- permitting all entities/institutions undertaking factoring business to participate as financiers in TReDS
- permitting re- discounting of invoices (that is, developing a secondary market in TReDS).

**Cashfree Payments introduces India's 1st automated escrow management solution - 'Co-lend'**

- India's leading payments and API banking solutions company, **Cashfree Payments**, launched '**Co-lend**', India's first fully automated escrow management solution for co-lending.
- It has been developed in line with the **digital lending guidelines** announced by the RBI.

**Key Highlights :**

- It facilitates instant disbursement with **auto reconciliation** and a dashboard for managing multiple partnerships.
- It requires **no manual intervention**, automatically notifies the loan management system, and eliminates reconciliation efforts.
- Currently, in co-lending partnerships, the reconciliation of funding to the escrow accounts for disbursement and repayments is done manually, resulting in errors and delays.
- It provides a robust platform for co-lending originators and lenders with **high volumes of loans**, where real-time disbursement, repayment and reconciliation are primary requirements

**About Cashfree Payments :**

- CEO : Akash Sinha
- Apart from India, Cashfree Payments products are used in 8 other countries including the US, Canada and the UAE.



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- Recently, India's largest lender, **SBI invested** in **Cash Free Payments**, underscoring the company's role in building a robust payments ecosystem.

### SEBI amends rules governing the mode of payment by market intermediaries

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has notified **rules** asking all **market intermediaries** and companies to make regulatory payments to it by way of direct credit into the bank account through **digital payment systems**.
- Under the rules, market intermediaries and companies are required to **pay various fees** to the SEBI.

### Key Highlights :

- The fee can be paid to the regulator by way of direct credit into the bank account through digital payment systems **NEFT (National Electronic Funds Transfer)**, **RTGS (Real-Time Gross Settlement)**, and **IMPS (Immediate Mobile Payment Service)** or online payment using the SEBI Payment Gateway.
- To give these effects, the regulator has notified SEBI (Payment of Fees and Mode of Pay).
- In **Jan 2023** the SEBI clarified that all payment mechanisms provided by banks and payment aggregators authorized by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will be used for the settlement of trades executed on the **Request for Quote or RFQ platform**.

### About SEBI :

- Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, GoI.

### NRI deposits grow 38% to \$3.6 billion during April-November 2022



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- **Net inflows** under **non-resident deposits** increased to **\$3.6 billion** during April-November 2022 from \$2.6 billion a year ago.
- According to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the net inflows under non-resident deposits have been boosted by the Reserve Bank's July 6th measures.
- As part of measures to attract **Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits**, RBI had announced that incremental FCNR (B) deposits and NRE Term deposits mobilized by banks (regarding base date of July 1, 2022) will be exempt from maintenance of reserves-**Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** and **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)**.
- Foreign exchange reserves have rebounded from **USD 524.5 billion** on October 21, 2022, to **USD 576.8 billion** as on January 27, 2023, covering around 9.4 months of projected imports for 2022-23.
- The exemptions became effective from the reporting fortnight beginning July 30, 2022.
- These are **valid** for deposits raised till **November 04, 2022**.

### What is CRR?

- CRR is the percentage of a **bank's total deposits** that it needs to maintain as liquid cash.
- The cash reserve is kept with the RBI.
- A bank does not earn interest on this liquid cash maintained with the RBI and neither can it use this for investing and lending purposes.

### What is SLR?

- SLR is the **minimum percentage** of deposits that a commercial bank has to maintain in the form of liquid cash, gold, or other securities.

### Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches Hello Ujjivan – India's first voice, visual, vernacular banking app

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** launched **Hello Ujjivan**, India's first mobile banking application with **3 V's – voice, visual, and vernacular-enabled features** to provide banking access to individuals who have limited reading and writing skills.



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- 'Hello Ujjivan', co-created with **Navana. AI**.

### About Hello Ujjivan :

- The app is designed to instill banking habits in **MicroBanking** and Rural customers who are digitally challenged.
- It is accessible by voice in **8 languages** - Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati, Kannada, Odia, and Assamese.

### Features :

- Customers can speak to the app in their native language to perform banking transactions and access services such as paying loan **Equated Monthly Instalment (EMIs)**, **opening Fixed Deposit (FD)** and **Recurring Deposit (RD) accounts**, transferring funds, checking account balances, and updating passbooks, among others.
- The app also provides a visual representation, along with a recorded voice guide in the user's preferred language.
- Currently, the bank serves over **72 million customers** through its 600 branches across India.
- As of **December 31, 2022**, the gross loan book is valued at **INR 21,895 cr.** and the deposit base is valued at INR 23,203 cr.

### About Ujjivan SFB :

- Founded: 1 February 2017
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Ittira Davis
- Tagline: Build a Better Life
- Ujjivan Financial Services holds an **80% stake** in the bank.

### CAD likely to moderate in H2 FY23 - RBI Governor

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** stated that **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** is expected to moderate in the second half of 2022-23(**H2 FY23**) from **3.3%** of GDP in April-September.



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- CAD is expected to moderate primarily due to **moderation in imports**.

### Key Highlights :

- CAD had widened to 3.3% of GDP in the first half of 2022-23 (H1 FY23) from **0.2%** in the comparable period of 2021-22 on the back of a sharp increase in the merchandise trade deficit.
- The situation improved in Q3 FY23 as imports moderated as a consequence of lower commodity prices leading to the narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit.
- He stated that services exports rose **24.9%** year-on-year in the third quarter of 2022-23, driven by software, business, and travel services.
- Remittance growth for India in April-September 2022-23 was around **26% more than** twice the World Bank's projection for the year.
- India's external debt/GDP ratio declined from **19.9%** in March 2022 to 19.2% in September.
- The **debt service ratio** fell from **5.2%** in 2021-22 to 5% at the end of September 2022.

### About CAD :

- CAD means a country is having **negative income** from trade in goods, trade in services, and transfer payments (remittances, grants, and gifts received by a country or its residents).

### Edelweiss General Insurance rebranded as Zuno General Insurance

- **Edelweiss General Insurance** has **rebranded** as **Zuno General Insurance Limited (Zuno GI)**, a new-age digital insurer with an aspiration to reimagine and redefine Insurance to make it **easy, friendly, and transparent**.
- The name & identity represents the young, innovative, approachable, digital native, and upbeat personality of the brand and resonates with the Millennial and GenZ audience.
- Along with the new identity, the company has launched a consumer study titled '**Usage Based Insurance: Decoding Awareness, Perception, and Behaviour**'.
- The study was done to understand Millennials and GenZ's awareness, understanding, and consideration for UBI.



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- In 2022, Edelweiss General Insurance launched India's first mobile telematics-based, on-demand motor insurance product, **SWITCH**.
- The policy is an app that shows customers the savings that are accumulating because of good driving for every drive.
- **MD & CEO of Zuno General Insurance:** Shanai Ghosh

### Bajaj Finance launches Insurance Mall with refined products & experience

- **Bajaj Finance Limited** has launched a **new portal** named **Insurance Mall** for its customers to ensure an **Easy-buy experience**.

#### Aim :

- To simplify all the inconveniences customers can face during their policy purchase.
- The policies offered in the single platform for all policies include **Health insurance, two-wheeler, and four-wheeler insurance, application extended warranties, pocket insurance, and subscriptions**.

#### About Insurance Mall :

- It offers 250+ policies and plans, designed to cater to every customer's needs.

#### Features and benefits of the portal :

- 100% digital process
- Extensive product list
- Budget-friendly premiums

#### About Bajaj Finance Limited :

- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director: Rajeev Jain
- Bajaj Finance Limited is a **subsidiary** of **Bajaj Finserv**, an **Indian non-banking financial company (NBFC)**.





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**RBI renews the authorization for White Label ATMs to Vakrangee**

- The **RBI** has extended the **validity** of **authorization** issued to **Vakrangee** to set up, own and operate **White Label Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)** in **India till March 31, 2024**.
- The company currently operates **6,283 White Label ATMs** and 77% of these are in Tier 4 and 6 locations

**About White Label ATM:**

- ATMs set up, owned, and operated by **non-banks** are called White Label ATMs.
- Non-bank ATM operators are authorized under the **Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007** by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Such non-bank entities should have a minimum net worth of **Rs 100 crore** as per the latest financial year's audited balance sheet, which is to be maintained at all times.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**, up to 100%, is allowed under the automatic route in the activity of White Label ATM (WLA) Operations.

**About Vakrangee :**

- Founded: 28 May 1990
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD and Group CEO : Dinesh Nandwana

**Bank of India Investment Managers Private Limited launches the Bank of India Multicap Fund**

- **Bank of India Investment Managers Private Limited** (Investment manager of Bank of India Mutual Fund) has launched a New Fund Offer (NFO) – **Bank of India Multi Cap Fund** for investors looking to diversify their portfolio across large, mid and small cap categories.
- The Scheme will be managed by **Nitin Gosar**.
- The NFO for the Scheme opens for subscription on February 10, 2023 and closes on February 24, 2023.

**Objective :**



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- To **generate long term capital appreciation** by investing in equity and equity-related securities across various market capitalization.

### Key Highlights :

- The multi cap allocation strategy includes a spread of **minimum 25%** of its total assets each in large, mid, and small cap companies.
- The minimum initial investment in the Scheme will be **Rs. 5000** and Rs. 1 thereafter.
- The Scheme would be benchmarked against S&P BSE 500 TRI (first tier).

### About Bank of India Investment Managers Private Limited :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO : Mohit Bhatia

### RBI's financial literacy week starts from Feb 13 to Feb 17, 2023

- Financial Literacy Week (FLW)** is being organised by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** from **February 13 to February 17, 2023**.
- The **theme** selected for current year Financial Literacy Week (FLW) is "**Good Financial Behaviour - Your Saviour**".
- In **2022**, RBI observed 'financial literacy week' from **February 14 to February 18, 2022** with the theme "**Go Digital - Go Secure**".
- Since **2016**, the RBI has been organising Financial Literacy Week (FLW) **every year** to disseminate financial education messages on a particular theme among the public across the country.

### About FLW 2023 :

- The 2023 theme aligns with the overall strategic objectives of the **National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025** which aims at building financial resilience and well-being while creating awareness among members of the public.
- Focus will be on creating awareness about **savings, planning** and **budgeting**, and prudent use of digital financial services



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- In February 2023, the RBI will undertake a centralised **mass media campaign** to disseminate financial awareness messages
- Banks have also been advised to disseminate information and create awareness among their customers.

### About Financial Literacy :

- Financial literacy refers to the ability to understand and apply different financial skills effectively, including personal financial management, budgeting, and saving.
- Only **27%** of **Indian adults** & 24% of women meet the **minimum level of financial literacy** as defined by the RBI.

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### SBI opens 3rd specialised Startup branch in Gurugram

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has started its **3rd specialised branch** for start-ups in the country at **Gurugram** to support and provide all banking services required by Start-ups under one roof.
- Gurugram has the **3rd highest number of unicorns** - startups valued at \$100 billion or more in India, behind **Bengaluru** and **Mumbai**.

### Aim :

- To provide end-to-end **support to startups** at every stage of their journey, starting from the formation of the entity till their IPOs and FPOs.

### Key Highlights :

- In addition to start-ups, the bank also aims to meet the needs of **private equity (PE)**, **venture capital (VC)** and **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**.



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- The startup branch in Gurugram has also entered into **Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** with **Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT)** at IIT-Delhi and other entities.

### About SBI :

- Established : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

### Paytm launches G20-theme QR Code to celebrates India's presidency

- One97 Communications Limited that owns leading payments and financial services company **Paytm**, launched a special **G20-theme, QR Code** to celebrate India's presidency of the inter-governmental forum and the country's leadership in mobile payments.
- Minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, launched the QR code at '**Digital Payments Utsav**' at **India Habitat Centre in Delhi**.
- The special commemorative QR Code includes the logos of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY's) 'DigiDhan Mission'**, along with those of the G20 2023 and 75th year of India's independence.
- Paytm's associate **Paytm Payments Bank** has won top **award of MeitY** for maintaining one of the lowest average Technical Decline in **Bharat Interface for Money Unified Payments Interface (BHIM UPI) transactions**.
- Paytm Founder **Sharma** is also the **Chair** of the **Finance Task Force** under '**Startup20**'.
- The taskforce will provide a framework on best practices for global investors to fund Startups across G20 member nations and help in constructing model frameworks.

### About Paytm :

- Founded : August 2010
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

- Founder & CEO : Vijay Shekhar Sharma

### BoM launches its own private cloud infrastructure, Mahabank Nakshatra to strengthen digital infra

- **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has launched its own private cloud infrastructure, **Mahabank Nakshatra**, to facilitate high-performance cloud capabilities for digital infrastructure and hosting applications of the bank.

### Key Highlights :

- BoM also launched a mobile app, **Arjun (Automated Remote Junction for Monitoring of Assets Under Stress)**, to give a snapshot of **stressed asset (SMA & Slippages)** portfolio to bank staff and feet on street (FOT).
- The app will also give analysis to identify the daily variation in stressed asset portfolios with recovery suggestions.
- The bank launched **Mykase**, a legal case tracking software which will be able to fetch all the cases in various courts of India which are online where BoM.
- The Bank launched **Video-know-your-customer (KYC)**, which allows customers to open an account digitally by providing KYC details online.
- The bank has developed '**Pension slip facility**' using Digi locker, which is a flagship initiative of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under Digital India programme.

### About BoM :

- Established : 16 September 1935 (Commenced Operations in 1936)
- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : A. S. Rajeev.
- Tagline : One Family One Bank

### HDFC Bank Launches Offline Digital Payments Pilot Project Across 16 Cities



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

- **HDFC Bank** has launched a pilot project under the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Regulatory Sandbox program** in partnership with **Crunchfish**, to test offline digital payments for merchants and customers.
- HDFC is the **first bank** to launch a digital payment solution in a completely offline mode.

### About 'OfflinePay' :

- 'OfflinePay' will enable customers and merchants to make and receive payments even when there is **no mobile network**
- This can boost the adoption of digital payments in smaller towns and rural areas with poor network connectivity.

### Key Highlights :

- The project would be rolled out for **4 months** in more than **16 cities** and towns across India, as part of a limited roll out.
- During the pilot, the offline transaction amount would be limited to up to **Rs. 200 per transaction.**
- In **September 2022**, RBI approved HDFC Bank's application, in partnership with Crunchfish, to access the Regulatory Sandbox.
- Crunchfish Digital Cash AB is a subsidiary of Crunchfish AB, a publicly listed company on the Nasdaq First North Growth Market in **Stockholm, Sweden..**

### About RBI's Regulatory Sandbox program :

- The Regulatory Sandbox is a **formal regulatory programme** for market participants to test new products, services or business models with customers in a live environment, subject to certain safeguards and oversight.
- The RBI Created the Regulatory sandbox in **2020.**

### About HDFC Bank :



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

- Founded : August 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We Understand Your World

### RBI updates 'Alert List' of entities unauthorised to deal in forex trading

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** updated its '**Alert List**' for the public on unauthorised forex trading platforms to include **14 more names** of entities/platforms/ websites which appear to be promoting unauthorised entities/Electronic Trading Platform (ETPs), including through advertisements of such unauthorised entities or claiming to be providing training/advisory services
- In **September, 2022** the RBI came out with an 'Alert List' containing the names of **34** entities & **currently** the list has **48 entries**.

### Key Highlights :

- The **authorisation status** of any person/ETP can be ascertained from the list available in the RBI's website.
- It covers those entities/platforms/websites which are neither authorised to deal in foreign exchange (forex) under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)**.
- **Unauthorised entities** are also not authorised to operate electronic trading platforms (ETPs) under the **Electronic Trading Platforms (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2018** for forex transactions.
- An entity not appearing in this list should not be assumed as being authorised by the RBI to deal in forex or operate ETPs for forex transactions.
- It provides caution against unauthorised entities that advertise to provide training/advisory services through '**demo trading**' and other indirect means to facilitate forex trading.
- Residents who use unauthorised entities to remit/deposit funds, directly or indirectly for forex transactions are liable for penal action under the FEMA.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### South Indian Bank Partners with Maruti Suzuki to introduce finance schemes

- **South Indian Bank** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Maruti Suzuki** to provide dealer finance options and custom auto **retail financing solutions** for **customers**.
- With this tie-up, South Indian Bank **aims** to help dealer partners streamline vehicle inventory funding and offer comprehensive retail financing solutions to the customers of Maruti Suzuki.
- The agreement was signed between the senior management from Maruti Suzuki and South Indian Bank.

### About South Indian Bank :

- Founded : 1929
- Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO : Murali Ramakrishnan
- Tagline : Experience Next Generation Banking

### South Indian Bank Launches Wealth Management Platform - SIB Wealth

- **South Indian Bank** has launched a **wealth management platform - SIB Wealth** in partnership with **Geojit Financial Services Ltd**

### About SIB Wealth :

- SIB Wealth is an exclusive value-added service that will help the bank's **high net worth (HNI)** customers to invest their money in the best financial instruments available in the market.





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- Under the platform, SIB will be offering the following products/services: Portfolio management services, Alternative investment fund, Systematic investment plan, Mutual fund, Bond, Real estate funds, Structured products
- SIB Wealth will provide **integrated services**.
- Along with managing their financial assets, the company will be creating strategic plans for their current and future needs.

### About Geojit Financial Services Ltd :

- Founded : 1987
- Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala, India
- Executive Director : C J George
- It is an **investment services company** in India & it was the **first company** in India to launch **online-trading facilities**.

### South Indian Bank Collaborates With Telangana State Treasury For Online Payments

- **South Indian Bank** had signed the agreement with **Telangana's government's Directorate of Treasuries & Accounts (DTA) (Cyber Treasury), Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- With this arrangement, South Indian Bank is among the **6 private sector banks** empanelled by Telangana State to facilitate payments towards Cyber Treasury.

### Key Highlights :

- The partnership, allows the common public to make payments to Cyber Treasury - the online treasury portal of the state through the Internet Banking platform of South Indian Bank - **SIBerNet**
- SIBerNet' internet banking platform is a **state-of-the-art facility** that is focused on providing customer services on the go with added convenience and security.

### Reserve Bank of India launches its 2nd Global Hackathon - HARBINGER 2023



**Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs**  
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- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is organizing its **2nd** global hackathon – “**HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation**” with the theme ‘**Inclusive Digital Services**’.
- Registration for the hackathon starts on **February 22, 2023**.
- The hackathon is hosted on **Application Programming Interface Exchange (APIX)** platform.

**HARBINGER 2023 invites innovative ideas for the following problem statements:**

1. Innovative, easy-to-use, digital banking services for the differently abled (Divyaang).
2. RegTech solutions to facilitate more efficient compliance by **Regulated Entities (REs)**.
3. Exploring use cases/solutions for CBDC retail transactions, including transactions in offline mode.
4. **Increasing Transactions Per Second (TPS)**/ throughput and scalability of blockchains.

**Key Highlights :**

- Being part of HARBINGER 2023 allows the participants to get mentored by industry experts and exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury and win exciting prizes in each category.
- The **winner** will get **Rs 40 lakh** & the runner-up will get a prize of Rs 20 lakh each.
- RBI has invited fintech to develop solutions that have the potential to make digital financial services accessible to the differently-abled and facilitate efficient compliance.
- RBI announced its **first hackathon** in **November 2021** & its results were declared in June 2022.
- It had received **363 proposals** from teams within India and 22 other countries including the US, UK, Sweden, Singapore, Philippines, and Israel.

**About RBI :**

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**Paytm Payments Bank becomes first to launch UPI LITE feature**



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

- **Paytm Payments Banks Limited (PPBL)** has launched the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI LITE)**, enabled by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** for multiple small-value UPI transactions.
- The PPBL is the **first payments bank** to launch such a UPI LITE feature.
- The UPI LITE feature enables **faster real-time transactions** with a single click through Paytm as the bank aims to drive the adoption of digital payments across the country.

### What is UPI LITE?

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) designed the feature which was launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in **September 2022**.
- UPI LITE is a new payment solution that leverages the trusted **NPCI Common Library (CL)** application to process low-value transactions that have been set at **below ₹ 200**.
- A **maximum of Rs 2,000** can be added twice a day to UPI LITE, making the cumulative daily usage up to Rs 4,000.
- Additionally, with UPI LITE, users can carry out a large number of **small-value UPI payments** in a superfast manner without worrying about the cap on the number of bank transactions.
- The bank remained the largest UPI beneficiary bank for **19 months** in a row with over **1,726.94 million transactions** in December 2022.
- With 386.50 million registered transactions, the bank is one of the top 10 remitter banks for UPI transactions.

### About Paytm Payments Bank :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- MD and CEO: Surinder Chawla

### RBI grants in-principle authorization for 32 existing online payment aggregators

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted **in-principle approval** to **32 entities** to operate as an **online payment aggregator (PA)** & **19** new PAs to operate as online PAs.



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- The RBI stated that the grant of 'in-principle' authorization shall not be construed as authorization unless the entity is granted 'authorization' under **Section 7** of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

**Key Highlights :**

- **Amazon (Pay) India Pvt Ltd, Computer Age Management Services Ltd (CAMS), Google India Digital Services Pvt Ltd, Reliance Payment Solutions Ltd, and Zomato Payments Pvt Ltd** are among the notable entities that have been granted in-principle approval to continue their operations.
- The list includes **Pine Labs, Razorpay, Reliance, Google** and **Zomato**
- 19 new entities including **JusPay, Zoho Payment Technologies, Mswipe, and Tata Payments Limited**.
- While the applications of Freecharge, Paytm, PayU, and Tapits Technologies have been **rejected**.

**Click here for the complete list of 32 entities :**

- In terms of the guidelines, online non-bank PAs existing as on **March 17, 2020**, were required to apply to RBI by September 30, 2021, for seeking authorization under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act).
- Another extension was allowed for all such PAs to submit their application by **September 30, 2022**.

**About payment aggregator :**

- The payment aggregator framework was introduced in **2020** to further regulate the payments space.
- Under this framework, only those firms that have been authorized to operate as payment aggregators by the RBI can acquire and offer payment services to merchants
- Also, these firms will be directly **supervised** by the **RBI**.



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- In **2022**, the RBI **rejected** the PA license of **ZaakPay**, which runs the fintech company MobiKwik, allegedly due to its crypto partnerships and failure to meet the minimum net-worth criteria.
- **CAMSPay CEO** Vasanth Jeyapaul

### SEBI Introduces ISD For Filing IPO Papers In XBRL Format

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced the **issue summary document (ISD)** for filing papers about **Initial Public Offer (IPO)** and for further issue of securities in **XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language) format**, a move that will help provide data to stakeholders in a structured manner.
- The rollout of the ISD will be done in a phased manner starting **March 1, 2023**.

### What is XBRL?

- XBRL is a **language** for the **electronic communication of business** and financial data used for business reporting around the world.
- It provides major benefits in the **preparation, analysis, and communication of business information**.

### Key Highlights :

- As per the circular, the ISD should be filed in **2 stages**.
  1. In the 1st stage, the ISD will be filed with **pre-issue fields**
  2. In the 2nd stage, the ISD will be filled with **post-issue fields** after allotment is completed.
- In the 1st phase, the ISD will be rolled out for public issues of specified securities, for offer documents filed on or after **March 1, 2023**.
- In the 2nd phase, the ISD for further issues will be implemented from **April 3, 2023**.
- In the 3rd phase, ISD for open offer, buy-back, and voluntary delisting will be implemented from **May 2, 2023**.
- SEBI has decided to introduce the ISD in XBRL format for **Initial Public Offer (IPO)**, Further Public Offer, further issues -preferential issues, **qualified Institutions Placement (QIP)**, rights



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issues, issue of **American Depository Receipts (ADRs)**, **Global Depository Receipts (GDRs)** and **Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs)**, among others.

### About SEBI :

- Established: 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Gol.

### European Investment Bank Joins India Hydrogen Alliance

- The **European Investment Bank (EIB)**, the bank of the European Union, formally agreed to join the **India Hydrogen Alliance (IH2A)** and expand support for large-scale green hydrogen hubs and projects across India with indicative funding of **€1 billion**
- However, the funding will be subject to approval from the Indian government and EIB clearances.

### Key Highlights :

- The new **memorandum of agreement (MoU)** with IH2A will enable the EIB to further **promote clean energy investment** and boost the growth of green hydrogen in India as a longstanding partner for renewable energy in India and the largest climate financier in the world.
- The India Hydrogen Alliance is an industry coalition of global and Indian companies committed to the creation of a hydrogen value-chain and economy in India.

### About EIB :

- Founded: 1958
- Location : Kirchberg, Luxembourg
- President : Dr Werner Hoyer
- The Bank is owned by the **EU Member States**.



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- It is the biggest international public bank in the world and the leading **financier** of climate action and renewable energy.

### ADB approves USD 130 million loans for promoting horticulture in HP

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 130 million (over Rs 1,072 crore) loan to increase agricultural productivity** and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh (HP) under the **HP Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation, and Value Addition Project**.

### About the Project :

- The Project will help increase the income and resilience to the effects of climate change of at least **15,000 farm households** in Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una.
- It will improve on-farm irrigation and water management in about **6,000 hectares (ha)** of farmland
- More than half of Himachal Pradesh's land area is in the mountains and **90%** of the population lives in rural areas that are dependent on agriculture.
- Farmers will be organized into cluster-wide **Community Horticulture Production and Marketing Associations (CHPMAs)** and district-wide CHPMA cooperative societies.
- A **farmer-producer company (FPC)** will be created at the state-level to lead agribusiness development to ensure profitability and access to markets of subtropical horticulture.

### About ADB :

- Established : 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership: 68 members - of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside

### About HP :

- Governor : Shiv Pratap Shukla



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- Chief Minister : Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- Airports: Kangra Airport, Kullu Manali Airport, Shimla Airport

### EbixCash becomes the first entity to enable UPI for foreign nationals

- **EbixCash Limited**, a subsidiary of US-based Ebix Inc, has become the **first company in India** to launch and **enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions** for foreign nationals visiting India.
- In **February 2023**, the RBI proposed permitting inbound travelers access to UPI for merchant payments (P2M) while they are in the country.
- The facility will initially be extended to travelers from G-20 countries arriving at select international airports.

### Facility for NRIs :

- EbixCash has become the **first entity** to enable UPI services for foreign delegates attending the G-20 summit.
- EbixCash will carry out a pilot launch shortly in **Bangalore** at the G-20 summit, involving dignitaries from across the world.
- It is a leading player in India's airport and seaport Money Exchange business with retail kiosks in 20 international airports, and 12 seaports.
- The central bank had also recently allowed non-resident Indians, who have international mobile numbers linked to their **Non-Resident External (NRE)/Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) accounts**, to use the UPI network when in India.

### About EbixCash World Money Limited :

- Established: 1998
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Whole Time Director & MD: Guruprasad T. Chandrashekar
- EbixCash World Money is the **largest RBI-authorized ADII category forex company** in India.

HDFC Bank becomes 1st Private sector bank to enable linking of 'Rupay Credit on UPI'





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- **HDFC Bank** has become the **first private sector bank** in **India** to take up a service that allows customers to use **RuPay credit cards** on a unified **payments interface (UPI)** with **Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)** and other UPI-enabled apps.

**Aim :**

- To enable **safe**, and **secure payment transactions**.
- Till 2022, UPI was being linked to **savings accounts** from where the payments used to be debited.
- From now on, HDFC Bank Rupay credit cards can be linked to a UPI ID enabling a customer to use the credit card on popular payments platforms.

**Key Highlights :**

- Roughly **2-4 million** merchants accept credit cards and more than **50 million** accept **UPI payments**.
- Currently, 3 banks **Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, and Indian Bank**, which are all state owned, use the UPI feature.

**What is Rupay?**

- RuPay is an **Indian multinational financial services and payment service system**, launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) on 26 March 2012.

**About HDFC Bank :**

- Founded : August 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We Understand Your World

**HDFC raises Rs 25,000 crore via India's largest rupee bond sale**



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- **Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) concluded** a sale of **10-year non-convertible debentures (NCDs)** worth **Rs 25,000 crore**, marking the largest domestic rupee bond issuance by a corporate in India.
- The housing financier's bonds carry an annualised coupon or the rate of interest periodically paid out to investors of **7.97%**.
- The 10-year benchmark government bond yield closed at 7.35% in the secondary market.
- The deal was arranged by ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Securities Primary Dealership.
- The issue was oversubscribed and received 92 bids amounting to **Rs. 27,863 crore** of which the company retained 55 investor bids totaling to Rs. 25,000 crore

### Key Highlights :

- Earlier HDFC had launched the debt issuance with a base size of Rs 5,000 crore and the option to retain additional subscription worth Rs 20,000 crore.
- In **December 2022**, HDFC Bank raised **Rs 15,000 crore** through the issuance of tier-2 bonds, marking the largest sale by any bank in the current financial year.

### NSDC partners with HDFC Life to boost entrepreneurial skills

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**, working under the aegis of **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, Government of India (GoI) has entered into a partnership with **HDFC Life**, India's life insurer, under the **Skill India Mission**, to support self-employment and augment entrepreneurial opportunities.

### About the Partnership :

- As part of this collaboration, NSDC will support HDFC Life in inducting trained (<https://www.hdfclife.com/>) life insurance advisors and strengthening the last mile reach.
- The partnership will provide training to candidates undergoing the **IC38 examination** conducted by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and drive skill enhancement.



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**About NSDC :**

- Headquarters : New Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Ved Mani Tiwari
- NSDC is a **not-for-profit** public limited company incorporated on July 31, 2008, under section 25 of the Companies Act, **1956** (corresponding to section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013).
- NSDC was set up by the **Ministry of Finance** as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- It has established **37 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs)** and implements the Government's flagship skill development schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

**About HDFC Life :**

- Founded : 2000
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Vibha Padalkar
- HDFC Life is a joint venture (JV) between Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC), one of India's leading housing finance institutions and Abrdn, a global investment company.

**SEBI notifies governance norms for REITs, InvITs**

- Capital Market Regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** notified **governance norms** for **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** on the lines of listed companies.
- In two separate notifications, provisions such as those related to **tenure of auditor**, computation of leverage and unclaimed or unpaid distribution have been streamlined by the SEBI.
- This comes after the board of SEBI approved a proposal in **December, 2022** for introducing governance norms for REITs and InvITs on the lines of corporate governance norms for listed companies.



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- The SEBI stated that the tenure of an auditor will be made till the conclusion of the **5th annual general meeting** of unitholders, and a statutory auditor will undertake a limited audit of all the entities or companies whose accounts are to be consolidated.

### About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** , Gol.

### PSBs Write Off Rs 29,000-Crore Bad Loans In December 2022 Quarter

- During **Q3FY23**, **public-sector banks (PSBs)** in India wrote off **bad loans worth Rs 29,000 crore**, up from Rs 23,000 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.
- According to estimates by rating agency CARE Ratings, the write-offs by PSBs in April-December 2022, at **Rs 81,000 crore**, were lower than the Rs 90,000 crore in April-December 2021.

### Key Highlights :

- The **gross non-performing assets (GNPAs)** for the banking sector as a whole remain at around **5%**, the figure is expected to come down to 2-2.5%, which was the level seen 10-12 years ago.
- The gross NPAs of 12 PSBs declined 18% YoY to **Rs 4.58 lakh crore** at the end of December 2022, while net NPAs dropped by 32% to Rs 1.15 lakh crore during the same period.
- In Q3FY23, **Bank of India**, a Mumbai-based public-sector lender, wrote off **Rs 2,522 crore**, higher than the Rs 1,883 crore in the second quarter but much lower than the Rs 4,900 crore in Q3FY22.



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- Public sector banks have written off a massive Rs 8 lakh crore worth of loans since 2014, more than double the capital of Rs 3.37 lakh crore infused by the government in them.
- The **maximum write-offs** were in fiscal 2019 at **Rs 1.83 lakh crore**, followed by FY20 at Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

**DriveU partners with SMC Insurance to provide car insurance**

- **DriveU**, a leading car driver service and a super-app for car owners, partnered with **SMC Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd** to provide **car insurance** for over **650,000 DriveU customers**.

**Aim :**

- To make the **insurance buying process** more gratifying and less daunting of a task.

**About the Partnership :**

- Through this partnership, all the new and existing customers of DriveU will be able to buy or **renew their car insurance easily**.
- The collaboration will make the car insurance buying process **simpler** and more seamless for the customers.
- With this, DriveU, is one step closer to rewarding the entire car ownership journey with every transaction on the DriveU platform further **reducing the cost of owning a car**, and consolidating the needs of car owners under one roof.

**Note :**

- **Co-founder and CEO of DriveU** : Ashok Shastry
- **Director of SMC Group** : Pravin K Agarwal

**RBI updates rules for foreign donations via NEFT, RTGS system**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** related transaction code in **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** and **Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS)** systems.
- The instructions will be effective from **March 15, 2023**.



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- These instructions are issued under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, **2007** (Act 51 of 2007).

**Key Highlights :**

- **Originating banks** are required to select 2 mandatory fields of NEFT/RTGS systems while remitting foreign donations to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) account at SBI.
- Further, originating banks are required to pass on donor details relating to “**transaction without Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) details**” as part of ‘Sender to remitter information’ in NEFT and RTGS.
- Under the FCRA, **2010** (amended as on September 28, 2020), foreign contributions must be received only in the “FCRA account” of SBI, **New Delhi Main Branch (NDMB), Delhi.**
- The contributions to the FCRA account are received directly from foreign banks through SWIFT and from Indian intermediary banks through NEFT and RTGS systems.
- In terms of extant requirements of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, the Indian government, the donor details such as name, address, country of origin, amount, currency, and purpose of remittance are required to be captured in such transactions and SBI is required to report the same to MHA on daily basis.

**About RBI :**

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**20 Russian banks open rupee vostro accounts to settle foreign trade in rupees**

- **20 Russian banks**, including **Gazprom, Rosbank, Tinkoff Bank, Centro Credit Bank,** and **Credit Bank of Moscow**, have opened **rupee vostro accounts** with authorized dealer banks in India to enable rupee trade between the two countries.



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- The **Indian banks** that are part of the process include UCO Bank, IndusInd Bank Ltd., Union Bank of India Ltd., Canara Bank Ltd., HDFC Bank Ltd., Yes Bank Ltd., State Bank of India, IDBI Bank Ltd., Indian Bank, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda Ltd. and Axis Bank Ltd.
- All Indian banks have been asked to appoint nodal officers to sort out issues faced by exporters in carrying out rupee trade with Russia, Director-General of Foreign Trade.
- In **July 2022**, the RBI allowed **international trade in rupees**, creating the possibility of doing business with Russia in rupees and, in the process, bypassing the sanctions imposed by the West on Moscow.
- The sanctions were imposed following Russia's attack on Ukraine in **February 2022**.
- India's imports from Russia in April-January 2022-23 increased **383.88%** to \$37.31 billion, due mainly to its purchase of crude.

### What is a Vostro Account?

- Vostro word is a Latin word that means, **yours**.
- A Vostro account is an account that a **domestic bank** holds for a **foreign bank** in the domestic bank's currency which, in the case of India, is the rupee.
- In the case of trade with Russia, payments in rupee for the export and import of goods will go to these Vostro accounts.

### What is a Nostro account?

- 'Vostro' is a Latin word that means, **ours**.
- The account opened by the **Indian bank** in the **foreign country (US)** will be a **Nostro account** for the **Indian bank**, while for the US bank, the account will be considered a Vostro account.

### Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launches 'Anmol Suraksha Kawach'

- **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI)**, the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has launched '**ABSLI Anmol Suraksha Kawach**', to address the **short-term protection needs** of the policyholders.



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**About 'ABSLI Anmol Suraksha Kawach' :**

- It is a non-linked, non-participating individual, life, pure risk premium, term insurance solution for policyholders' short-term protection needs offering a life cover for up to **5 years**.
- The plan offers a protection solution for people aged between **25-55 years**.

**Key features :**

- **Short-term protection:** Policyholders will be eligible to avail of a short-term policy term between 2 to 5 years.
- **Choice of premium payment term:** Policyholders get the flexibility to choose between making a one-time payment or paying for the entire policy term.
- **Varied Sum Assured Option:** Policyholders can choose from varied sum assured options (From 50L to 2cr in steps of 25 Lakhs).
- **Protection till 60 years of age:** Policyholders will be eligible for a maximum cover ceasing age of 60 years

**About ABSLI :**

- Incorporation: 2000 (Commenced Operations 2001)
- MD & CEO : Kamlesh Rao
- As of December 31, 2022, the total Assets under Management (AUM) of ABSLI stood at **Rs.679,890 million** with a 15 increase on a year-on-year basis.

**RBI Issued Draft Guidelines For Minimum Capital Requirements For Market Risk**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **draft guidelines on minimum capital requirements** for market risk as a part of the convergence of banking regulations with **Basel III standards**.





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- The central bank has sought feedback on the norms by **April 15, 2023**, and has proposed that the final norms will come into effect from **April 1, 2024**.

### About the draft guidelines :

- The guidelines apply to all **commercial banks, excluding** local area banks, payments banks, regional rural banks small finance banks, and all types of co-operative banks-urban, state, and central co-operative banks
- The norms draw a **boundary** between the **banking book** and the **trading book** and list out the instruments that can be included in the trading book, which are subject to market risk capital requirements; and those to be included in the banking book which is subject to credit risk capital requirements.
- The **capital requirement** for both specific risk and general market risk will be **9% of** each of the core capital of the bank and the exposure to the specified instruments.
- The draft guidelines outline separate classifications for securities included in banks' trading and banking books, which are subject to **market risk** and **credit risk capital** requirements, respectively.
- The central bank has mandated that banks must include only those financial instruments on the **foreign exchange (FX)** in the trading book that are not legally restricted from being sold or fully hedged.
- As per the draft norms, banks will be required to classify any instrument held for at least one year as a trading book instrument under the following categories - short-term resale, profiting from short-term price movements, locking in arbitrage profits, or hedging risks that arise from the previous **3 categories**.
- In case a bank needs to deviate from the presumptive list, it will have to seek the prior approval of the central bank, and document any deviations.

### RBI issues final guidelines on interest rate risk in banking book



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- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released **final guidelines** on **Interest Rate Risk in Banking Book (IRRBB)**, which require banks to **measure, monitor, and disclose** their exposure to IRRBB that may impact the capital base and future earnings of lenders.
- The final guidelines on IRRBB are in alignment with the revised framework issued by the **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)**.
- RBI will communicate the date of implementation in due course.

### What is IRRBB?

- IRRBB refers to the **current or prospective risk** to banks' **capital** and **earnings** arising from adverse movements in interest rates that affect its banking book positions.
- **Excessive IRRBB** can pose a significant risk to banks' current capital base and/or future earnings.

### About the Guidelines :

- As per the guidelines, the Board of the banks has the responsibility for **understanding** the **nature** and the level of the **bank's IRRBB exposure**.
- The board can delegate the monitoring and management of IRRBB to **ALCO (asset-liability committee)**.
- Under the guidelines, the board/ALCO is responsible for setting appropriate limits on IRRBB.
- All IRRBB policies should be reviewed **periodically (at least annually)** and revised as needed.
- The capital adequacy for IRRBB should be considered with regard to the risks to economic value.
- Banks should have a clearly defined Board approved risk appetite statement which lays down policies and procedures for **limiting and controlling IRRBB**.

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das



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- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### Angel One Ltd receives in-principle approval from SEBI for Mutual Fund business

- Stock broking company, **Angel One** has received **in-principle approval** from **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for **sponsoring a Mutual Fund**.
- Accordingly, the company would be setting up an **asset management company** and the trustee company, in accordance with applicable SEBI Regulations and other applicable laws.

### About Angel One Limited :

- Established : 1996
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & MD : Dinesh Thakkar
- CEO : Narayan Gangadhar
- Angel One Limited, formerly known as Angel Broking Limited, is an Indian stockbroker firm

### India & Singapore launch joint digital payment mechanism enabling easy and faster cross-border transactions

- The Prime Minister (PM) of India **Shri Narendra Modi** and his Singapore counterpart **Lee Hsien Loong** launched **cross-border connectivity** between the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** of India and **PayNow** of Singapore through video conferencing.
- The launch was done by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** and **Ravi Menon**, Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore.

### Advantages :

- The linkage of UPI and PayNow will make it possible for citizens of both nations to send remittances across borders more **quickly** and **affordably**.
- A quick and inexpensive money transfer from Singapore to India will benefit the Indian community in Singapore, particularly **migrant workers and students**.



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- This allows apps' users to use their Indian bank accounts to pay at merchant outlets in the **UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal and Bhutan.**

### Key Highlights :

- Initially, Indian users can remit up to **Rs 60,000** (approximately 1,000 Singapore dollars) a day.
- The RBI, the **Monetary Authority of Singapore, the NPCI International Payments Ltd, Banking Computer Services Pte Ltd**, participating banks as well as non-bank financial institutions worked together to create the linkage.
- Private transfer receipts primarily represent remittances by Indians employed overseas.
- To begin with, **State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Indian Bank, and ICICI Bank** will facilitate the remittances **both inward and outward** while **Axis Bank and DBS India** will facilitate the **inward remittances.**
- Users in Singapore can avail of the service through **DBS-Singapore and Liquid Group**, which is a non-bank financial institution.

### About Singapore :

- Prime Minister : Lee Hsien Loong
- Capital : Singapore
- Currency : Singapore dollar

### BoM Leads Public Sector Lenders In Loan Growth & Asset Quality

- According to a review of the latest financial data of **public sector banks (PSBs)**, the **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), Pune, Maharashtra** has emerged as the **top performer** among state-owned lenders in terms of loan growth percentage during the third quarter of 2022-23.
- The lender recorded a **21.67%** increase in gross advances on a year-on-year basis
- BoM was followed by the **Union Bank of India** with **19.80%** growth.
- Country's largest lender State Bank of India (**SBI**) stood at **4th spot** with 16.91% rise in advances growth.



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- However, SBI's total loans were about **17 times higher** at Rs 26,47,205 crore as compared to Rs 1,56,962 crore of BoM in absolute terms.

### Key Highlights :

- PSBs have logged a robust **profit growth of 65%** at Rs 29,175 crore during the third quarter ended December 2022, with **Bank of Maharashtra** emerging as the top performer in terms of **percentage growth** in profit.
- It recorded a 139% jump in profit at Rs 775 crore at the end of December 2022
- BoM was followed by Kolkata-based **UCO Bank** which posted a profit of **Rs 653 crore, 110% higher than** its earnings in Q3FY22.
- In terms of **Retail-Agriculture-MSME loans**, BoM has recorded the highest growth of 19.18%, followed by Punjab & Sind Bank with 19.07% and Bank of Baroda with 18.85% on an annual basis.
- **Gross NPAs** reported by BoM and SBI were 2.94% and 3.14% of their total advances, respectively, as on Dec. 31, 2022.
- **Net NPAs** for these two banks came down to **0.47%** and **0.77%**, respectively.
- As far as deposit growth was concerned, Bank of Baroda earned the top slot with 14.50% growth followed by Union Bank of India with 13.48% rise on an annual basis.
- In terms of **total business growth**, **Union Bank of India** recorded the **highest** growth of 16.07% during the third quarter & it was followed by BoM with 15.77% rise on an annual basis and Bank of Baroda clinched third position with 15.23%.
- With regard to **Capital Adequacy Ratio**, BoM recorded 17.53%, the highest among PSBs, followed by Canara Bank at 16.72% and Indian Bank at 15.74% as on Dec. 31, 2022.

### Exim Bank's GOI-supported LOC for USD 100 million to GO-MDV

- **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** has entered into an **agreement** dated October 02, 2022 with the **Government of the Republic of Maldives**, for making available to the latter, **Government of India supported Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 100 million** for financing new



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developmental projects and to meet spillover costs from developmental projects in Maldives already included under Lines of credit extended to GO-MDV by Exim Bank.

- Out of the total credit by Exim Bank under the agreement, goods, works and services of the value of at least **75%** of the contract price shall be supplied by the **seller from India**, and the remaining **25%** of goods and services may be procured by the seller for the purpose of the eligible contract from **outside India**.

### Key Highlights :

- The agreement under the LoC is effective from **January 19, 2023** and the terminal utilisation period is **48 months** from the scheduled completion date of the project.
- Shipments under the LoC shall be declared in the Export Declaration Form/Shipping Bill as per instructions issued by the Reserve Bank from time to time.
- **No agency commission** is payable for export under the above LoC.
- Further, the exporter may use his own resources or utilise balances in his Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Account for payment of commission in free foreign exchange, if required.
- The directions contained in this circular have been issued under **section 10(4)** and 11(1) of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 (42 of 1999)** and are without prejudice to permissions/ approvals, if any, required under any other law.

### About Exim Bank :

- Established : 1982
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director : Ms. Harsha Bangari

### 'Nirman Se Shakti' initiative presented by the ESIC to modernize ESIS hospital infrastructure

- **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** presented an initiative named '**Nirman Se Shakti**' to modernise infrastructure.

### About 'Nirman Se Shakti' :



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- The 'Nirman Se Shakti' initiative includes upgradation/modernization of ESI Scheme (ESIS) hospitals and dispensaries in a phased manner, formulation of standard design for 100/200/500 bedded hospitals with **better modern facilities, online real-time dashboard** for project monitoring/supervision, adoption of new building technologies to ensure quality of construction, elimination of delays, cost overrun, digitization of land/property documents etc.
- The Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESI) is an **integrated measure of social Insurance** for the worker population and immediate dependent or family embodied in the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

### About ESIC :

- Founded : 24 February 1952
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General : Dr. Rajendra Kumar
- ESIC is one of the two main statutory social security bodies under the ownership of the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, Government of India (GoI), the other being the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

### About Ministry of Labour & Employment :

- Cabinet Minister : Bhupender Yadav
- Minister of State : Rameswar Tel

### NSE lists first ever green bonds issued by Indore Municipal Corporation

- The **Indore Municipal Corporation's Green Bonds** have been **listed** on **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, marking the **first-ever green bond issue** by a municipal corporation in India.

### What are Green Bonds?

- Green bonds are **debt securities** designated to finance environmentally friendly projects.
- In **2008**, the **World Bank** issued its first green bond in response to such increasing demand.

### Key Highlights :



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- **Municipal bonds** provide an alternative means of financing for urban local bodies and **reduce dependency** on central and state grants.
- Most urban infra bonds can be categorised as green bonds since the proceeds are primarily directed towards energy, transport, water management, sewage treatment and energy-saving.
- Green Municipal bonds will also attract new foreign investors who specialise in **sustainable financing** and invest in projects with environmental, social and governance considerations.
- The public issue of Indore Municipal bonds received an overwhelming response, with an overall subscription of **5.91 times** the issue size.
- The global green bond market has surpassed the milestone of **2 trillion USD** in terms of cumulative green bond issuance.
- In India, corporates, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and financial institutions have issued green bonds worth approximately **10.8 billion USD during 2019-2022**.

### About NSE :

- Founded : 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Ashishkumar Chauhan

### SBI launches BHIM SBIPay for Singapore-India transfer after UPI-PayNow linkage

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** integrated its mobile application **BHIM SBIPay**, with **UPI-PayNow linkage** facilitating **fund transfers** from **India to Singapore** through registered mobile numbers and from Singapore to India using UPI (Unified Payments Interface) ID.

### What is UPI?

- UPI is **India's** mobile-based fast payment system.
- Money can be sent or requested using a user-created **Virtual Payment Address (VPA)** or UPI ID for each bank account using the KYC-linked mobile number.

### What is PayNow?

- PayNow is a fast payment system in **Singapore**.





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- It enables peer-to-peer funds transfer service, available to retail customers through participating banks and **Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NFIs)** in Singapore.

### About UPI-PayNow linkage :

- UPI-PayNow linkage is a linkage between the **fast payment system** of **India(UPI)** & **Singapore (PayNow)**.
- It will enable users of the two fast payment systems in either country to make **convenient, safe, instant, and cost-effective cross-border fund transfers** using their respective mobile apps.
- Prime Minister of India, **Shri Narendra Modi**, with the Prime Minister of Singapore, **Mr. Lee Hsien Loong**, launched the real-time payments system linkage between India and Singapore on **February 21, 2023**.
- It is a significant milestone towards the development of infrastructure for cross-border payments between India and Singapore.

### Key Features :

- The customers will be able to transfer money from India to Singapore, or vice-versa, by using their UPI ID.
- The receiver will get the money in the local currency, and as per the **real-time exchange rate calculation**.
- The maximum daily limit is **\$1,000 Singapore Dollars**, or equivalent to around **60,000 INR**.
- To use this facility, customers must navigate to the **'Foreign Outward Remittance'** tab on the BHIM SBI Pay app.
- Other than SBI, **Indian Bank, ICICI Bank, and Indian Overseas Bank** have been roped in for **inward and outward remittances** while **Axis Bank** and **DBS India** will facilitate **inward remittances only**.
- The inward bilateral remittance between Singapore and India is about **\$949 million** as of 2021 (according to World Bank Bilateral Remittance Matrix December 2022).

### About SBI :



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- Founded: 1 July 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

### **HDFC Bank Partners with Lulu Exchange to facilitate cross-border payments between India and GCC region**

- India-based private sector bank, **HDFC Bank**, and the UAE-based financial services company, **Lulu Exchange**, have signed an agreement to **strengthen cross-border payments** between **India** and the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region**.
- Under the partnership, a digital inward remittance service titled '**RemitNow2India**' will be launched.
- '**RemitNow2India**' will allow UAE residents to send money to any Indian bank account via **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** and **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** through HDFC Bank's digital banking channels.
- Further, the two entities will leverage their collective regulatory technology and service network to extend the collaboration through various online and offline initiatives
- The collaboration is expected to strengthen the relationship between HDFC bank and Lulu Exchange in India.

### **About LuLu Exchange :**

- LuLu Exchange is a **UAE-based financial services company**.
- Currently, the LuLu Financial Group operates the **LuLu Forex** and **LuLu Finserv**, a **non-banking financial company (NBFC) division**.

### **About HDFC Bank :**

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline: We Understand Your World



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**Central Bank of India partners with Moneywise Financial Services Pvt Ltd to offer MSME loans**

- State-owned **Central Bank of India (CBI)** entered into a **strategic Co-Lending Partnership** with **Moneywise Financial Services Private Limited (MFSPL)** to offer **micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) loans** at **competitive rates**

**About the Partnership :**

- As part of the partnership, Moneywise Financial Services will process MSME loan proposals as per jointly **decided credit parameters** and eligibility criteria.
- CBI will take into its books **80%** of the MSME loans under mutually agreed terms.

**About Central Bank of India :**

- Founded: 21 December 1911
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Matam Venkata Rao
- CBI is an Indian public-sector bank

**About MFSPL :**

- MFSPL is an **RBI-regulated non banking financial company** focused on **MSME Lending**.

**Kotak Mahindra Bank launched its corporate digital banking portal 'Kotak fyn'**

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched '**Kotak fyn**', an **integrated digital platform** for business banking and corporate clients, offering digital banking and value-added services across all products, including **trade and services, account services, payments, and collections**.

**About 'Kotak fyn' :**

- "Kotak fyn's **single platform reduces complexity** and friction for customers.
- The portal will assure **paperless transactions** and will offer the facility to unify data across multiple product-specific portals and back-office systems to create a single view of transactions, positions, and balances, enabling self-service and driving operational efficiency.



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- It **eliminates** the need for **multiple logins** and disparate user interfaces, making all trade and service transactions seamless and convenient for customers.

### About Kotak Mahindra Bank :

- Founded: 1985
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Uday Kotak
- Tagline: Let's Make Money Simple

### Saraswat Bank partners with Tagit to deploy omnichannel banking

- **Saraswat Bank** has partnered with Singapore-based digital banking solutions provider **Tagit** to implement **omnichannel digital banking solutions** for its retail and corporate customers.

### Key Highlights :

- Under the agreement, the bank will use **Tagit's Mobeix Digital Banking platform** to enhance customer experience by offering a comprehensive set of digital services securely, anytime, anywhere.
- The Mobeix platform will provide the bank's retail and business banking customers with seamless orchestration of services across mobile and web, comprehensive features, outstanding UX, and robust security.
- This will increase the market reach, **faster time-to-market**, and **enhance customer engagement**.

### About Saraswat Bank :

- Founded: 14 September 1918
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Gautam Thakur
- Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd. is an **urban cooperative banking institution**

### About Tagit :



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- Headquarters: Singapore
- Chief Executive: Sandeep Bagaria

### State Bank of India raises Rs 4,544 cr via allotment of AT-1 bonds

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** announced that it has **raised Rs 4,544 crore** through allotment of **Basel III compliant AT-1 bonds** like debentures.
- These **non-convertible, taxable, perpetual, subordinated, unsecured, fully paid up Basel III compliant AT-1 bonds** like debentures have a coupon rate of **8.20% per annum (p.a)**.
- The bonds are perpetual and there is **no maturity date**.
- The AT-1 bonds are proposed to be listed on the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** and the **National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India**.
- While AT1 bonds are a **perpetual debt instrument** used by banks to augment their core capital, issuers can redeem them through a call option after a specified period.
- As of 31 December 2022, the Government of India held a **57.50% stake** in the SBI.

### About SBI :

- Founded: 1 July 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

### Asian Development Bank President Proposes USD 25 billion Support for India's development priorities

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa** met with Prime Minister (PM) **Shri Narendra Modi** and announced ADB's intention to provide **USD 20–25 billion** in resources over **5 years** to support India's ambitions for rapid, inclusive, and green growth.

### Key Highlights :

- ADB assistance to meet the country's priority development needs, and ADB's **country partnership strategy (CPS)** for **India, 2023–2027**.



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- ADB is now finalizing the new 5-year CPS following a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process.
- ADB will provide multifaceted support for India's key priorities, including the important infrastructure push under the **PM's Gati Shakti (National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity)** initiative, building future cities, mobilizing domestic resources, and strengthening basic services in disadvantaged districts.”
- As a guest international organization at the G20 meetings and Leaders' Summit, ADB is supporting the priorities of India's presidency across the finance and sherpa tracks.
- ADB's current India portfolio comprises **64 projects** worth about **\$16 billion** across the transport, urban, energy, human development, agriculture and natural resources, and finance sectors.

### About ADB :

- Founded : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 countries

### CURRENT AFFAIRS : BANKING & FINANCE

#### Banking mergers in India have been beneficial to the banking sector - Reserve Bank of India paper

- According to a **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** occasional paper, titled **Do Bank Mergers Improve Efficiency? In the Indian Experience**, banking mergers in India have been, on an **average, beneficial** to the banking sector as the financial performance and efficiency of acquirers improved post-merger.

#### Key Highlights :

- The study covered all registered **Mergers & Acquisitions (M&As)** in the Indian commercial banking industry, between 1997 and 2020.



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- The sample was reduced to include **17 merger cases** during 1997- 2017 and **5 merger cases** during **2019-2020** .
- The study's findings suggest that the mean technical efficiency of acquirers increased from **90.88** in the pre-merger period to **93.80** post-merger after 3 years, and 94.24 post-merger after 5 years.
- Mergers have provided avenues for increasing the scale of operations, geographical diversification, and adoption of more efficient business strategies.
- Moreover, the impact was sharper in the **medium term (-3 to +5 years period)** as compared to the short-term (-1 to +1 years or -3 to +3 years period) .
- The improvement in **capital adequacy ratio (CAR)** and **non-performing assets (NPA)** post-merger indicates that the combined entity has become more resilient to financial risks.
- Post-merger, banks may have been able to cut some operating costs by consolidating bank branches/ATMs operating in the same area, etc.
- CAR is the **ratio of a bank's capital** in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities.
- During 1997-2022, there were **40 bank amalgamations** in which 12 were between private sector banks (PVBs) and public sector banks (PSBs).

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### SEBI Proposes To Introduce 5 New Categories Under ESG Funds

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed allowing **mutual funds** to introduce **5 new categories** under **ESG (environmental, social and governance)** scheme.
- The five new categories should be **exclusions, integration, best-in-class and positive screening, impact investing** and **sustainable objectives**.



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Sub-categories	Indicative description in brief
ESG exclusion scheme	Invests in securities after excluding it basis certain parameters like ESG related activities, business practices or business segments
ESG integration scheme	Invests in companies after considering ESG related factors to evaluate risk and return of investment along with financial factors
ESG best-in-class & positive screening scheme	Invests in companies that perform better than peers in terms of ESG parameters
ESG impact investing scheme	Invests in companies that bring positive, measurable social or environmental impact
ESG sustainable objective scheme	Invests in companies that are likely to benefit from a long-term macro or structural ESG-related trends

- The requirement should be made **mandatory from April 1, 2023**, SEBI suggested and sought comments from the public till March 6, 2023 on the proposals.

**Key Highlights :**

- Presently, mutual funds can launch **only one ESG scheme** under the thematic category of equity schemes.
- ESG schemes under the proposed new category should be permitted with a minimum **80% investment** of total assets in equity or debt stocks of a particular theme as per the sub-categories.
- The remaining portion should also be in line with the broader ESG philosophy.





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### About ESG :

- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) is a framework that **helps stakeholders** understand how an organisation is managing risks and opportunities related to environmental, social, and governance criteria (sometimes called ESG factors).

### About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Gol.

### HDFC Bank Raises \$750 Million In Dollar Bond Sale

- The country's largest private sector lender **HDFC Bank** has **raised USD 750 million** through a **dollar bond sale**.
- HDFC bank will be paying a coupon of **5.686%**.
- The USD-denominated senior unsecured instruments will have a **3-year maturity**, with settlement on 2 March 2023, and the maturity on 2 March 2026.
- The paper, rated **Baa3** by **Moody's Rating Services** and Bbb by S&P, will be listed on the India International Exchange.

### About HDFC Bank :

- Founded : August 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We Understand Your World

### Karnataka Bank & Paisalo Digital Limited enter into Co-Lending Agreement for MSEs



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- **Karnataka Bank** and **Paisalo Digital Limited**, a non-deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), entered into a **co-lending agreement** to provide **financial support** to the **low-income segment** and to boost the country's **Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) segment** of India.
- The agreement was exchanged in New Delhi by **Gokuldas Pai**, chief business officer of Karnataka Bank and **Santanu Agarwal**, deputy managing director of Paisalo.

### Key Highlights :

- The arrangement will leverage Karnataka Bank's **low cost of funds** and the end-to-end digital capabilities of KBL and Paisalo, to help the **sourcing, servicing** and **recovery** of small-ticket income generation priority sector loans.
- In line with the RBI's guidelines on Co-lending by banks and NBFCs to Priority Sectors to improve the flow of credit to unserved and underserved segments

### About Karnataka Bank :

- Headquarters : Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- MD & CEO : Mahabaleshwara M. S
- Karnataka Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank.

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### Niva Bupa launches health insurance plan 'ReAssure 2.0'

**Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited** (Formerly Max Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited), one of India's largest independent health insurers, launched '**ReAssure 2.0**,' which includes many industry-first features.

ReAssure 2.0 improves on the current ReAssure plan's 3 powerful benefits – **ReAssure, Booster,** and **Safeguard** – by providing a '+' variant of these benefits to provide unrivalled benefits.

### About ReAssure 2.0 :



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ReAssure 2.0 is available as an individual, multi-individual and family floater. It starts from **₹5 lakh to ₹1 crore** for the age bracket of **18 years to 65 years**

### Key Features :

**Lock the clock:** With this revolutionary benefit, the age at which the consumer first enters the policy is locked until the customer makes his first claim under the policy.

**The Booster+ benefit:** It permits the unutilized base sum covered to be carried forward to the following insurance year.

**The sum insured** amount will continue to accumulate with each renewal until it reaches 5X or 10X, depending on whether the consumer has chosen the **platinum+ or titanium+ type**.

**Safeguard+:** This optional benefit allows a single claim for all non-payable products as defined in the Non-Payables Annexure while also protecting the Booster+ benefit if the claim in a policy year is up to **1 lakh**.

This plan offers a 'live healthy' benefit that gives a premium discount of up to **30%** on policy renewal basis health points earned.

### About Niva Bupa Health Insurance :

Founded : 2008

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

MD & CEO : Krishnan Ramachandran

It is a joint venture between **Fettle Tone LLP** (an affiliate of True North Fund VI LLP), a leading Indian private equity firm, and the UK based healthcare services expert, **Bupa Singapore Holdings Pte. Limited**.

### World Bank To Provide Turkey \$1.78 Billion For Recovery After Earthquake

The **World Bank** will provide **USD 1.78 billion** in assistance to **Turkey** to help with relief and recovery efforts after devastating **earthquakes** in Turkey and neighbouring Syria.



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The United States, through the **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**, will provide **USD 85 million** in urgent humanitarian assistance as the Agency continues to lead the U.S. government response to the worst earthquake to hit the region in nearly a century.

Up to **23 million people** could be affected by the massive earthquake that has killed thousands in Turkey and Syria, the WHO warned, promising long-term assistance.

### About World Bank :

Founded : December 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., U.S

### About Turkey :

President : Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Capital : Ankara

Currency: Turkish lira

### Reserve Bank of India tightens norms for ARCs on income recognising fee

As a step to **curb asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)** from breaching income recognition norms, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that ARCs will **deduct amounts** from **net-owned funds** while calculating the **Capital Adequacy Ratio**.

They will have to deduct these amounts from the amount available for payment of dividends as well.

After implementing **Indian Accounting standards (Ind AS)**, some ARCs have been recognising management fees even though the fee had not been realised for **more than 180 days**.

ARCs preparing financial statements as per Ind AS, will have to deduct the Management fee recognised during the planning period that remains unrealised beyond 180 days from the date of expiry of the planning period.

They will have to reduce unrealised management fees where the net asset value of the Security Receipts has fallen **below 50%** of the face value.

### About RBI :



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Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**Bharti AXA Life Insurance & Unity Bank Form Bancassurance Partnership**

**Bharti AXA Life Insurance**, announced its **bancassurance partnership** with **Unity Small Finance Bank** (Unity Bank), a new-age, **digital first bank** for the distribution of life insurance products through the Bank's network of 111 branches and 206 offices pan-India.

Unity Bank's customers will benefit from a diverse range of new-age insurance solutions offered by Bharti AXA Life.

**What is Bancassurance?**

Bancassurance refers to the **agreement** between a **bank** and an **insurance company** through which the bank sells the insurance product of the concerned insurance company to its customers.

This partnership arrangement can be **profitable** for both companies.

**About Bharti AXA Life Insurance :**

Established : 2006

MD & CEO : Parag Raja

Bharti AXA Life Insurance is a joint venture (JV) between **Paris-headquartered AXA Group** and **Bharti Enterprises** - one of India's leading business groups with interests in Telecom, agricultural business and financial services.

Presently, the joint venture has a **51% stake** from **Bharti Group** and a **49% stake** from **AXA**, in line with the regulatory framework on ownership in the Insurance sector.

**About Unity Bank :**

Commenced Operations : 2021

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India



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MD & CEO : Inderjit Camotra

Chairman : Mr. Vinod Rai

It is founded by **Centrum Financial Services** and **BharatPe**, aspires to be **India's first truly digital bank**.

### **SBI Introduced Amrit Kalash Deposit FD Scheme With Up To 7.6% Interest for Senior Citizens**

India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched a new retail term deposit scheme called **Amrit Kalash Deposit**.

#### **About Amrit Kalash Deposit Scheme :**

The Amrit Kalash Deposit is valid for customers from **15 February to 31 March 2023**.

The scheme is launched for **both domestic** and **Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers**

The interest rate of regular citizens is 7.10% while the interest rate of senior citizens is **7.60%**.

The total tenure of the deposit scheme is **400 days**.

For example, if they invest **Rs 1 lakh** in the SBI Amrit Kalash deposit scheme, after 400 days they will receive an interest of Rs 8,600.

A **premature loan facility** is also available under the SBI Amrit Kalash deposit scheme.

There is an additional 1% return for pensioners and employees of SBI.

#### **Other SBI fixed deposits schemes:**

SBI increased the interest rates on **fixed deposits** or term deposits on sums under **Rs 2 crore** by 5 basis points to 25 basis points.

### **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launched ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan**

**Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI)**, the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has launched a new-age savings solution **ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan**.

#### **About ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan :**



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The Plan is a **non-linked non-participating individual savings life insurance plan** offering guaranteed regular income starting as early as the end of the first policy month along with a lump-sum benefit at maturity.

**Key Features :**

The **maximum entry age** to avail ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan is **55 years**, while the **minimum age** is **30 days (long term income option)** and 30 years (whole life income).

The minimum annualised premium is **₹30,000**.

Policyholders can choose from multiple premium payment term options ranging from 6, 8, 10, 12 years.

**Benefits :**

The benefits of this plan on a **long-term basis** (25, 30, 35, 40 years) or whole life basis (100 – Age at entry).

Policyholders will have maximum flexibility to customise their plans with a choice of income benefits, multiple income variants, premium payment terms, policy terms and deferment periods.

**About ABSLI Limited :**

Established : Aug 04, 2000 (Commenced Operations Jan 17, 2001)

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Kamlesh Rao

It is a joint venture(JV) between the **Aditya Birla Capital of India** and the **Sun Life Financial Inc. of Canada**.

**IMF rolls out nine-point crypto assets action plan**

The **International Monetary Fund** laid out a **nine-point action plan** for **crypto assets**.

The action plan gives direction on how countries should handle crypto assets and urges them to not give legal tender to cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin.

The following are the 9 points:



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**Safeguard monetary sovereignty** and stability by strengthening monetary policy frameworks and do not grant crypto assets official currency or legal tender status.

**Guard against excessive capital flow volatility** and maintain the effectiveness of capital flow management measures.

Analyze and disclose fiscal risks and adopt unambiguous tax treatment of crypto assets.

Establish legal certainty of crypto assets and address legal risks.

Develop and enforce prudential, conduct, and oversight requirements for all crypto market actors.

Establish a **joint monitoring framework** across different domestic agencies and authorities.

Establish **international collaborative arrangements** to enhance supervision and enforcement of crypto asset regulations.

Monitor the impact of crypto assets on the stability of the international monetary system.

**Strengthen global cooperation** to develop digital infrastructures and alternative solutions for cross-border payments and finance.

**Note :**

Central American country **El Salvador** is the **first country** to **adopt bitcoin** as legal tender in 2021.

**About cryptocurrency :**

Crypto is a **digital currency** designed to work as a medium of exchange through a computer network.

It is an **alternative form of payment** created by using encryption algorithms.

The government of India announced a flat **30% tax** on gains from cryptocurrency in the budget 2022.

Cryptocurrencies in India are not regulated by any central authority.

In the **G20 FMCBG meeting**, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors accepted Crypto Assets are major risks to financial stability.

FMCBG meeting delegates took interest in the **central bank digital currency (CBDC)** pilot projects.

**About IMF :**





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Established : 27 December 1945

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States

Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva

Membership : 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)

### **RBI imposes restrictions on 5 co-operative banks**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed **restrictions** on **5 cooperative banks** due to their deteriorating financial condition.

### **List of 5 co-operative banks on which restrictions have been imposed**

Due to the current liquidity position of the following banks, customers will **not be able to withdraw funds** from their accounts.

HCBL Co-operative Bank, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

Adarsh Mahila Nagari Sahakari Bank Maryadit, Aurangabad (Maharashtra)

Shimsha Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Maddur, Mandya District in Karnataka

Customers from the following banks can withdraw up to **₹5,000**.

Uravakonda Co-operative Town Bank, Uravakonda, (Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh)

Shankarrao Mohite Patil Sahakari Bank, Akluj (Maharashtra)

### **Key Highlights :**

The restrictions imposed on these co-operative banks will remain in effect for **6 months**.

These banks cannot grant loans and make investments without prior approval of RBI.

These banks cannot incur any liability and transfer or dispose of any of their properties.

The eligible depositors of all 5 cooperative banks would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to **Rs 5 lakh** from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

### **NSE gets SEBI approval to launch WTI crude oil & natural gas futures contracts**



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The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has **received approval** from the markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch the **rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI crude oil** and natural gas (henry hub) futures contracts in its **commodity derivatives segment**.

Commodity derivatives segment of an exchange provides trading in futures.

**Key Highlights :**

Futures contract is a standardised legal agreement between the two parties i.e. buyer and seller to buy or sell something at a predetermined price at a specified date in future.

The underlying assets in a futures contract may be **commodities, stocks, currencies, interest rates, indices** and **bonds**.

In **Feb 2023**, the NSE signed a **data licensing agreement** with **CME Group**, allowing the bourse to list, trade and settle rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI crude oil and natural gas derivatives contracts on its platform.

This has expanded the product offering by NSE in the energy basket as well as its overall commodity segment.

Nymex WTI crude oil and natural gas contracts are among the world's most traded commodity derivatives contracts.

Trading in derivatives was started by NSE in **2000** and later on, it set up **index options trading** in **2001**.

Index options give the investor the right to purchase or sell the underlying stock for a definite time period.

**About SEBI :**

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch



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SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Gol.

### About NSE :

Founded : 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairperson : Girish Chandra Chaturvedi

MD & CEO : Ashishkumar Chauhan

According to **Futures Industry Association (FIA)**, in terms of trading volume (contracts) for 2022, NSE is the **world's largest exchange**.

As per the World Federation of Exchanges, NSE is **3rd** in the **world** in cash equities by the number of trades for 2022.

### Asian Development Bank to fund tourism projects worth Rs 1,311.20 crore in Himachal Pradesh

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has agreed **in principle** to provide **Rs 1,311.20 crore** under **phase-1** of the proposed infrastructure development investment programme in **Himachal Pradesh (HP)** to **strengthen tourism infrastructure** in HP.

The total cost of the project is **Rs. 2357 crore**.

### Key Highlights :

The projects components to be covered under the 1st phase are **beautification** of Palampur, convention centre at Dharamshala, thematic cum green Park at Pragpur, wellness centre at Dharamshala, Shimla, Nadaun and Kullu-Manali, high end fountain tourist facility at Dharamshala.

To develop the religious places, wayside amenities and facilities would come at **Baba Balak Nath** and development and beautification of Shiv Dham at Mandi.

### About ADB :

Established : 19 December 1966



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Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Manila, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 countries

**About HP :**

Governor : Shiv Pratap Shukla

Chief Minister : Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

**ESAF Bank & V-Guard partners to finance solar rooftop power systems**

**ESAF Small Finance Bank** and electric equipment manufacturer **V-Guard Industries** signed an **agreement** to **provide financing options** to customers looking to **install solar rooftop power systems**.

Under the agreement, ESAF Bank will provide various financing options, including loans and attractive instalment payment plans.

**Key Highlights :**

Under the MoU, Consumers can opt to finance up to **80%** of the total cost of the **rooftop solar power system**, including the cost of installation for residential or commercial applications. This partnership will enable customers to switch to clean energy with **ease** and **affordability**. V-Guard's Rooftop Solar Systems come with up to **40% subsidy** from the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.

The solar panels have **25-30 years** of onsite warranty.

Customers can choose from an extensive range of models from **3- 15 KW** depending on their requirements.

1 KW plant can generate 4-5 units of electricity on a sunny day

**About ESAF Bank :**

Founded : 10 March 2017

Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala

MD & CEO : K. Paul Thomas



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Tagline : Job of Banking

**About V-Guard Industries Ltd :**

Founded : 1977

Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala, India

Chairperson : Mr. Kochouseph Chittilappilly

MD : Mithun Chittilappilly

**Angel One received SEBI approval to sponsor a mutual fund**

The stock broker **Angel One Limited**, formerly known as Angel Broking Limited has received an **in-principle approval** from **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for **sponsoring a mutual fund**.

Accordingly, Angel One would be setting up an **asset management company** and the trustee company, in accordance with applicable SEBI Regulations and other applicable laws.

**About Angel One Limited :**

Founded : 8 August 1996

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman & MD : Dinesh D Thakkar

Angel One is the **largest listed retail stock broking house** in India, in terms of active clients on National Stock Exchange (NSE).

The company provides broking and advisory services, margin funding, loans against shares and distribution of third-party financial products to its clients.

**Retail trade and NBFCs drive credit growth in services - RBI data**

According to the data from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, significant offtake from **retail and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** increased credit to services by **21.5% year-on-year (YoY)** in **Jan 2023** as against 5.7% in Jan 2022.

RBI data showed loans to retail increased **21.8%** Year on Year (YoY) in Jan 2023, up from 6.9% in Jan 2022.



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Loans to NBFCs grew by **31%** in Jan 2023 as against 9.9% in Jan 2022.

NBFCs lend in segments like retail; micro, small, and medium enterprises; and farming, besides giving microloans.

**Key Highlights :**

**Credit to households** and individuals, reflecting the fund flow to the retail segment, has been robust, showing **20.4%** YoY growth in Jan 2023, up from the 12.8% in Jan 2022.

**Housing loans** grew **15.4%** YoY in Jan 2023 against 12.8% in Jan 2022.

The home-loan portfolio of banks stood at **Rs 18.88 trillion** in Jan 2023, up from Rs 16.36 trillion in Jan 2022.

Banks gave over **Rs 1 trillion** for **purchasing vehicles** in 12 months, leading to 25.5% YoY growth in loans in Jan 2023 as against 9.6% YoY growth in Jan 2022.

Credit to industry registered a growth rate of **8.7%** in Jan 2023 as compared with 5.9% in Jan 2022.

**Size-wise**, credit to large industries grew by **6.5%** in Jan 2023 as compared with 0.2% in Jan 2022.

The credit growth of medium industries moderated to 18.1% in Jan 2023 as against 52.4% in Jan 2022.

**Credit to micro and small industries** registered a growth rate of **15.2%** in January 2023 (23.3% in Jan 2022).

Credit growth to **agriculture** and allied activities improved to **14.4%** in Jan 2023 from 10.4% in Jan 2022.

**About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

**IDFC First Bank Limited & Federal Bank partner with Sa-Dhan on UPI123PAY**



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Private sector lenders **IDFC First Bank Limited** and the **Federal Bank Ltd** partnered with the association of **microfinance institutions (MFIs) Sa-Dhan** and Delhi-based fintech solutions provider **NextGen** to encourage feature phone users to use **UPI123Pay** to make digital payments.

### About UPI123Pay :

In **2022**, the **RBI**, in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, launched the **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** for feature phone users known as UPI123Pay. RBI Governor **Shri Shaktikanta Das** also launched a **24x7 helpline** for digital payments – **DigiSaathi**.

### Key Highlights :

A key responsibility of this partnership is to enable **UPI integration** – enabling simple money transfers, bill payments, merchant payments, recurring payments, and EMI collection. There are about **45 million individual beneficiaries** under the MFI organizations and most of them are on feature phones.

In UPI123Pay, there are broadly 3 steps that a user will take to complete transactions. UPI123Pay is about empowering more people to get onboarded digital experience through feature phones.

NextGen will bring **technical solutions** like setting up a UPI Auto pay platform for regular EMIs as an auto-pay function and riding on the UPI 123Pay service platform with NPCI.

Both IDFC First and Federal Bank will be the **UPI service** and **bill payment partners**, respectively.

Founder & CEO of Next Gen: Taron Mohan

### About Sa-Dhan :

Executive Director : Jiji Mammen

Sa-Dhan is an association of Impact Finance Institutions and an RBI-appointed **Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO)** for MFIs.

### About IDFC First Bank :



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Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO: V. Vaidyanathan.

Tagline: Always You First

IDFC First Bank is an Indian private sector bank formed by the merger of the banking arm of **Infrastructure Development Finance Company** and **Capital First**, an Indian non-bank financial institution

It is the **first universal bank** to offer monthly interest credit on savings accounts, lifetime free credit cards with dynamic and low annual percentage rates

**About Federal Bank Limited :**

Headquarters: Aluva, Kochi, Kerala.

MD & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan

Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner

**RBI imposes ₹3.06 crore penalty on Amazon Pay (India) for violation of norms**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty** of over **₹3.06 crore** on **Amazon Pay (India) Private Limited** for non-compliance with certain provisions related to **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)** and **Know Your Customer (KYC)** direction.

The penalty has been imposed under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, **2007**.

This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entity with its customers

In **July 2022**, RBI imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 1.67 crore** on **Ola Financial Services** for similar reasons of non-compliance with KYC requirements.

The regulator also fined fintech firm **Obopay** in August 2022.

**About Amazon Pay :**

Amazon Pay is an online payment processing service owned by **Amazon**.

Launched in **2007**.





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It uses the consumer base of Amazon.com and focuses on giving users the option to pay with their Amazon accounts on external merchant websites.

It is the payments arm of e-commerce giant Amazon India and provides services such as **mobile recharges**, and **bill payments**.

It also distributes insurance and wealth management products such as **fixed deposits (FD)** through partners.

### **New India Assurance Co Ltd becomes 2nd company to offer surety bonds**

**New India Assurance**, the largest non-life insurance company in the country, announced the launch of its **surety insurance bond business**.

The state-run company became the **second insurer** to offer such bonds in the country.

In **December 2022** Union highways minister **Nitin Gadkari** launched **India's first surety bond insurance** for infrastructure projects by the private sector player **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**.

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** permitted general insurers to issue Surety Insurance Bonds from **April 2022**.

### **What are Surety bonds?**

Surety bonds are legally enforceable **tripartite contracts** by which one party (the surety) guarantees the performance or obligations of a second party (the principal) to a third party (the obligee) that guarantee compliance, payment, and/or performance.

There are **two broad categories** of surety bonds:

Contract surety bonds

Commercial (also called miscellaneous) surety bonds.

### **About Contract Surety Bonds :**

Surety bonds that are written for **construction projects** are called contract surety bonds.

A project owner (the obligee) seeks a contractor (the principal) to fulfill a contract.

### **About Commercial Surety Bonds :**



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Commercial surety bonds cover a very broad range of surety bonds that guarantee performance by the **principal of the obligation** or undertaking described in the bond.

**About New India Assurance Co. Ltd :**

Founded: 23 July 1919 (nationalized in 1973)

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman & MD : Ms Neerja Kapur

**IRCTC partners with HDFC Bank to launch India's co-branded travel credit card**

**Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC)**, the public sector undertaking under the **Ministry of Railways**, and **HDFC Bank**, India's largest private sector bank have partnered to launch one of India's most rewarding co-branded travel credit cards, known as the **IRCTC HDFC Bank Credit Card**.

The credit card was launched by **Rajni Hasija**, Chairman & Managing Director, IRCTC, **Parag Rao**, Group Head – Payments, Consumer Finance, Digital Banking and IT, HDFC Bank and **Praveena Rai**, COO, NPCI at a launch ceremony held at New Delhi, Delhi, India.

HDFC Bank is the **first private sector bank** to partner with IRCTC to enhance the customer experience for train travellers, right from the time of booking their tickets.

**About IRCTC HDFC Bank Credit Card :**

The card is in a single variant and is available exclusively on the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** Rupay network.

It will provide exclusive benefits and **maximum savings** on bookings of train tickets booked through the IRCTC's ticketing website and through the **IRCTC Rail Connect app**.

With RuPay Credit Cards now enabled on UPI for payments, this co-branded card will provide impetus to further adoption and reach of **digital payments across India.**"

**About IRCTC :**

Founded : 27 September 1999

Headquarters : New Delhi, India



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Chairman & MD : Rajni Hasija

### About HDFC Bank :

Established : August 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline : We Understand Your World

### RBI imposes restrictions on Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **Rs 5,000 cap** on withdrawals by individual customers from **Tamil Nadu (TN)-based Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank**.

**Reason:** It is a part of several restrictions imposed on the lender due to its deteriorating financial condition.

The restrictions on the lender will remain in force for **6 months**.

The bank will continue to undertake banking business with restrictions until its financial position improves, and the RBI may consider modifications of the directions depending on circumstances

### Key Highlights :

Without the approval of the RBI, the cooperative bank **cannot grant loans**, make any investments, or disburse any payments.

Meanwhile, the eligible depositors would be entitled to receive a deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to **Rs 5 lakh** from the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation**.

The RBI also restricts the bank from entering into any compromise or arrangement and selling, transferring or otherwise disposing of any of its properties or assets except as notified in the RBI Direction.

### Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Launches UPI E-Services For Kangra Central Cooperative Bank



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Himachal Pradesh (HP) Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** has launched **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** and **'Swadhan-e-pension-Gov'** services for **Kangra Central Cooperative Bank**

**Aim:**

To make bank transactions **easier** and **quicker**, especially for the elderly and those living in remote areas

These services would benefit thousands of account holders of the bank.

He also released the **bank's annual calendar** on this occasion

**About HP :**

Governor : Shiv Pratap Shukla

Chief minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Capitals: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)

**SIDBI & Showreel To Jointly Develop Digital Platform To Support Innovators**

The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ShowReel** for developing an **online digital platform** to support innovators & **promote Entrepreneurship** in **India**.

**Aim :**

To provide handholding support to aspiring innovators with practical-based hand-holding demonstration and equity funding to channelise ideas offering solutions to a multitude of problems

**Key Highlights :**

The new virtual ecosystem is completely digital and is designed to provide citizens of India with a platform to **think, analyse** and **create enterprising ideas** to solve real-world development problems.



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ShowReel and SIDBI intend to create this virtual incubator, to harness intellectual capital, help and develop entrepreneurship.

The platform will be a **one-stop-shop** for ideators and innovators, providing access to training videos, market analysis, and mentorship, in addition to a virtual incubation program.

### About SIDBI :

Established : 2 April 1990

Headquarters : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann

The SIDBI is the **apex regulatory body** for overall licensing and regulation of **micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies** in India.

It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of **Finance** , Government of India (GoI).

### RBI launches Mission 'Har Payment Digital' on the occasion of Digital Payments Awareness Week 2023

The Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **Shri Shaktikanta Das** launched the Mission '**Har Payment Digital**' on the occasion of the **Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023**.

This is part of RBI's endeavour to make every person in India a user of **digital payments**.

### About DPAW 2023 :

DPAW 2023 will be observed from the **6th to 12th of March, 2023**.

The campaign theme is "**Digital Payment Apnao, Auron ko bhi Sikhao**" (Adopt digital payments and Also teach others).

### Key Highlights :

"Har Payment Digital" is **aimed** at reinforcing the ease and convenience of digital payments and facilitating onboarding of new consumers into the digital fold.

RBI's Regional Offices will take up **Jan Bhagidari activities** to promote the acceptance and use of digital payments under the G20 theme of promoting digital public infrastructure during **Indian presidency**.



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The RBI will also initiate a **'75 Digital Villages' programme** in observance of 75 years of Independence.

Under this programme, **Payment System Operators** will adopt 75 villages across the country and convert them into digital payment enabled villages.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### NSE designates 15 stock brokers as Qualified Stock Brokers

The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has notified **15 stock brokers** as **Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs)**.

The list includes Zerodha, Angel One, 5paisa Capital, HDFC Securities, ICICI Securities, IIFL Securities, Jainam Broking, Kotak Securities, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, NextBillion Technology, Nuvama Wealth and Investment, Sharekhan, Anand Rathi Share and Stock Brokers, RKSVM Securities, and Globe Capital Market

This list was announced following a **February 2023** direction by the capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.

### About QSBs :

QSBs are **stock brokers** that cater to the needs of a large number of investors.

They are entities which can impact investors and the securities market, governance and service standards because of their size and scale of operations.

They occupy an important position in the Indian securities market because of their **size, trading volumes** and **amount of clients' funds** handled by them.

### How are QSBs designated?

A stockbroker will be classified as a QSB based on **4 factors**:



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The number of active customers

Total available assets of clients

Trading volumes

End-of-day margin obligations

All stock brokers with a **total score greater than or equal** to five on these four parameters are identified as QSBs.

The scores are to be determined annually during the financial year, and the stock exchanges will jointly issue the updated list of QSBs after consulting with SEBI.

The scores are to be calculated on an **annual basis (financial year)** and the revised list of QSBs will be released jointly by stock exchanges, in consultation with SEBI.

Stock brokers which are designated as QSBs are required to **meet enhanced obligations**.

**Max Life & Ujjivan Small Finance Bank collaborates to provide life insurance services**

**Max Life Insurance Company Ltd** (Max Life) and **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** have launched cooperation to provide Ujjivan SFB customers with holistic **life insurance options**.

Max Life will offer a variety of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans to over **73 lakh Ujjivan SFB customers** through this cooperation.

**Key Highlights :**

Max Life's new product offerings include advancements in a variety of consumer sectors, including **homemakers, Non Resident Indians (NRIs), and self-employed individuals**.

The firm has used **digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** at scale to provide improved customer experiences with frictionless onboarding, risk management, and the creation of a digital enterprise.

**About Max Life Insurance Company Ltd :**

Founded : 2001

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India



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MD & CEO : Prashant Tripathy

It is a 80:20 joint venture (JV) between **Max Financial Services** and **Axis Bank**.

### About Ujjivan SFB :

Founded : 1 February 2017

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India

MD & CEO : Ittira Davis

Tagline : Build a Better Life

The bank is licensed under **Section 22 (1)** of the Banking Regulation Act, **1949** to carry out small finance bank business and received **Scheduled Bank status** from the Reserve Bank of India in August 2017.

### CBDT gives five-year tax exemption for insolvency regulator IBBI

In a big boost to the **insolvency regime**, the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has granted **tax exemption** to certain **specified incomes** of the insolvency regulator **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** for **5 financial years** starting from the current fiscal.

The tax exemption will be available for the financial years **2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026** and **2026-2027**.

These incomes include grants-in-aid received from the Central Government, fees received under the IBC, fines collected under the IBC and any interest income on these receipts.

In **September 2022**, IBBI imposed a regulatory fee of **0.25%** on **corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP)**.

It had also imposed a **1% regulatory fee** on third-party service providers and professionals appointed by **Insolvency Professionals (IPs)**.

### About CBDT :

The CBDT is an **administrative body** of the Income Tax Department.

It is a statutory body established as per the **Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963**.

It is administered by the Department of Revenue under the **Ministry of Finance**.





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### About IBBI :

Established : 1 October 2016

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

Chairperson : Ravi Mittal.

Parent Department : Ministry of Corporate Affairs

IBBI is the regulator for **overseeing insolvency proceedings** and entities like Insolvency

Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.

It is responsible for the implementation of the IBC code.

### European Investment Bank & IREDA explore a partnership to finance Renewable Energy & green hydrogen projects in India

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** and state-owned **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited** are exploring a partnership on the **financing of renewable energy and green hydrogen projects** in India.

This comes after EIB global director **Maria Shaw-Barragan** met IREDA Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) **Pradip Kumar Das** at IREDA's corporate office.

### About the Partnership :

The collaboration would help in opening up new opportunities for the country's citizens and advancing the Government's goal of achieving **50%** of its installed energy capacity from non-fossil fuels by the year **2030**.

It would help to create new opportunities in the emerging segment of **renewable energy, green hydrogen, green ammonia, e-mobility, battery storage**, etc.

### About EIB :

Founded : 1958

Headquarters : Kirchberg, Luxembourg

President : Werner Hoyer

### About IREDA :



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Established : 1987

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

CMD : Pradip Kumar Das

It is a statutory and autonomous organisation under the Government of India and administratively controlled by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.

**World Bank Commits \$1 Billion To India For Public Healthcare Infrastructure**

The **Government of India (GoI)** and the **World Bank** signed **two complementary loans** of **\$500 million Public Health Systems** for **Pandemic Preparedness Program (PHSPP)** & a **\$500 million Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program (EHSDP)** to support and improve public healthcare infrastructure in India.

Through this combined financing of **\$1 billion**, the Bank will support India's flagship **Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)**, launched in **October 2021**.

The agreement was signed by **Rajat Kumar Mishra**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India and **Auguste Tano Kouamé**, Country Director, India, World Bank.

Both the PHSPP and EHSDP loans from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** have a final maturity of **18.5 years** including a grace period of 5 years.

**Key Highlights :**

One of the loans will prioritise health service delivery in **7 states - Andhra Pradesh (AP), Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu (TN) and Uttar Pradesh (UP)** in addition to the national level interventions.

The \$500 million PHSPP will support the government's efforts to:

**Prepare India's surveillance system** to be ready to detect and report epidemics of potential international concern, ensure rapid response, and prevent emergence of pathogens.

The \$500 million EHSDP will support Government's efforts to:



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**Strengthen service delivery** through a redesigned primary health care model, which includes improved household access to primary healthcare facilities, stronger links between each household and its primary care facility through regular household visits and risk assessment of noncommunicable diseases

According to the World Bank estimates, India's performance on the health front has improved over time.

Life expectancy in India at **69.8** in **2020**, up from 58 in 1990 is higher than the average for the country's income level.

**About World Bank :**

Established : December 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States

President : David Malpass

**PNB makes Positive Pay System mandatory for cheque payments worth Rs 5 lakh and above**

In a move to **safeguard customers** from fraudulent payment of cheques, state-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has made the **Positive Pay System (PPS)** compulsory for **cheque payments** worth **Rs 5 lakh** and above.

This will come into effect from **April 5, 2023**.

Earlier, the mandatory submission of cheque details in PPS was set at **Rs 10 lakh** and above.

**What is PPS?·**

The PPS is a system developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, which requires customers to reconfirm essential details (account number, cheque number, cheque alpha code, issue date, amount, and beneficiary name) when issuing cheques of a certain amount.



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Customers can use the PPS facility by providing the cheque details through the Branch office, Online Banking for individuals and businesses, Mobile Banking (PNB ONE), or SMS Banking, adding the details to be submitted one working day prior to cheque presentation/clearing date.

As per **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines**, PNB had introduced PPS for cheques of **Rs 50,000** and above presented in CTS clearing from **January 1, 2021**.

RBI had recommended that availing this facility is at the account holder's discretion and banks may consider making it **mandatory** for cheques of Rs 5 Lakh and above.

### About PNB :

Founded : 19 May 1894

Headquarters : Delhi, India

MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel

Tagline : Name You Can Bank Upon

### City Union Bank rolls out credit card in partnership with 42 Card Solutions

Private sector lender **City Union Bank (CUB)** has launched its **first-ever credit card service**, the **Dhi CUB Visa Signature Credit Card**, in partnership with credit cards-as-a-service provider **42 Card Solutions Pvt Ltd (42 CS)**

### Key Highlights :

The bank initially issued the cards to its employees in a trial run, and plans to have around 30,000 active cards by the end of **March 2023**.

The first priority to avail the new credit card will be given to CUB's **existing customers** over new-to-credit customers.

Customers can apply for the card by logging into the bank's mobile application, and can get **1.25% cashback** on eligible spends.

The card also has a unique flex control option that enables its users to actively control and manage their spending while ensuring a high level of safety.

The bank will also offer a **free CUB Keychain Debit Card** to its credit card customers.



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Co-Founder and CEO, 42 Card Solutions Pvt Ltd : **GG Srinivas**

**About City Union Bank Limited :**

Established : 31 October 1904

Headquarters : Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO: Dr. N. Kamakodi

The bank was initially named **Kumbakonam Bank Limited**.

**Kotak AMC financial literacy campaign for women - DigitALL**

On International Women's Day, March 08, 2023 **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company** (Kotak Mutual Fund) has launched a digital campaign named '**DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality,**'.

**Aim :**

To drive the culture of **digital literacy among women**.

The campaign advocates for digital inclusion of all with the **hashtag #IncludeAll**.

The digital campaign video showcases Kotak group's women employees sharing their stories about supporting and empowering other women in their lives by imparting digital literacy.

MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company : **Nilesh Shah**

**Bajaj Finserv got SEBI licence to start mutual fund business**

Financial services company **Bajaj Finserv** has received the **final registration** from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to start its **mutual fund (MF)** business operations under Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund.

Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund, with **Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Limited (BFAML)** as the **Investment Manager**, will soon offer a range of MF products including equity, debt, and hybrid funds, both in the active and passive segments, to investors.

BFAML will create a tech-driven, multi-channel approach to serve investors across the country to build a future-**ready asset management company**.



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The Indian mutual fund industry has assets worth **Rs 39.62 lakh crore** and has 42 asset management companies working in the sector as on **January 31, 2023**.

### About Bajaj Finserv Limited :

Founded : May 2007

Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra, India

Chairman & MD : Sanjiv Bajaj

Chief Executive Officer, Bajaj Finserv Asset Management : Ganesh Mohan

Bajaj Finserv Limited is an **Indian non-banking financial services company**

### About SEBI :

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Gol.

### Axis Bank partners with ITC Ltd to offer rural lending products to farmers in remote region

**Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank, has collaborated with **ITC Limited** to offer the **Bank's lending products** and services to **farmers** who are a part of ITC's agriculture ecosystem.

### About the Partnership :

The partnership will enable Axis Bank to cater to the financial requirements of **unserved** and **under-served farmers** based in remote regions by offering them a range of assets and liability products such as **farmer loans** and **gold loans**, among others.

Axis Bank will leverage **ITCMAARS (Meta Market for Advanced Agricultural Rural Services)**, a full-stack agri-tech application to reach out to the farmers and address their financial requirements.



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The bank will also offer farmers a range of products and services through its **rural-urban and semi-urban (RUSU)** branches located across **656 districts**.

Through this initiative, Axis Bank **aims** to further scale up its Bharat Banking strategy by increasing new-to-bank accounts.

**About Axis Bank :**

Established : 3 December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

**About ITC Limited :**

Founded : 24 August 1910

Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Chairman & MD : Sanjiv Puri

**YES Bank enters into co-lending partnership with Aadhar Housing Finance**

**YES Bank** has entered into a **co-lending partnership** with **Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd** to offer **home loans** at competitive interest rates.

**About the partnership :**

Under the partnership, the entities will provide products such as Home Loan for **Salaried Employees, Loan for Plot Purchase and Construction, Home Improvement Loan, Loan Against Residential Commercial Property, Balance Transfers** and **Top Up**, among others, to customers from lower and middle-income groups.

The partnership is in line with the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** co-lending framework that enables banks and non-banking companies to jointly bring about financial solutions that address the needs of underserved and underserved sections of society.

CEO & MD of Aadhar Housing Finance : **Rishi Anand**.



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**About YES Bank :**

Founded : 2004  
Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India  
MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar  
Tagline : Experience Our Expertise

**Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Launches “Unpause Initiative” to Support Workplace Diversity**

**Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB)** has launched the ‘**Unpause Initiative**’, a programme designed to **assist women** who have taken a career break for any reason and are now ready to return to the workforce.

The initiative is part of its commitment to promoting **workplace diversity** and **inclusion**.

**Aim :**

To provide women with the resources and support they need to succeed, to enable them to enrich themselves and contribute to the community at large.

**Key Highlights :**

As part of this Initiative, Ujjivan SFB has also announced a **special Hiring Drive** and **Employee referral programme** for women who are resuming their careers.

The hiring programme will be implemented across the bank, and women from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

**About Ujjivan SFB :**

Founded : 1 February 2017  
Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India  
MD & CEO : Ittira Davis  
Tagline : Build a Better Life  
Ujjivan Financial Services holds an **80% stake** in the bank





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The Bank is licensed under **Section 22 (1)** of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry out small finance bank business and received **Scheduled Bank status** from the **RBI** in August 2017.

### **Only 1% women Insured in India - Report**

According to the latest report by **PayNearby** in association with **RBI Innovation Hub**, **Insurance penetration** among **women in rural India** remains a concern with **only 1% insured** and **29% aware** of the insurance products offered.

It is highlighted that Life insurance is the most common type of Insurance availed by this cohort at **23%**.

Also the number of health insurance policies is also gradually increasing now with **18%** of women insured.

### **About the report :**

The report covers nearly **10000 women** as the survey was conducted across more than 5000 retail outlets of PayNearby.

Further, the insights are backed by transactional data of the RBI's Innovation Hub in 2022-23.

On the other aspects, the report states that **78%** of the women cited cash withdrawal as the primary reason for visiting a retail service outlet.

For roughly about **45% women**, **1000-2500 rupees** was the **most preferred range** of withdrawal, followed by 32% transactions between 500-999 rupees.

**Only 6%** of women transact over 5000 rupees, as per the report findings.

The PayNearby study shows that **74%** of women know how to operate their bank accounts, without depending on another person & the range of **500-750 rupees** is the most preferred.

### **Equitas Small Finance Bank partners with Gujarat Titans for Tata IPL 2023**

**Equitas Small Finance Bank** has signed a partnership as the '**Proud Banking Partner**' with the **2022 Tata IPL champions - Gujarat Titans** for the 2023 season.

The Gujarat Titans team will sport the Equitas Small Finance Bank logo on the back of the helmet as part of the team's jersey.



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**Aim :**

To communicate that Equitas has been playing a progressive role in transforming the lives of individuals through their lending and social responsibilities of **'Beyond Banking**.

**Key benefits :**

- Earning up to **7% interest** on savings
- Contactless video KYC service
- No maintenance charges** on savings accounts
- Free online fund transfers and so on. .

**About Equitas Small Finance Bank :**

- Founded : 2016
- Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO : Vasudevan P N

**Bandhan Bank opens Mega Currency Chest in West Bengal**

A **Mega Currency Chest** has been opened by **Bandhan Bank** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**. This is the Bank's **third mega currency chest**, the other two being in **Patna** and **Guwahati**. **Shri Gunveer Singh**, Chief General Manager, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) inaugurated the currency chest .

This chest would facilitate fresh currency circulation and help the bank serve its clientele. Bandhan Bank currently has over 1 crore customers in West Bengal.

In the Kolkata region, the bank has **182 bank branches**.

**About Bandhan Bank :**

- Founded : 2015
- Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal
- Chairman : Dr. Anup Kumar Sinha
- MD & CEO : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh



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### Central banks of Israel, Norway and Sweden model hub for digital currency payments

**Project Icebreaker**, a joint initiative from the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** and the **central banks of Israel, Norway, and Sweden**, has successfully concluded a **study** on the potential benefits and challenges of using retail **central bank digital currencies (CBDC)** in international payments.

The project tested the technical feasibility of conducting cross-border and cross-currency transactions in a hub-and-spoke model between different experimental retail CBDC systems.

#### Key Highlights :

Project Icebreaker sets out to explore a specific way to **interlink domestic systems** (a so-called hub-and-spoke solution).

A cross-border transaction is broken down into two domestic payments, facilitated by a foreign exchange provider active in both domestic systems.

In most existing cross-border payment systems, the payer has **no choice regarding the exchange rate**, as it has no control on who the/ provider of foreign exchange conversion is.

In the model developed by the Icebreaker project, many foreign exchange providers can submit quotes to the system's hub, which automatically selects the cheaper one for the end user.

An rCBDC therefore never leaves its own domestic system.

This is because **foreign exchange (FX)** providers **buy one currency in one system** and sell the other currency in the other system.

#### About BIS :

Founded: 20 January 1930

Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland

General Manager : Agustin Carstens.

Membership : 63 central banks

The BIS is an **international financial institution** owned by central banks that "fosters international monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a bank for central banks".



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**SIDBI And ShowReel Come Together For Developing End To End Platform To Promote Start Up Entrepreneurships**

**Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in **India** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ShowReel** for developing an **online digital platform**

**Aim :**

To provide handholding support to aspiring innovators with practical-based hand holding **demonstration** and **equity funding** to channelise ideas offering solutions to a multitude of problems.

The new virtual ecosystem is completely digital and is designed to provide citizens of India with a platform to **think, analyse** and **create enterprising ideas** to solve real-world development problems.

The platform will be a **one-stop-shop** for ideators and innovators, providing access to training videos, market analysis, and mentorship, in addition to a virtual incubation program.

It will also offer practical **solutions** to **real-world problems** by providing video-based solutions that will **help entrepreneurs** in their respective fields.

**About SIDBI :**

Founded: 2 April 1990

Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann

SIDBI is the apex **regulatory body** for overall licensing and regulation of MSME finance companies in India.

It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI).

**RBI infuses ₹82650 crore into the banking system via VRR auction**



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The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** infused liquidity amounting to **₹82,650 crore** into the banking system via the **14-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction**.

Banks borrowed ₹82,650 crore at a weighted average rate of **6.53%**.

Notified amount under the VRR auction was **₹1 lakh crore**.

This will be only the **second VRR auction** conducted by the RBI since February 2020.

### Key Highlights :

On February 8th, 2023 **bi-monthly monetary policy review**, RBI governor **Shri Shaktikanta Das** stated that **higher government expenditure** and the anticipated return of forex inflows may augment systemic liquidity.

It would get modulated by the scheduled redemption of **LTRO (long-term repo operations)** and **TLTRO (Targeted LTRO) funds** from February to April 2023.

The RBI will carry out operations on either side of the **liquidity adjustment facility (LAF)** based on evolving liquidity conditions.

The Variable Repo Rate (VRR) auction is usually undertaken to **withdraw excess liquidity** from the system.

### About LTRO :

LTRO is a mechanism to facilitate the transmission of monetary policy actions and the flow of credit to the economy.

LTROs are conducted on **Core Banking Solution (E-KUBER) platform**.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### PNB Signs MoU with Central Warehousing Corporation to Facilitate Financing Under e-NWR



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State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to facilitate financing under **e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt)**.

**Kanwal Jit Shorey**, General Manager of Punjab National Bank, and **Rajiv Kumar Bansal**, Group General Manager (Comm.) of CWC signed the agreement.

**Aim :**

To provide **farmers/food processors/traders** with **easy access to finance** in exchange for the pledge of agricultural commodities stored in CWC warehouses.

**About PNB :**

Founded : 19 May 1894

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel

Tagline : The name you can bank upon

**About CWC :**

Founded : 1957

Headquarters : New Delhi, India

The CWC is a statutory body created by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**, Government of India (GoI), under the **'Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962**.

**Aim :**

To provide **reliable, cost-effective**, value-added, integrated warehousing and logistics services in a socially responsible and environment-friendly manner.

**About e-NWR :**

The e-NWR was launched by Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) on **Sep 26, 2018**.

**Kochi Metro becomes the first in the country to accept digital currency for parking**



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In an initiative to promote **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**, **Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL)** has become the **1st metro in India** to accept **digital currency** in its parking facilities. The programme was inaugurated by **KMRL MD Loknath Behera** at Thykoodam Metro station. The programme was introduced in association with Maharashtra based **IDFC FIRST Bank** partnered with **Anantham Online**, a technology startup. This initiative comes at the back of a pilot programme launched by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

### Key Highlights :

The initiative would help the Metro users to pay from their respective Bank's CBDC wallet and **avoid exchanging cash**.

The retail CBDC will be mainly used for **retail payments like cash**.

It will be a digital rupee signifying legal tender in the form of a digital token and issued in the same denominations as paper currency and coins. It will be distributed through intermediaries, such as **banks**.

### SEBI introduces reward mechanism for informants providing tips on defaulters

The market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced a **reward system** of up to **Rs 20 lakh** for informants who share information about the assets of defaulters.

### Aim :

To **recover fines** from **elusive offenders**.

Additionally, SEBI published a list of **515 defaulters** on which any informant may have offered information.

### Key Highlights :

According to the SEBI, the reward may be granted in two stages, interim and final.



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While the interim reward amount will **not exceed two and a half per-cent** of the reserve price of the asset regarding which tips were provided or `5 lakh, whichever is less and the **final reward amount** will **not exceed 10 percent** of the dues recovered or `20 lakh, whichever is less.

As per SEBI, a person will be considered to be an informant eligible for a reward if he or she furnishes original information about the asset of a defaulter concerning the dues which are certified as **'Difficult to Recover'(DTR)**

The DTR dues are the ones that could not be recovered even after exhausting all the modes of recovery.

According to SEBI's annual report for 2021-22, at the end of March 2022, the market regulator classified debts totaling **Rs 67,228 crore** as DTR.

For recommending the **eligibility of reward**, SEBI will set up an **informant reward committee** comprising the chief general manager of the Recovery and Refund Department, the concerned recovery officer having jurisdiction in the matter, another recovery officer nominated by the chief general manager, and an officer in the grade of deputy general manager or higher, of the Office of Investor Assistance and Education nominated by the chief general manager in charge of **Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF)**.

**About SEBI :**

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for the securities and commodity market in India under the ownership of **Ministry of Finance** , Gol.

**Muthoot Finance extends its National Pension Scheme offering to domestic and NRI customers**

**Muthoot Finance** has announced the **extension** of its **National Pension Scheme (NPS)** services to both its **domestic** and **Non- Resident Indian (NRI) customers** through its website and the **iMuthoot app**.





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The iMuthoot application allows the customers to have a 'Do It Yourself Model'.

Under this model, users can submit the application and complete the NPS registration by themselves.

Muthoot Finance is an NPS service provider by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.

By providing the extension of NPS services to its customers, Muthoot Finance aims to provide its customers with an extra avenue for **long-term retirement planning**.

Muthoot Finance also aims to offer its customers a tax concession of up to **₹50,000** under subsection **80 CCD (1B)**.

### About Muthoot Finance :

Founded : 1939

Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala.

Chairman : George Jacob Muthoot

Managing Director : George Alexander Muthoot

Muthoot Finance Ltd is an Indian financial corporation and the **largest gold loan Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** in **India**.

### PNB MetLife launches Genius Plan to help parents in supporting Children's Future

**PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (PNB MetLife)**, one of India's leading life insurance companies has launched **PNB MetLife Genius plan** a new solution to help **parents financially prepare** to support their children's future.

### About PNB MetLife Genius plan :

PNB MetLife Genius plan is an **individual, non-linked, non-participating, saving, life insurance plan** that offers life insurance coverage while allowing parents to save for their child's education.

### Benefits :



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Flexibility to save with a unique and customisable payout structure

**1.5 % higher benefit** for girl child

In-built waiver of premium on death

Option to choose additional protection against **Accidental Total Permanent Disability (ATPD)**

1.5 % higher benefit for PMLI's existing customers

**About PNB MetLife :**

Founded : 2001

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Ashish Kumar Srivastava

Brand ambassador for PNB MetLife : **PV Sindhu** (Ace Badminton player)

PNB MetLife shareholders include MetLife International Holdings LLC (MIHL), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (JKB), and M. Pallonji and Company Private Limited.

**SBI raises Rs. 3717 crores through Additional Tier 1 bonds**

The nation's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** raised **Rs 3,717 crore** through **additional tier 1 (AT1) bond sale**.

This is the **third Basel III compliant AT1 bond sale** and the latest issue was closed at a coupon rate of **8.25%**.

The proceeds will be used to augment its additional tier 1 capital and overall capital base of the bank and also for **strengthening capital adequacy** by RBI guidelines.

These bonds have a call option after **10 years** and every anniversary thereafter.

Prior to this bond sale the bank had raised **Rs 4,544 crore** on February 21, 2023, from similar bonds at a spread of **71 bps** over the corresponding G-Sec par curve on the date of bidding.

Basel III AT1 bonds with a **5-year call option** are worth **Rs 41,581.70 crore**, while AT1 bonds with a **10-year call option** are worth **Rs 8,261 crore** of the bank's total outstanding Additional Tier 1 Bonds.

**What are AT1 bonds?**



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AT1 bonds, also called **perpetual bonds**, carry **no maturity date** but have a call option. AT-1 bonds are regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

### About SBI :

Founded : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman : Shri Dinesh Kumar Khara

Tagline : The banker to every Indian

### Credit card outstanding rises 29.6% to reach record high level in Jan 2023

The **credit card** outstanding in **January, 2023** rose **29.6%** to reach an all-time high of **Rs 1.87 lakh crore** on the back of increased digitisation and rising consumer confidence in the post-Covid period.

As per the latest data of the RBI, the credit card outstanding has recorded a growth of **more than 20%** in the 10 months of the current fiscal.

### Key Highlights :

Highest growth of **30.7%** was recorded in June.

Credit card spending has shown consistent growth for the last few months.

In January 2023, card spending stood at **₹1.28 lakh crore** as against ₹1.26 lakh crore in December 2022.

Since last 11 months, credit card spends have been consistently above **₹1-lakh-crore mark**.

At the end-January 2023, there were nearly **8.25 crore credit cards** issued by different banks.

The **top 5 credit issuers** in the country are **HDFC Bank, SBI Card, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank** and **Kotak Bank**.

During December 2022, e-commerce spending accounted for about **60%** in total credit card spending.

MD & CEO of SBI Card : Rama Mohan Rao Amara

### IDFC Mutual Fund rebrands itself as Bandhan MF & unveils new logo



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**IDFC Mutual Fund (MF) has rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund.**

The fund house's schemes will be renamed, with the word 'Bandhan' replacing 'IDFC' in each of them.

The **new brand logo** will also be unveiled, closely resembling the Bandhan Bank logo, but with **additional colours and styling**

### Key Highlights :

IDFC MF was earlier a part of the IDFC group, and was acquired by a **Bandhan Financial Holdings-led consortium** in **April 2022**.

The deal was approved by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** in **November 2022**.

IDFC Asset Management Company was acquired by the consortium, which comprises **Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited, GIC, and ChrysCapital**.

Bandhan holds **60%** of the acquired entity, with control of operations, while the other two will hold 20% each in the AMC.

BFHL will be the **sponsor** of the **mutual fund**.

### About IDFC Mutual Fund :

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Vishal Kapoor

### Daily UPI transactions crossed 36 crores in one year - RBI Governor

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shri Shaktikanta Das** announced that **payments** through **unified payment interface (UPI)** have grown exponentially in the past 12 months, with daily transactions crossing **36 crores** in March, which is a rise of 50% from 24 crores in February 2022.

### Key Highlights :

In **value terms**, daily UPI transactions are worth **₹6.27 lakh crore**.

This is a growth of **17%** from ₹5.36 lakh crore in February 2022.



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RBI governor stated these facts while launching **Digital Payments Awareness Week**.

He also stated the overall monthly digital payment transactions crossed the level of **1,000-crore transactions** each month during the past three months (since December 2022).

In volume terms, UPI transaction number exceeded **800 crore** in **January 2023**.

**National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** recorded the highest-ever daily volume of **3.18 crore transactions** on February 28, 2023.

### What is UPI?

UPI was launched in **2016**.

It is an instant real-time payment system developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

UPI transaction **volume** has increased from 0.45 crore in January 2017 to **804 crore** in **January 2023** & the **value of UPI transactions** has increased from **₹1,700 crore** to ₹12.98 lakh crore during the same period.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### Shriram General Insurance opens two women-only branches in the north

Private non-life insurer, **Shriram General Insurance Company (SGIC)** has set up **two women-only branches** in **Ludhiana, Punjab** and **Jaipur, Rajasthan** in the first such initiative in the industry.

The entire workforce, from the branch manager to the support staff, consists of women. SGIC plans to replicate the **model nationwide**, going forward.

**Sundaram Direct**, a division of Sundaram Finance, has also opened its **first all-women branch** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.



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**About SGIC :**

MD & CEO : Anil Aggarwal

SGIC is a joint venture(JV) of Shriram Capital Pvt Ltd, the holding company of the **Shriram group's financial services business**, and **Sanlam Ltd**, a South African financial services group.

Sanlam Ltd is a South African financial services group.

**IREDA gets 'Infrastructure Finance Company' status from RBI**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted an '**Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)**' status to **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**.

With IFC status, IREDA will be able to take higher exposure in **renewable energy (RE) financing**.

Earlier, IREDA was classified as '**Investment and Credit Company (ICC)**'

**Key Highlights :**

The IFC status will also help the company to **access a wider investor base** for fund mobilisation, resulting in competitive rates for fundraising.

The recognition of IREDA as an IFC will increase the investors' confidence, enhance the brand value, and generate a positive outlook in the market.

The grant of IFC status is a recognition of **IREDA's 36 years** of infrastructure financing and development with focused development of RE.

With IFC status, IREDA will keep contributing towards Govt. of India's target of **500 GW** installed capacity of **non-fossil fuels by 2030**.

**About IFC :**

Infrastructure finance companies are a non-deposit accepting, loan company that have a **minimum of 75%** of the **total assets** of the company deployed as infrastructure loans.

The companies are also required to have a **minimum net-worth** of **Rs.300 crores**, **Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR)** at **15%** with Tier I capital at **10%**.



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The minimum credit rating of the company should be at A or equivalent of CRISIL, FITCH, CARE, ICRA, BRICKWORK or equivalent rating by any other accrediting rating agencies.

**About IREDA :**

IREDA was incorporated as a Public Limited Company in the year **1987** as a '**Non-Banking Financial Institution**'.

It is a Miniratna (Category 1) type company functioning under the administrative control of '**Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE)**', Government of India (GoI).

Chairman and Managing director : Pradip Kumar Das

**Aim :**

To promote, develop and finance new and renewable sources of energy with the motto: "**Energy for Ever**"

It finances all RE technologies and value chain such as solar, wind, hydro, bio-energy, waste to energy, energy efficiency, e-mobility, battery storage, biofuel and new and emerging technologies

**About MNRE :**

Cabinet Minister : Raj Kumar Singh

Minister of State : Bhagwanth Khuba

**Silicon Valley Bank's demise began with a downgrade threat**

The **16th largest bank** in the **United States (US) Silicon Valley Bank (SVB)**, has been **shut down** by regulators due to the sudden shutdown of Silvergate Capital Corp and the unmindful fundraising of SVB.

It is the **second biggest bank failure** in U.S history after the collapse of **Washington Mutual** in the 2008 financial crisis.

SVB is a key player in the tech and venture capital community.

Around half of the U.S. technology and healthcare companies were SVB customers.

In the **last 18 months**, Technology sector stocks have declined sharply.



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It suffered a major loss due to the **increase** in **interest rates** by the US central bank.  
The main office and all branches of Silicon Valley Bank will reopen on **March 13, 2023**.

**Key Highlights :**

Due to the shutdown of SVB, there has been a loss of more than **\$ 100 billion** in the market value of the shares of American banks.

Financial regulators have taken control of its deposits.

According to the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)**, **89%** of the bank's **\$175 billion** in deposits were **uninsured** by the end of 2022.

FDIC has created the Deposit Insurance National Bank of Santa Clara.

The FDIC's standard insurance covers up to **\$250,000 per depositor**.

**About SVB :**

Founded : October 17, 1983

Headquarters : Santa Clara, California, US

**Canara Bank launches Rupay Credit Card on UPI**

**Canara Bank** in collaboration with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched the **Rupay Credit Card** through **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** using the **BHIM(Bharat Interface for Money) app**

**Aim :**

To leverage the reach of UPI and the **strength** of **credit card products**.

**Key Highlights :**

With this introduction, Canara Bank customers can link their active Rupay Credit Card to UPI and make merchant payments without the physical use of a card, similar to account-based UPI transactions.

This will provide **increased opportunities** to use their credit card limits, while merchants without **POS(Point of Sale)** machines can receive payments using a Credit Card from customers having Rupay Credit Card linked to UPI using the mode of scan and pay through QR.





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This will **enable small merchants** to increase sales turnover and business at low cost. Currently, customers with Canara Bank Rupay Credit Card variants - **Rupay Classic, Rupay Platinum, and Rupay Select** - can link their cards to UPI

### About Canara Bank :

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Non Executive Chairman : Vijay Srirangam

MD & CEO: K. Satyanarayana Raju

Tagline : Together We Can

The Canara Bank nationalised in 1969.

Canara Bank is an Indian public sector bank under the control and ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI).

### About NPCI :

Founded : 2008

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

### HDFC Bank & Flipkart Wholesale Launches Industry-First Co-Branded Credit Card

Private lender **HDFC Bank** and **Flipkart Wholesale** launched an industry-**first co-branded credit card** exclusively for **Flipkart Wholesale members**.

### Key Highlights :

The credit card will run on the **Diners Club International network**, part of the Discover Global Network and can be used in more than **200 countries** around the world where Diners Club cards are accepted.

As part of this collaboration, registered members of Flipkart Wholesale will be able to avail of **5%** cashback - an industry-first offer, on Flipkart Wholesale online spends.

Other benefits include **Rs 1,500 worth** of activation cashback, with **zero joining fee**, along with additional cashback on utility bills and other expenses.



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The cards will enhance access to credit and accelerate the **adoption** of **digital payments** while offering multiple benefits to smaller merchants in India.

### About HDFC Bank :

Founded : August 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline : We Understand Your World

### About Flipkart Wholesale :

Flipkart Wholesale is a new digital marketplace focusing on addressing the **business-to-business (B2B)** segment in India.

### ICICI Bank launches Ecosystem Banking for Indian Startups

**ICICI Bank** announced '**Startup Ecosystem Banking**' to offer **digital** and **physical solutions** to **startups** catering to the banking needs across their various life stages.

The Bank provides innovative solutions through its **domestic** and **international network**, and branches at GIFT City, the Gujarat-based emerging global financial and IT services hub.

The proposition offers treasury and transaction banking solutions, lending solutions, digital integrations, handling FDI and regulatory compliances, personal banking services for employees and founders.

### Key Highlights :

The Bank has put in place a dedicated team for startups under the scheme that serves through an extensive network of branches.

The Bank offers digital opening of **Global Foreign Currency Current Account (GFCCA)** for overseas holding companies and subsidiaries of Indian startups.

The Ecosystem Banking further helps startups to open **Special Non-Resident Rupee (SNRR) accounts** as well as create deposits in both **US Dollar** and in **Indian Rupee**.



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The Bank also offers state-of-the-art digital channels namely **Corporate Internet Banking (CIB)**, InstaBIZ mobile application, Trade Online for trade related transactions, Integrated Payment System platform to facilitate vendor and tax payments, and solutions for e-collections and e-mandates.

Further, the Bank offers an **'API Developer Portal'**, with over 250 APIs, enabling startups to co-create innovative customer solutions aiming to **reduce time taken & increase productivity**.

**About ICICI Bank Limited :**

Founded : 5 January 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.

**PNB MetLife Launches Sustainable Equity Fund**

**PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited** (PNB MetLife), one of India's leading life insurance companies, is launching a **Sustainable Equity Fund**.

The new fund which is part of the PNB MetLife Goal Ensuring Multiplier plan, would enable customers to **maximise returns** while having a good impact on society.

It will invest the customers' premium in organisations that are setting the standard for **environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practises**.

The Sustainable Equity fund promotes ESG principles while also providing a balanced exposure to various industries thanks to its diverse portfolio of businesses.

These companies place a high value on sustainable activities, such as **cutting carbon emissions, fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion, and upholding effective corporate governance**.

**About PNB MetLife :**

Founded : 2001

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Ashish Kumar Srivastava

Brand ambassador for PNB MetLife : PV Sindhu (Ace Badminton player)



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PNB MetLife shareholders include **MetLife International Holdings LLC (MIHL)**, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, **Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (JKB)**, and **M. Pallonji and Company Private Limited**.

**Bandhan Mutual Fund launches Bandhan US Treasury Bond 0-1 Year Fund of Fund**

**Bandhan Mutual Fund** (erstwhile IDFC Mutual Fund) has launched **Bandhan US Treasury Bond 0-1 Year Fund of Fund**.

This is **India's first passive debt fund** in international space.

**About Bandhan US Treasury Bond 0-1 Year Fund of Fund :**

The fund is an open-ended fund of fund scheme investing in units/shares of overseas index funds and/or **Exchange Traded Funds (ETF)** which track an index with US treasury securities in the 0-1 year maturity range as its constituents.

The new fund offer (NFO) opened on **March 10, 2023**, and will close on **March 23, 2023**.

It will invest in an overseas fund with exposure to 0-1 year US treasuries, currently through the **JPMorgan BetaBuilders US** (United States) Treasury Bond 0-1 year **UCITS** (Undertakings for the collective investment in Transferable Securities) ETF.

The fund will be benchmarked against the ICE 0-1 Year US Treasury Securities Index.

It will provide investors with a convenient route to create a dollar asset that benefits from the relatively **high quality, reasonable safety**, and current high yield of US Treasuries.

**Reserve Bank of India and Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Abu Dhabi**, to **enhance cooperation** and jointly enable innovation in financial products and services.

**Key Highlights :**



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CBUAE and RBI will jointly conduct **proof-of-concept (PoC)** and pilot(s) of bilateral CBDC bridge to facilitate cross-border CBDC transactions of **remittances** and **trade**.

The Collaboration is a significant step towards **promoting innovation** and collaboration in the field of **FinTech**.

This bilateral engagement of testing cross-border use cases of CBDCs is expected to **reduce costs, increase efficiency of cross border transactions** and further the economic ties between India and UAE.

The MoU also provides for **technical collaboration** and **knowledge sharing** on matters related to Fintech and financial products and services.

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**About CBUAE :**

Established : 11 December 1980

Headquarters : Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**New York's Signature Bank shut down in connection with Silicon Valley Bank collapse**

State regulators in the **United States of America (USA)** shut down New York-based **Signature Bank** after California authorities closed **Silicon Valley Bank**, marking the **3rd largest failure** in US banking history.

The shutdown is the result of the collapse of SVB Financial Group's Silicon Valley Bank, with the economic meltdown spreading to other institutions.

**Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** has been appointed as a receiver.



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This means that FDIC will liquidate the assets of Signature Bank to pay back depositors and others.

In order to **protect depositors**, FDIC transferred all the deposits of Signature Bank to Signature Bridge Bank, N.A.

Signature Bridge Bank is a **full-service bank** that will be operated by the FDIC.

Both depositors and borrowers will become customers of **Signature Bridge Bank**.

They will have uninterrupted customer service.

### What is a bridge bank?

A bridge bank is an institution created by a **national regulator** or **central bank** to operate a **failed bank until a buyer** can be found.

Bridge bank is a **chartered national bank**.

It operates under a board & the board is appointed by the FDIC.

### About Signature Bank :

Founded : May 1, 2001

Headquarters : New York, U.S

Chairman : Scott Shay

President & CEO : Joseph J. DePaolo

### Go Digit General Insurance launches 3 new health plans

One of India's fastest growing insurance companies, **Go Digit General Insurance** has launched **3 new plans** under the **Digit Health Insurance policy**.

The 3 plans :

Digit Double Wallet

Digit Infinity Wallet

Digit Worldwide Treatment

The 3 plans are designed to meet Indians' newly evolved health insurance demands following the pandemic.



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**1. Infinite Sum Insured with Digit Infinity Wallet Plan**

Customers can choose an **unlimited back-up sum insured (SI)** with the **Digit Infinity Wallet plan** to assist cover escalating medical expenditures.

**2. Double Sum Insured with Digit Double Wallet Plan**

The Digit Double Wallet Plan will provide policyholders with the option of doubling their back-up sum insured.

**3. Freedom of Treatment anywhere in the world with Digit Worldwide Treatment**

The Digit Global Treatment Plan would allow patients to receive treatment anywhere in the globe, including India.

All the plans will include complimentary health check-ups at **renewals**, and **cover personal accident, organ donor expenses, psychiatric illness, and bariatric surgery.**

**About :**

Chairman : Kamesh Goyal

**J&K Bank signs corporate agency agreement with LIC**

**Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank)** has signed a corporate agency **agreement** with **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.

The bank will service and solicit LIC's life insurance products through its branch network.

The agreement will be operational/effective from **April 1, 2023**.

General Manager (Cross Selling Vertical) **Narjay Gupta** signed the agreement on behalf of J&K Bank, while Regional Manager (MBAC) **P K Saxena** signed on behalf of LIC.

As at December-end 2023, J&K Bank had **989 branches** across the country.

Of this, **83%** of the branches were in the union territory of J&K.

**About J&K Bank :**

Founded : 1 October 1938

Headquarters : Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India



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MD & CEO : Baldev Prakash

### IRDAI mandates general insurers to cover mental illness, HIV and PwDs

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has made it **mandatory** for **general insurers** or stand-alone health insurers to launch health insurance policies that can provide **coverage** to people with **mental illness** and those afflicted with HIV/AIDS and disabilities.

On **Feb,27, 2023** the IRDAI issued a circular to all general and standalone health insurers to "**mandatorily launch and immediately offer**" an "appropriate product" and a "specific cover" for persons with mental illnesses, disabilities and HIV/AIDS.

While there was negligible compliance between 2018 and 2021, since 2022, all insurers have started including mental illnesses in their health plans.

The new plan will be standardised, which means that its features and benefits will remain the same across insurers, but the premium will vary.

### About IRDAI :

Founded: 1999

Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

Chairperson : Debasish Panda

The IRDAI is a statutory body under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI) and is tasked with **regulating** and **licensing** the **insurance** and **reinsurance industries** in India.

### PFRDA introduces T+2 settlement for partial withdrawal of NPS

The **Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA)** has **reduced** the **timeline** for withdrawal from the **National Pension System (NPS) subscribers** for processing partial withdrawal requests from **4 working days (T+4)** to **2 working days (T+2)** across all **Central Record Keeping Agencies (CRAs)**.

### What is T+2 & T+4?





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T+2 means, “**after 2 days of the request**”, and T+4 means “**after 4 days of the request**”.

### Conditions of partial withdrawal :

Subscriber should be in NPS at least for **3 years**

Withdrawal amount will **not exceed 25%** of the contributions made by the Subscriber

Withdrawal can happen a **maximum of 3 times** during the entire tenure of subscription.

Withdrawal is allowed only against the **specified reasons**, for example Higher education of children, Marriage of children

### Key Highlights :

With the latest move on partial-withdrawal, PFRDA has now crunched the turnaround time for all kinds of withdrawals.

As part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** and to commemorate 75 years of India’s independence, the intermediaries of PFRDA viz **Central Record Keeping Agencies (CRAs)**, Pension Fund and Custodians have improved the system interface.

Meanwhile, India’s pension assets (NPS and APY) continue to show frenetic growth and the assets under management touched about **₹8.75-lakh crore** till **February 11, 2023**.

### About PFRDA :

Founded : 23 August 2003

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

Chairman : Supratim Bandyopadhyay

PFRDA is the **regulatory body** for overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India.

It operates under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance** in the Government of India.

### IDFC Mutual Fund to launch India’s first international ETF debt fund

IDFC Mutual Fund (MF) is set to launch **India's first international debt fund**, the **IDFC US Treasury Bond 0-1 Year FOF (fund of funds)**.

With this international debt fund, Indian retail investors can now have access to diversify their investments and invest in **ultra-safe, currently high-yield US treasury securities**.



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They can also use this FOF as a hedge against their exposure to the US dollar (USD).

### Key Highlights :

The IDFC US Treasury Bond 0-1 Year FOF will invest in JPMorgan BetaBuilders US Treasury Bond 0-1 Year UCITS ETF, an **exchange-traded fund (ETF)** with exposure to 0-1-year US treasuries.

Except for some cash holdings for liquidity needs, the fund will have **100% exposure** to US treasuries.

In 2022, the 1-year US treasury yields have increase from **0.38% to 4.65%**, making it a good time to invest in US debt instruments.

### Bank of Maharashtra partners with Experian India for credit portfolio management

The **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** announced a **strategic partnership** with **Experian India**, In order to **strengthen** the **digital security** of the services.

### Aim :

To provide a comprehensive suite of services such as **credit risk, advanced analytics,** and **fraud prevention.**

### Key Highlights :

Experian is collaborating with BoM to provide innovative solutions throughout the customer lifecycle, enabling the bank to on-board **New to Credit (NTC)** and **New to Bank customers (NTB)** and service existing customers efficiently.

BoM will avail the services for retail and non-retail clients, including **SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises), MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises),** and corporates.

### About Experian :

Experian is a **leading global information services company**, providing data and analytical tools to our clients around the world



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MD of Experian Credit Information Company of India : **Saikrishnan Srinivasan**

**About BoM :**

Established : 16 September 1935

Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO - Shri A S Rajeev.

Tagline : One Family One Bank

**RBL Bank partners with India Exim Bank for Trade Finance**

**RBL Bank** and **Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)**, have entered into an agreement under the **Trade Assistance Programme (TAP)**, to support cross-border trade transactions.

Under the TAP, India Exim Bank aims to facilitate and **enhance India's exports globally** by providing credit enhancement to trade instruments.

**Key Highlights :**

Through the programme, India Exim Bank will extend trade lines to participating overseas banks/institutions in the emerging markets.

The credit enhancements to trade instruments will **help mobilise trade finance** and would increase support to Indian exporters.

**About RBL Bank :**

Founded : 6 August 1943

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Mr. R Subramaniakumar

RBL Bank, formerly known as **Ratnakar Bank**, is an Indian private sector bank

**About EXIM Bank of India :**

Established : 1982

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Managing Director : Ms. Harsha B Bangari



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### Bank of Baroda unveils co-branded debit card under Tamil Nadu govt Pudhumai Penn scheme for girl students

Public sector **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has partnered with the **Government of Tamil Nadu (TN)** to offer **co-branded RuPay Platinum Debit Card** in TN offering customised solutions to its users. BoB has launched the debit card that would be offered to the beneficiaries of the state government's '**Pudhumai Penn**' scheme.

The card offers personal accident insurance coverage up to **Rs 2 lakh per annum** and the joining and **annual fees** for the **first year** has been **waived off**.

The card was inaugurated at an event in **Chennai, TN** by **T Udhayachandran**, principal secretary of the TN government's special implementation department, and **A Saravanakumar**, general manager and zonal head of BoB.

#### About 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme :

The Pudhumai Penn scheme by the government aims to enhance the **enrolment ratio** of the **girls** from government schools to **higher educational institutions**.

Through this scheme, financial assistance of **Rs 1,000 per month** would be provided to every girl till the completion of their degree course.

#### About BoB :

Founded : 20 July 1908

Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat

Non-Executive Chairman : Dr. Hasmukh Adhia

MD & CEO : Shri Sanjiv Chadha

Tagline : India's International Bank

### RCB ropes in Equitas Small Finance Bank as banking partner for 2023 season of T20

**Equitas Small Finance Bank** has partnered **T20 cricket team Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** for the **2023 season** of the T20 league.



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The RCB team will don the Equitas Small Finance Bank logo on the lead trousers as part of the team's jersey.

### Aim :

To communicate that Equitas has been playing a progressive role in transforming the lives of individuals through their lending and social responsibilities of **'beyond banking'**

### About Equitas Small Finance Bank :

Founded : 2007

Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO : Vasudevan P N

At present, Equitas has 10 branches across Bengaluru serving over 1.7 lakh customers with 170 employees.

### India & World Bank signed loan agreement for construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project in 4 States

Road and Highways Minister **Shri Nitin Gadkari** revealed in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha that the **Government of India (GoI)** and the **World Bank** have signed a **contract** for the construction of the **Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP)** with a total length of **781 km in 4 states** such as Himachal Pradesh (HP), Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (UP), and Andhra Pradesh (AP).

It will be done using a loan of **\$500 million** from the World Bank, with a total project cost of **US\$1288.24 million (7,662.47 crores)**.

### Objective :

To **demonstrate safe** and **green highways** keeping in view **climate resilience** and use of green technologies by incorporating the provisions of conservation of natural resources using cement treated sub base/reclaimed asphalt pavement, use of local/ marginal material such as lime, fly ash, waste plastic, bio-engineering measures for slope protection such as hydroseeding,



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coco/jute fibre etc., which will enhance the ability of Ministry to bring Green technologies into the mainstream.

### About Ministry of Road Transport & Highways :

Cabinet Minister : Nitin Gadkari

Minister of State : General V. K. Singh

### About World Bank :

Established : December 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., U.S

President : David Malpass

The World Bank is an **international financial institution** that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.

### RBI imposes Rs 5 lakh penalty on HDFC for non-compliance of norms

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty of Rs 5 lakh** on **Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC)** for non-compliance with certain provisions issued by the **National Housing Bank (NHB)**.

A statutory inspection of the company was conducted by NHB with reference to its financial position as on **March 31, 2020**.

HDFC **failed to transfer matured deposits** of certain depositors to designated bank accounts of such depositors during the period 2019-20

The Finance (No. 2) Act, 2019, amended the National Housing Bank Act, **1987** conferring certain powers for regulation of **Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)** with the RBI.

Also the RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 11.25 lakh** on **IGH Holdings Private Limited, Mumbai** for non-compliance with certain provisions.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935



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Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### UCO Bank raises Rs 500 crore in AT1 bonds

UCO Bank has raised Rs.500 crore through Private Placement of **BASEL III Compliant Additional Tier I Bonds (Series I)**.

The security issued is **9.50%** Unsecured, Subordinated, Perpetual, Non-Convertible Fully Paid Up, Taxable, Basel III Compliant Additional Tier I Bonds in the nature of Debenture of **Rs.500 crore** (Series I).

Bonds will be listed on the WDM segment of NSE.

Earlier, the bank had received an approval for raising Tier I Capital aggregating up to **Rs 1000 crore** in the form of Additional Tier I Bonds in one or more tranches up to FY24 i.e. till **March 31, 2024**.

### About UCO Bank :

Established : 1943

Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal, India

CEO: Shri Soma Sankara Prasad.

Tagline : Honours Your Trust

UCO Bank, formerly United Commercial Bank, is a central public sector bank under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.

### OmniCard in collaboration with NPCI, Goes live with UPI as a Prepaid Issuer

India's First Omnichannel Spending Platform, OmniCard has launched **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services** without the need to link a **Bank Account** for its users.

### Key Highlights :

OmniCard ensures the **highest safety features** for its users by offering a bank-independent UPI facility with its own UPI handle @OMNI.



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Users can pay with any **UPI QR (Quick Response) code** or any **UPI ID** using their OmniCard wallet balance without exposing their bank accounts.

@OMNI UPI amplifies safety by ensuring a layer that limits the risk of the amount a user adds to their OmniCard wallet rather than exposing life savings stored in the bank accounts.

Also, OmniCard is available as a **RuPay Prepaid Card, RuPay OTG (Wearable)** and is accepted across all merchants via POS offline and online gateways.

OmniCard users also get the facility to withdraw cash at any ATM in India.

**About OmniCard :**

Headquarters : Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Chief Operating Officer & Co-Founder : Abhishek Saxena

OmniCard is an **RBI-licensed** PPI offering India's 1st Omnichannel spending platform with UPI services for individuals as well as businesses.

**SEBI Offers 60 days Relaxation To Large Registrars From Complying With Enhanced Requirements**

The Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** provided **relaxation of 60 days** to large Registrars to an **issue/ Share Transfer Agents (RTAs)** from complying with the enhanced requirements pertaining to **periodic reporting**.

**Key Highlights :**

Under the rules, QRTAs or qualified RTAs are required to comply with enhanced responsibilities through adoption and implementation of an **internal policy framework** and periodic reporting requirements.

SEBI clarified that an RTA would be categorised as QRTA if at any time during a financial year, the combined number of physical and demat folios being serviced by the RTA for listed companies **exceeds 2 crore**.





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RTA will be considered as a QRTA from the date of categorisation as a QRTA and will be considered as such for the **next 3 financial years**, irrespective of subsequent fall in number of folios and will be liable to comply with all requirements specified by the regulator.

### About SEBI :

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Gol.

### Kotak Mahindra Bank and IOCL launched a co-branded fuel credit card

**Kotak Mahindra Bank** and **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** announced a strategic partnership to launch the **Indian Oil Kotak co-branded fuel credit card**.

The Card will be available on the **RuPay network**.

The partnership will offer more value to customers in the form of an **enhanced rewards programme** giving customers value on fuel spends and on special non-fuel and frequent-spend categories, such as dining and groceries.

### Key highlights of Indian Oil Kotak Credit Card:

Earn up to **Rs. 300** in reward points each month by filling up at Indian Oil gas outlets.

Earn **2%** back in the form of rewards points on purchases made for restaurants, groceries, and other items, up to Rs 200 per month.

Earn up to Rs 100 per month in gasoline surcharge waivers of 1%.

Up to **48 days** of interest-free loans are allowed.

Smart-EMI

**Zero liability** for missing cards

Tap-and-pay contactless card



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**About Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited :**

Established : 1985

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman, MD & CEO : Uday Kotak

Tagline : Let's Make Money Simple

**About IOCL :**

Founded : 30 June 1959

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

Chairperson : Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.

The IOCL is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, Government of India.

**ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches new guaranteed income plan - ICICI Pru Gold**

**ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched the **ICICI Pru Gold**, a long-term savings product that enables customers to create an additional income stream.

Besides guaranteed lifelong income, it provides life cover for the family's financial security.

The product is available in **3 variants : Immediate Income, Immediate Income with Booster, and Deferred Income.**

**About Immediate Income :**

Customers opting for the 'Immediate Income' variant can choose to receive **income after 30 days** from the date of policy issuance, enabling them to immediately create a supplementary source of lifelong income.

**About Immediate Income with Booster :**



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Customers who purchase the "Immediate Income with Booster" variant receive **additional guaranteed income every 5th policy year** in addition to the lifelong income, which begins after 30 days from the policy issuance date.

**About Deferred Income :**

Under the 'Deferred Income' variant, customers will have the flexibility to choose when they want the income to start, as per their financial goals.

Customers can start receiving income as early as the second policy year or as late as the **13th policy year**.

Also ICICI Pru Gold will offer customers the option to accumulate their income in a **Savings Wallet** instead of receiving it as regular payments.

**About ICICI Prudential Life Insurance :**

Founded : 2001

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Narayanan Srinivasa Kannan

It is a joint venture (JV) between **ICICI Bank Limited** and **Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited**.

In **2016**, the company became the **first insurance company** in **India** to be listed in the **domestic stock exchanges**.

**SBI to donate ₹24 cr for IISc hospital's ortho wing**

**State Bank of India (SBI)** will **donate ₹24 crore** to the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka** for constructing a **multi-speciality hospital (Orthopaedics Wing)**, as a part of its corporate social responsibility activity.

The hospital will be named **Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital** and is planned at the IISc postgraduate Medical School

It will cater to the clinical training and research of the MD-PhD students.

The project is likely to be completed by **2025**.



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### About SBI :

Founded : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

Tagline : Pure Banking, Nothing Else

### RBI imposes Rs 2.27 crore penalty on RBL Bank for non-compliance

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **monetary penalty** of **₹2.27 crore** on private sector lender **RBL Bank** for not complying with certain directives on loan recovery agents.

The RBI noticed "**deficiencies in regulatory compliance**" after it examined complaints received against the Mumbai-based lender's recovery agents during the financial years 2018-19 to 2021-22.

The penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions issued by it on '**Internal Ombudsman Scheme, 2018**', 'Fair Practices Code for Lenders', 'Credit Card Operations of Banks', 'Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks' and 'Recovery Agents engaged by Banks'.

### About RBL Bank :

Founded : 1943.

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : R. Subramaniakumar

RBL Bank, formerly known as **Ratnakar Bank**, is an Indian private sector bank.

### Axis Bank & Autotrac Finance Limited enters into co-lending partnership through Yubi

**Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank and **Autotrac Finance Limited Ltd (AFL)**, a Gurgaon based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), announced its strategic partnership under the **co-lending model** through the **Yubi Co.Lend platform**.



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Through this partnership, both lenders will offer 'New Tractor Loans' for the Agricultural and Allied activities to cater the financial needs of the rural segment in India.

### Key Highlights :

The partnership will leverage the **wide customer experience** of Autotrac Finance and deep financial expertise of Axis Bank to **enable easy credit availability** for farmers at an **optimal interest rate**.

The digital co-lending platform allows the partnership to scale-up fast at a **lower operating cost**, offering a superior customer experience.

Autotrac Finance has an advantage of ready access to a robust customer base and dealers across rural and semi-urban regions in **18 States**.

### About Yubi :

Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Founder and CEO : Gaurav Kumar

Yubi, formerly known as **CredAvenue**, is an **Indian fintech company** that connects businesses with financial institutions, banks and other lenders through its digital platform.

### About AFL :

AFL is the **wholly-owned subsidiary** of **International Tractors Limited**, with a focus on rural and agri-business finance.

### About Axis Bank :

Founded : 3 December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

**PSU banks' gross NPA declines from 14.6% in Mar 2018 to 5.53% in Dec 2022**



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The government has taken various reforms following which asset quality of **public sector banks (PSBs)** has improved significantly with **gross NPA ratio declining** from the peak of 14.6% in March 2018 to **5.53%** in **December 2022**.

All PSBs are in profit with aggregate profit being **₹66,543 crore** in 2021-22, and that further increased to ₹70,167 crore in the first 9 months of the current financial year.

At the same time, **resilience** has **increased** with the provision coverage ratio of PSBs rising from 46% to **89.9%** in December 2022.

**Key Highlights :**

**Adding capital adequacy ratio** of PSBs improved significantly from 11.5% in March 2015 to **14.5%** in December 2022.

Total market cap of PSBs (excluding IDBI Bank, which was categorised as private sector bank in January 2019) increased from ₹4.52 lakh crore in March 2018 to **₹10.63 lakh crore** in December 2022.

The government implemented a comprehensive **4R strategy** of **Recognising NPAs transparently, Resolution and recovery, Recapitalising PSBs, and Reforms in the financial ecosystem**.

As per the information provided by **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)**, the total estimated vehicle fleet is **30.48 crore** (excluding data from Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep), of which 16.54 crore vehicles are uninsured.

Since **2016**, government has given '**in-principle**' approval for strategic disinvestment of **36 cases of public sector enterprises (PSEs)** and/or subsidiaries/ units/ joint ventures of PSEs/ banks.

Of the 36 cases, **33** are being handled by the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** and **3 cases** are being handled by the respective **Administrative Ministry/Department**.

**New York Community Bank to buy failed Signature Bank for \$2.7 billion**

According to the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC)**, **New York Community Bank** has agreed to buy a significant chunk of the **Signature Bank** in a **\$2.7 billion deal** after it became the third-largest US bank to fail since the 2008 crisis.



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### Key Highlights :

The **40 branches** of Signature Bank will become **Flagstar Bank**.

Flagstar is one of New York Community Bank's subsidiaries.

The deal will include the purchase of **\$38.4 billion** in Signature Bank's assets, a little more than a third of Signature's total when the bank failed a week ago.

The **\$60 billion** in Signature Bank's loans will remain in receivership and will get sold off in time.

Signature Bank was the **second bank to collapse**, roughly 48 hours after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank.

The New York- based lender in the tristate area in recent years focused on **cryptocurrencies** as a potential growth business.

After Silicon Valley Bank failed, depositors became nervous about Signature Bank's health due to its high amount of uninsured deposits as well as its exposure to crypto and other tech-focused lending.

By the time it was closed by regulators, **Signature Bank** was the **third largest bank failure** in **U.S. history**.

### RBI allows India & Tanzania to use national currencies for trading

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved for **India** and **Tanzania** to use their **national currencies** i.e, **Indian Rupee (INR)** & **Tanzanian Shilling (Tsh)** for **bilateral trade settlement**.

Under this mechanism, authorised banks in India will open **Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs)** of correspondent banks of Tanzania.

### Significance :

The use of national currencies in **bilateral trade settlements** is expected to **reduce** the **cost of transactions** and enhance the efficiency of cross-border trade.

This will lead to **increased trade volumes** and **greater economic cooperation** between India and Tanzania.

### Key Highlights :



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Tanzanian banks will have to open SRVAs in India by approaching **authorised Indian banks**, who will in turn approach RBI for their approval with details of the arrangement.

**Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has received RBI's approval for opening SRVAs for its foreign branches and subsidiaries situated in various countries including Tanzania.

The **Indian high commission** in Tanzania is organising a **Stakeholders Consultation Meeting** on **24th March 2023** where details about the bilateral trade mechanism using local currency and its benefits would be discussed.

**Difference between Vostro & Special Vostro accounts :**

**Vostro account :**

A Vostro account (Vostro means 'yours' in **Latin**) is an **account** that a **domestic bank holds** for a **foreign bank** in the **domestic bank's currency**.

**Special Vostro Accounts :**

Normal Vostro accounts act **only as transit accounts** whereas in Special Vostro Accounts **INR (Indian Rupee) balances** can be **held**.

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**IndiaFirst Life Insurance gets SEBI's approval to launch IPO**

**IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company (IndiaFirst Life)** has received an **approval** from capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to raise funds through an **initial public offering (IPO)**.

The company filed preliminary IPO papers with SEBI on **21 October, 2022**.





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The IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares worth **Rs 500 crore** and an **offer-for-sale (OFS)** up to **14.1 crore equity shares** from promoters and stakeholders.

Bank of Baroda (BoB), the country's **third largest PSU bank** holds a **65% stake** in the firm followed by **Warburg Pincus affiliate Carmel Point Investments India** which holds **26%** and **Union Bank of India** which holds a **9% stake**.

### About IndiaFirst Life :

Founded : 16 November 2009

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Ms.R.M.Vishakha

Chairman and Non-Executive Director (nominee of Bank of Baroda) : Sanjiv Chadha

### World Bank's IFC to invest \$73 million in Mahindra's last mile mobility unit

Indian automaker **Mahindra and Mahindra** stated that **World Bank's private investment arm, International Finance Corp (IFC)**, will invest **6 billion rupees (\$72.58 million)** in the company's last mile electric mobility unit.

The investment is the **IFC's first** in an **electric vehicle maker** in **India**.

The investment, which will be in the form of compulsory convertible instruments, will value the unit at **60.20 billion rupees**.

IFC will own about a **9.97%-13.64% stake** in the newly formed company.

Indian automakers and startups, such as **Tata Motors, ElectricPe** and **Yulu**, are jumping into the space and attracting multiple investments.

### RBI to set up new Data Centre & Cybersecurity Training Institute in Odisha

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Shri Shaktikanta Das**, initiated the establishment of a "**Greenfield Data Centre**" and an "**Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute**" in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha** during a foundation stone laying ceremony.

### About the New Data Centre and Training Institute :



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It will cover an area of **18.55 acres** and will be able to address the **emerging needs** of the RBI and the financial sector.

It will enhance the **RBI's existing computing infrastructure** with state-of-the-art facilities for research and capacity building in central banking, technology, and cybersecurity to prepare for the future.

**Power Finance Corporation signs agreement with Japan's JBIC for project loan of Rs 165 cr**

**Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited** has inked a pact with **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** for a project loan of **Japanese Yen (JPY) 2.65 billion or about Rs 165 crore.**

The loan agreement was signed at JBIC headquarters **Tokyo**, between PFC Chairman and Managing Director **R S Dhillon** and **Uchida Makoto**, Managing Executive Officer of JBIC.

**Key Highlights :**

Under this facility, JBIC has proposed to finance some of PFC's projects which ensure effective **reduction of greenhouse gas emissions** and **conservation of the global environment.**

This pact was executed under a general agreement signed between PFC and JBIC for **JPY 30 billion.**

**About PFC :**

Founded : July 1986

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

Chairman & MD : Ravinder Singh Dhillon

PFC is central **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Ministry of Power** and India's leading **Non Banking Finance Company (NBFC).**

**About JBIC :**

Headquarters : Tokyo, Japan

President & CEO : Tadashi Maeda



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It was created on October 1, 1999, through the merger of the **Japan Export-Import Bank (JEXIM)** and the **Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF)**.

### **ICICI Bank Launches Digital Solutions for Participants of Capital Market, Custody Services**

**ICICI Bank** launched an array of **digital solutions** for participants of the capital market and clients of custody services.

The solutions enable various participants in the sector including stock brokers, **Portfolio Management Service (PMS) providers, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), Foreign Direct Investors (FDIs), and Alternative Investment Funds (AIF)** to seamlessly meet all their banking requirements.

The bank has launched these solutions to offer expeditious onboarding and convenience to all participants of the Indian capital market which has seen significant growth in the last few years.

### **The key services and offerings of the digital solutions for entities in capital markets and custody services:**

'3-in-1' account facility for stock brokers and clients

The '3-in-1' account enables the clients of stock brokers to **digitally open online trading, demat and savings accounts** in a few hours from anywhere across the country.

Digital account opening for PMS clients

As a custodian, the bank offers a **first-of-its-kind solution** to open digital demat and bank accounts for end clients of PMS.

Digital on-boarding and pre-verification of FPI/FDI clients

Self-service portal

Value-added services for AIFs

### **About ICICI Bank :**

Founded : 5 January 1994



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Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi

### RBI launched 2 surveys -IESH & CCS to gather 'useful inputs' for monetary policy

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **two key surveys** namely **Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS)** and **Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)**

Data gathered from these surveys, which provide "useful inputs" for the RBI's **bi-monthly monetary policy**.

#### About CCS :

The CCS seeks qualitative responses from households, regarding their sentiments on **general economic situation, employment scenario, price level, households' income and spending**.

The survey is conducted regularly in **19 cities**, viz., Ahmedabad(Gujarat), Bengaluru(Karnataka), Bhopal(Madhya Pradesh), Bhubaneswar(Odisha), Chandigarh, Chennai(Tamil Nadu), Delhi, Guwahati(Assam), Hyderabad(Telangana), Jaipur(Rajasthan), Jammu(Jammu & Kashmir), Kolkata(West Bengal), Lucknow(Uttar Pradesh), Mumbai(Maharashtra), Nagpur(Maharashtra), Patna(Bihar), Raipur(Chhattisgarh), Ranchi(Jharkhand) and Thiruvananthapuram(Kerala).

#### About IESH :

The IESH survey **aims** at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, based on their individual consumption baskets, across 19 cities, mentioned above.

The survey seeks **qualitative responses** from households on price changes (general prices as well as prices of specific product groups) in the **3 months ahead** as well as in the **1 year ahead period** and **quantitative responses** on current, 3 months ahead and 1 year ahead inflation rates.

The results of this survey provide **useful inputs** for monetary policy.

The agency, **M/s Hansa Research Group Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai** has been engaged to conduct the survey of this round on behalf of the RBI.



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For this purpose, the selected households will be approached by the agency and they are requested to provide their response.

The next meeting of the RBI's rate setting panel - Monetary Policy Committee - is scheduled during **April 6-8, 2023**.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### Amazon Pay partners with NPCI's Bharat BillPay for loan repayments

**Amazon Pay** has collaborated with **Bharat BillPay**, the biller platform of **the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, to **strengthen** its **loan repayment facility**.

### Key Highlights :

Customers can select their bank or Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC) from the list and enter their loan account number and other details to pay their **Equated Monthly Instalments (EMI)**.

All bill payment transaction confirmations are instantaneous; however, some banks may require the **pre-defined turnaround time (TAT)** to process and accept the payment after completion of the transaction.

Over **200 lenders**, including Bajaj Finance, Cholamandalam Investment & Finance, HDB Financial Services, Home Credit, and IIFL Finance, have enrolled in the facility.

### About NPCI :

Founded : 2008

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

The NPCI is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.



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It is an initiative of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** under the provisions of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

### State Bank of India completes first commercial trade in Sri Lankan rupees

Indian lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** completed its **first non-dollar transaction** with **Sri Lanka**, by paying for **exports** in **Sri Lankan rupees** as India looks to bring countries that are short of U.S. dollars into the trade mechanism.

The move comes as Sri Lanka grapples with its worst economic crisis since its independence, triggered by a shortage of dollars.

The island nation's forex reserves stood at **\$2.1 billion** as of end-January.

### About SBI :

Founded : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

### RBI allowed banks from 18 countries to trade in rupee

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed **banks** from **18 different countries** to open **Special Vostro Rupee Accounts (SVRAs)** for settling payments in **Indian rupees (INR)**.

The 18 countries are: **Fiji, Botswana, Guyana, Germany, Kenya, Israel, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda** and the **United Kingdom**.

Union Minister of State for Finance **Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad** stated that **60** such approvals have been given by the RBI.

### RBI sells net \$384 million in spot foreign exchange market in January

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** sold net **\$384 million** in the **spot foreign exchange market** in **January 2023**.

This is lower compared to the net sales of **\$771 million** in **January, 2022**.



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The RBI purchased **\$12.90 billion** and sold **\$13.29 billion** in the spot market in the month. The Indian rupee appreciated by nearly 1% against the dollar in January and moved in a wide range of **80.88 to 82.94**.

Meanwhile, the RBI's net outstanding forward purchase stood at **\$21.73 billion** as of end-January, 2023 compared with a net purchase of \$10.97 billion at the end of Feb 2023.

### Outward remittances under RBI's LRS in April-January surpass FY22

According to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in its monthly bulletin for **March**, **outward remittances** under the **RBI's liberalised remittance scheme (LRS)** stood at **\$22.08 billion** during the April, 2022-January, 2023 period.

In January 2023, the amount remitted overseas totalled **\$2.72 billion**.

### Key Highlights :

In FY21, India's remittances stood at **\$12.68 billion**, down **32.38%** from FY20.

In FY20, the figure was **\$18.76 billion**.

On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, outward remittances under LRS in January were up **35.17%**

According to January data, international travel constituted over **55%** of the entire outward remittances by Indians under the scheme.

Outward remittances for international travel touched **\$1.49 billion**, up 1.5 times from the same period in 2022.

After international travel, Indians spent most on overseas education, followed by maintenance of close relatives, and gifts.

According to RBI data, in January 2023, outward remittances by Indians under the scheme for overseas **education** were **\$395.87 million**.

It was followed by **\$342.47 million** for **maintenance** of **close relatives**, and \$223.22 million as gifts.

### What is the LRS Scheme?



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The LRS scheme was introduced in **2004**, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to **\$250,000 per financial year**.

This is for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.

### **Karur Vysya Bank enters into a bancassurance agreement with SBI Life in the life insurance category**

**Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)** has executed an **agreement** with **SBI Lite**, the insurance arm of State Bank of India (SBI) as an **additional bancassurance partner** in the life insurance category.

### **What is bancassurance?**

Bancassurance is a **relationship between a bank** and an **insurance company** that is aimed at offering insurance products or insurance benefits to the bank's customers.

This partnership arrangement can be **profitable** for both companies.

### **Key Highlights :**

SBI Life Insurance declared an **interim dividend** of **₹2.5 per share** for its investors for the financial year 2022-23.

A dividend is a **reward** that companies often provide to their shareholders, though not mandatory, from a portion of their earnings.

The declared interim dividend will be paid on or before **April 6, 2023**, to eligible shareholders.

### **About KVB :**

Founded : 1916

Headquarters : Karur, Tamil Nadu

MD & CEO : Mr. Ramesh Babu

Tagline : Smart Way to Bank

KVB is a Scheduled Commercial Bank.

### **About SBI Life :**

Founded : March 2001





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Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Mahesh Kumar Sharma

SBI Life is an Indian life insurance company which was started as a **joint venture (JV)** between the **State Bank of India (SBI)** and French financial institution **BNP Paribas Cardif**.

### CoinDCX becomes 'FIU-Registered Reporting Entity' to comply with new PMLA regulations

**CoinDCX**, India's leading and most valued crypto company, has become a **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)**-registered reporting entity under **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** norms.

This brings the **cryptocurrency exchange operator** under PMLA regulations.

#### Key Highlights :

The government had mandated that **Virtual Digital Assets (VDA)** service providers such as exchanges, custodians and wallet providers must comply with several regulatory requirements. These requirements include Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, record-keeping, reporting of suspicious transactions, the appointment of a compliance officer and engaging with regulatory authorities to seek guidance on compliance matters.

This would lead to **increased accountability** and implementation of best practices by the **Virtual Digital Assets (VDA) industry**.

CoinDCX was also the **first exchange** to publish proof of reserves.

Recently, it has started offering **Decentralised finance (DeFi)** services through the **Okto wallet app** for users worldwide.

#### About CoinDCX :

Founded: 2018

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founder and CEO : Sumit Gupta

### Egypt Became a Member Of the BRICS New Development Bank



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**Egypt** officially became a **member** of **BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB)** which includes **India, Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa** as **member countries**.

Egypt completed all the necessary procedures to become an eligible member on **February 20, 2023**.

### Key Highlights :

BRICS' New Development bank was **established** in **July 2014**, after an intergovernmental agreement at the **6th BRICS summit** in **Fortaleza**.

The NBD approved Egypt's accession in December 2021, while in September 2021 a similar decision was made regarding the **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uruguay and Bangladesh**.

The bank's goal is to finance infrastructure projects and sustainable development projects in BRICS member states and developing countries.

Previously, the bank received an "**A A +**" **international credit rating** from Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings

Since its founding, the bank has approved more than **90 projects totalling US\$32 billion** in support of such areas as transportation, water, clean energy, digital and social infrastructure, as well as urban construction.

**South Africa** is to host the **15th BRICS Summit** which is scheduled to be held in **Aug 2023** in **Durban, South Africa**.

### About NDB :

Founded : 2015

Headquarters : Shanghai, China

President : Dilma Rousseff

### Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme: Govt launches Series IV 2022-23

In terms of Government of India (GoI) Notification **Sovereign Gold Bonds 2022-23** (Series IV) will be opened for **subscription** during the period March 06-10, 2023 with Settlement date of March 14, 2023.



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The issue price of the Bond during the subscription period shall be **₹5,611 per gram**.  
Gol in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow a **discount of ₹50 per gram** from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment is made through digital mode.

For such investors the issue price of Gold Bond will be **₹5,561 per gram of gold**.

### About Ministry of Finance :

Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman

Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary

### ICICI Lombard introduces country's 1st 'anywhere cashless' feature

For the **first time** in the country, **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited (ICICI Lombard)** has launched '**Anywhere Cashless**' feature for health insurance policyholders to **avail cashless facilities** at any hospital, even if not part of ICICI Lombard's current network of hospitals.

### Aim :

To expand insurance coverage by setting up more network partners in **Tier-II and Tier-III cities**, and actively seek and **provide better options** to customers.

### Key Highlights :

The feature will be subject to the **hospital's acceptance** of the cashless facility.  
Initially launched as a pilot, the facility can now be availed through the '**IL TakeCare**' application across India, wherein customers will not have to bear any out-of-pocket expenses.  
It provides a **hassle-free experience** through all aspects of the hospitalisation from admission to discharge.  
ICICI Lombard has issued over **29.3 million policies**, settled 2.3 million claims and has a gross written premium of **Rs 18,562 crore** as of **March 2022**.

### About ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited :



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Founded : 2001

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Bhargav Dasgupta

It is a **subsidiary** of **ICICI Bank Limited**, a general insurance company.

**YES Bank issues first Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**

**YES Bank** has issued its **first electronic-Bank Guarantee (e-BG)** in partnership with **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**.

**Key Highlights :**

The API integration with the **Digital Document Execution (DDE) platform** of NeSL has enabled complete digitisation of the existing paper-based process for issuance and maintenance of **Bank Guarantee (BG)**.

This includes digital stamping and signing, which significantly reduces the issuance **turnaround time (TAT)**.

The NeSL portal will manage the entire lifecycle of the bank guarantee including issuance, amendment, invocation and cancellation, enabling trade finance stakeholders to access the documents from this secure repository.

YES Bank's integration with NeSL with NeSL is consistent with its efforts to work with public digital utilities such as **Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC)**, **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, **Account Aggregator (AA)**, and **Government e-Marketplaces (GEM)**, to accelerate digitization and enabling ease of doing business for our **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** and corporate customers.

An e-BG issued through NeSL's **24X7 platform** becomes instantly available and the beneficiary can access it on completion of a simple and **one-time registration process**.

**About YES Bank :**

Founded : 2004



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Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar

Tagline : Experience Our Expertise

**About NeSL :**

NeSL is **India's first Information Utility** and is registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the aegis of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**.

MD & CEO : Mr. Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri

**J&K Bank signs corporate agency agreement with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**

**Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank)** has signed a **corporate agency agreement** with **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company** to sell life insurance products to its customers, with effect from **April 1, 2023**.

General Manager & Vertical Head (Cross Selling) **Mr Narjay Gupta** signed the agreement on representing J&K Bank, while, as, Chief Distribution Officer (Institutional Business) **Mr Dheeraj Sehgal** put in his signatures on behalf of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company.

The bank's reach especially in J&K, Ladakh and Bajaj Allianz products makes the tie-up beneficial not only for the customers but a win-win for both the institutions by enabling them to leverage each other strengths.

**About J&K Bank :**

Founded : 1 October 1938

Headquarters : Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India

MD and CEO : Baldev Prakash.

**About Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company :**

Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Tarun Chugh



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### Geojit Financial Services Teams Up with ESAF Small Finance Bank To Offer 3-In-1 Bundled Account

**Geojit Financial Services**, a leading investment services company, has entered into an agreement with **ESAF Small Finance Bank (ESAF SFB)** to offer a **special 3-in-1 bundled account** to the ESAF SFB customers.

Under this one-of-its-kind 3-in-1 bundled account service, ESAF SFB savings account holders can open a Geojit demat account and trading account for free.

The 3-in-1 bundled account comes with benefits such as **zero demat account opening charges**, **flexible brokerage plans**, AMC waiver till **March 2024**, **no subscription charges** on the trading account and an end-to-end digital account opening facility.

#### About Geojit Financial Services :

Founded : 1987

Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala, India

#### About ESAF Small Finance Bank :

Founded : March 2017

Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India

MD & CEO : K. Paul Thomas

Tagline : Joy of Banking

ESAF Small Finance Bank (formerly known as **ESAF Microfinance and Investments Pvt. Ltd.**) is an Indian small finance bank providing banking services and small loans to the underbanked.

### South Indian Bank partners with Central Board of Direct Taxes for Direct Tax Collections

**South Indian Bank** is associated with the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** for **direct tax collections** from retail and corporate taxpayers.

The payment facility will allow taxpayers to remit Direct Taxes under '**Over the Counter Mode**'.



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The bank's customers can make payments via 'Over the Counter' as well as '**Internet Banking**' modes.

### What is the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

It is a statutory body established as per the Central Board of Revenue Act, **1963**.

It is India's official financial action task force unit.

It is administered by the **Department of Revenue** under the **Ministry of Finance**.

### About South Indian Bank Limited :

Founded : 1929

Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala, India

CEO: Murali Ramakrishnan.

Tagline : Experience Next Generation Banking

### Axis Bank launches India's first pocket-sized swipe machine 'MicroPay'

Private sector lender **Axis Bank** launched '**MicroPay**', **first pocket-sized swipe machine of India**, based on '**Pin on Mobile**' technology for accepting digital payments.

The bank launched 'MicroPay' along with Ezetap by Razorpay and MyPinpad as the **technical solution partners**.

### About 'MicroPay' :

'MicroPay' is a revolutionary 'PIN on Mobile' solution that converts a merchant's smartphone into a **Point-of-Sale (POS) terminal**, thereby simplifying digital payments and delivering a **unique customer experience**.

It will be beneficial for businesses across India, especially for the retail and kirana shops in Tier-2 and 3 cities that operate on limited working capital and would prefer **cost-effective payment solutions**.

The pocket-sized device is a **small low-cost card** reader which supports "**insert**" and "**tap**" options for debit and credit cards.



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The security of the PIN is ensured by being compliant with PCI standards for **Software-based PIN Entry on COTS (SPoC) phones.**

**About Axis Bank :**

Founded : 3 December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

**IDFC First Bank Partners with Crunchfish to Demonstrate Offline Retail Payments**

**IDFC First Bank** has partnered with Swedish company **Crunchfish** to participate in the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's)** pilot programme to **facilitate offline retail payments.**

This initiative will provide access to digital payments even when there is **no network.**

**Key Highlights :**

The Crunchfish introduced this **one-of-a-kind digital payment system** for merchants and customers as part of the **RBI's Regulatory Sandbox Program.**

This project will allow offline retail payments in India's payment ecosystem using a Digital Cash platform.

IDFC FIRST Bank will be one of the first few banks to participate in **HDFC Bank's** pilot initiative. The RBI authorised the proposal to **demonstrate offline payments** between two banks. IDFC First Bank has signed a **non-commercial Development and Demonstration Agreement** to access the Digital Cash SDK.

The terms of deployment will be regulated in a **Software Licence Agreement.**

**About IDFC First Bank :**

Founded : October 2015

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan





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IDFC First Bank is an Indian private sector bank formed by the merger of the banking arm of **Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC)** and **Capital First**, an Indian non-bank financial institution.

It is the **first universal bank** to offer monthly interest credit on savings accounts, lifetime free credit cards with dynamic and **low annual percentage rates**.

**About Crunchfish :**

Founded : 1 January 2010

Headquarters : Malmö, Sweden

CEO : Joachim Samuelsson

**EPFO fixes 8.15% interest rate on employees' provident fund for 2022-23**

Retirement fund body **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** fixed **8.15% rate of interest** on **employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits** for 2022-23 at its meeting.

The decision has been taken by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's apex decision-making body **Central Board of Trustees (CBT)**.

After the CBT's decision, the interest rate on EPF deposits for 2022-23 will be sent to the **Ministry of Finance** for concurrence.

**Key Highlights :**

After ratification, interest rate on EPF for 2022-23 will be credited into the accounts of over **5 crore subscribers** of EPFO.

In **March 2022**, interest rate on EPF deposits for 2021-22 was lowered to four decade low level of **8.1%** from **8.5%** in **2020-21**.

This was the **lowest rate since 1977-78**.

In 1977-78, EPF interest rate stood at **8%**.

In **March 2020**, interest rate on provident fund deposits was lowered to a **7 year low** of 8.5% for 2019-20.

**About EPFO :**



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Established : 4 March 1952

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

EPFO is a **statutory body** that was established under the **Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952**.

The organisation works under the aegis of the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.

It helps the central board of trustees in the administration of the Provident Fund Scheme, Pension Scheme and Insurance scheme for the organised sector workers.

### **SEBI Extends Nomination Deadline For Existing Trading & Demat Account Holders Till September 30, 2023**

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **extended** the **deadline** till **September 30, 2023** for existing trading and demat account holders to provide **choice of nomination** or opt out of nomination.

Earlier the deadline was **March 31, 2023**.

In **July 2021**, the SEBI asked all existing eligible trading and demat account holders to provide choice of nomination on or before March 31, 2022, failing which the trading and demat accounts would have been frozen for debits.

Later, this was extended by one more year till **March 31, 2023**.

Also, the SEBI has asked stock brokers and **depository participants** to encourage their clients to update 'choice of nomination' by sending a communication on fortnightly basis by way of **emails** and SMS to all such **UCCs/demat accounts** wherein the 'choice of nomination' is not captured.

### **About SEBI :**

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch



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SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Gol.

### CRIF receives the RBI licence to operate as NBFC account aggregator

**CRIF Connect Private Limited**, a subsidiary of credit bureau company CRIF S.p.A has received **approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to begin operations as a **Non-Banking Financial Company- Account Aggregator (NBFC-AA)**.

With CRIF's legacy, knowledge, and experience, CRIF Connect is uniquely positioned to benefit both consumers and financial institutions.

### Key Highlights :

Based on RBI-approved guidelines, it is an **end-to-end encrypted platform** that securely fetches and transfers a consumer's financial data based on their explicit consent between financial institutions, making data sharing extremely safe.

The CRIF Connect application will be available on the web and on mobile devices, allowing users to view all their financial information in one place and to customise the information they want to share with the financial institution in real time.

The services are used by more than **82,000 companies** and 10 lakh consumers.

CRIF is a global company specialising in credit bureau and business information, outsourcing and processing services, and credit solutions.

### NPCI recommends up to 1.1% interchange fee on UPI transactions of over ₹2,000 via PPIs

**National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has notified that an **interchange fee** of up to **1.1%** will be applicable on merchant **UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions** done using **prepaid payment instruments (PPIs)** such as wallets or cards with effect from **April 1, 2023**.

The charge will be levied on UPI payments of over **₹2,000** made to online merchants, large merchants and small offline merchants.



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However, on certain merchant categories, a lower interchange starting from **0.5%**, might be levied as per applicable caps.

### Key Highlights :

Interchange will **not be applicable** on **Peer-to-peer (P2P)** and **Peer-to-peer-merchant (P2PM) transactions** between bank accounts and PPI wallets.

However, PPI issuers will need to pay **15 bps** as a “**wallet loading service charge**” to the remitter bank for loading over ₹2,000 in the prepaid wallet.

This interchange pricing will be reviewed by **September 30, 2023**, as per the NPCI circular.

NPCI also asked UPI service providers and merchants to boost interoperability by clearly and prominently displaying the UPI payment option, by September 30, 2023.

### About NPCI :

Founded : 2008

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

### Public sector banks wrote off ₹91,000 cr in 9 months of FY23

According to data presented in the Rajya Sabha, **Public sector banks (PSBs)** have written off around **₹91,000 crore** in the **first 9 months** of the current fiscal.

The PSBs have just managed to recover little over **₹1 out of ₹5** in written off accounts during FY22.

### Key Highlights :

In a written answer, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gave bank-wise details of written off amounts with **State Bank of India (SBI)** on the **top (₹17,356 crore)** followed by **Union Bank of India (UBI)** (₹16,497 crore) and **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** (₹13,032 crore).

All the scheduled commercial banks (PSBs, private banks and foreign banks) wrote-off around **₹1.61-lakh crore** worth of loan in FY18 while recovery from written off accounts was **less than ₹13,000 crore** or around 8% of bad debts taken off from the book in that year.



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For the next four fiscal years, the percentage rose to **10.8, 12.8, 14.9** and **19.4%**, respectively. During all these five years, the total amount in written off loan accounts was over **₹10 lakh crore**, while recovery was over ₹1.3-lakh crore.

This means the net written off amount was around **₹8.7-lakh crore**.

### Centre hikes dearness allowance by 4% to 42%

Union Minister **Shri Anurag Thakur** announced that **Dearness Allowance (DA)** for central government employees and **Dearness Relief (DR)** for central government pensioners by **4%**.

This will increase the overall DA/DR from current **38% to 42%**.

The hiked DA/DR will be effective from **January 1, 2023**.

### Key Highlights :

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR will be **₹12,815.60 crore per annum**.

This move will benefit around 47.58 lakh central government employees and 69.76 lakh central government pensioners.

The increase in DA and DR is in accordance with the accepted formula, based on the recommendations of the **7th Central Pay Commission**.

Before this, the revision in DA/DR was announced in **September 2022**, by 4% to 38%, to be effective retrospectively from July 1, 2022.

### About DA & DR :

DA and DR are **revised twice a year**, in **January** and **July**.

DA is given to **government employees**, while the DR is for **pensioners**.

DA is a component of the salary paid to Central Government employees to offset the impact of inflation on their existing salaries.

It is calculated as a percentage of the employee's basic salary, and is based on the latest **Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)**.



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The **government's Labour Bureau**, a division of the **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E)** publishes the CPI-IW data every month.

**PAN & Aadhaar card linking deadline extended to June 30, 2023**

The Government has **extended** the **last date** for **linking Permanent Account Number (PAN)** and **Aadhaar** by **3 months** to **June 30, 2023**, in order to provide some more time to the taxpayers. Earlier the last date was **March 31, 2023**.

It must be noted that under the provisions of the **Income-tax Act, 1961** (the 'Act') every person who has been allotted a PAN as on July 01, 2017 and is eligible to obtain Aadhaar Number, is required to intimate his Aadhaar to the prescribed authority on or before 31 March, 2023, on payment of a prescribed fee.

Failure to do so shall attract certain repercussions under the Act w.e.f. 1st April, 2023.

However, now the date for intimating Aadhaar to the prescribed authority has been extended to **30 June, 2023**.

From **1st July, 2023**, the PAN of taxpayers who have failed to intimate their Aadhaar, as required, shall become inoperative and the consequences during the period that PAN remains inoperative will be as follows:

**no refund** shall be made against such PANs;

**interest** shall **not be payable** on such refund for the period during which PAN remains inoperative; TDS and TCS shall be deducted /collected at a higher rate, as provided in the Act.

The PAN can be made operative again in **30 days**, upon intimation of Aadhaar to the prescribed authority after payment of fee of **Rs.1,000**

PAN-Aadhaar linking is **not required** for **Non Resident Indians (NRIs)**, individuals who are **not citizens of India**, senior citizens aged above 80 years and residents of Assam, Meghalaya and Jammu Kashmir.

**About Ministry of Finance :**

Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman

Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary



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**World Bank Approves \$108 Million to Improve Disaster Preparedness for Flood-prone Districts of Assam**

The **World Bank** has approved a **loan of USD 108 million (Rs 8,896,517,496)** for **Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project (AIRBMP)** to **improve its disaster preparedness** and flood forecasting capabilities in Assam.

The \$108 million loan from the **International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** has a maturity of **11.5 years** and a grace period of 4 years.

This loan is part of a larger **USD 500 (Rs 40,890,925,000) million investment program** for the state and is expected to benefit approximately 6 million people by reducing the risks of floods and river erosion.

**Key Highlights :**

The Project will help the state **reduce vulnerability** to floods and river erosion by building green infrastructure in the **Beki and Buridehing river basins**, protecting around 100,000 people.

The Project will **support Assam tackle** the immediate challenges of floods and erosion while also helping manage its complex river systems.

The Project will also help strengthen the state's response to disasters through **improved flood forecasting** and **accurate early warning systems**, including **mobile alerts**.

The Project will provide **safer evacuation** and shelter facilities including access to climate-resilient flood shelters.

The government of Assam, according to the World Bank, has projected an **increase in extreme rainfall** events by **5-35%** and an increase in the rise of flood events by more than 25% due to climate change.

**About IBRD :**

Established : 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States.

Membership : 189 countries



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IBRD is an international financial institution that is the lending arm of the **World Bank Group**.

### About World Bank :

Established : December 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., U.S

President : David Malpass

Membership : 189 countries

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### Banking & Finance

#### RBI rejects all bids for 91-day T-bill for first time in 7 years

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** rejected all bids received for the **91-day Treasury bill (T-bill)** for the **first time since February 2016**.

#### What is the Treasury bill?

T-bills are **short-term, zero coupon debt instruments** issued by the government.

T-bills are currently issued in **3 tenors - 91-day, 182-day and 364-day** and pay no interest.

Treasury bills are instead issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.

The RBI had auctioned **₹9,000 crore** of the 91-day T-bill, **₹16,000 crore** of the 182-day T-bill, and **₹14,000 crore** of the 364-day T-bill.

#### Key Highlights :

Bids for the 91-day T-bill were over **five-fold** the notified amount.

While higher bids usually indicate strong demand for a security, bidders likely demanded much higher yields for the paper due to year-end liquidity constraints, which the RBI was uncomfortable with.

The cut-off yield on the 91-day T-bill is estimated to be higher than the expected level of around **7.15-7.20%**.

The bank accepted all the bids received for 182-day and 364-day T-bills.





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The cut-off yield for the 182-day T-bills was set at **7.28%**, whereas for the 364-day T-bills was set at **7.31%**.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### World Bank approves USD 100 million to improve disaster response in Odisha

The **World Bank's (WB)** Board of Executive Directors approved a **USD 100 million loan** from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** to help **Odisha** strengthen its early forecasting systems for **improved disaster response**.

The loan will also enhance Odisha's **social protection coverage** for poor and vulnerable households through digital platforms.

The \$100 million loan from the IBRD uses the **Program-for-Results (PforR)** financing instrument that links disbursement of funds directly to the achievement of specific program results.

The World Bank loan to Odisha has a maturity of **12.5 years** with a grace period of 3 years.

### Is Odisha in need of assistance and why?

The coastal state of Odisha is **vulnerable to natural disasters** with cyclones hitting the state every 15 months on an average.

The state's **480 km coastline** is also exposed to tsunami risk.

### About :

### Aim of the Programm :

To reduce losses caused by natural disasters through a **multi-hazard digital warning system** and strengthen the state's data collection efforts for better resilience planning.



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The program will also increase social protection coverage through a cash transfer program, with coastal and underserved communities receiving assistance through online delivery platforms (Mo-Sewa Kendras).

### About World Bank :

Established : December 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., U.S

President : David Malpass

Membership : 189 countries

### Public Sector banks recover 14% of written-off loans in last 5 years

**Public sector banks (PSBs)** could recover only **14%** of the **written-off loans** worth **Rs 7.34 lakh crore** in the last 5 years ending March 2022

Of Rs 7.34 lakh crore written-off loans, state-owned lenders recovered **Rs 1.03 lakh crore**.

So after recovery, net written-off stood at **Rs 6.31 lakh crore** in the last five years.

### World Bank approves USD 363 million loan to improve drinking water supply in Karnataka

The **World Bank** has approved a **USD 363 million loan** to **Karnataka** under “**Karnataka Sustainable Rural Water Supply Program**” (KSRWSP)

### Objective :

To provide clean drinking water supply to **2 million rural households** in the state through a piped water connection in their homes.

The loan has a maturity of **13.5 years** including a grace period of two years.

### Is Karnataka in need of assistance and why?

According to the World Bank, almost **77%** of Karnataka is **arid or semi-arid** and is vulnerable to climate-change-related variable rainfall causing droughts and floods, and leading to groundwater depletion, and deteriorating water quality.

### About KSRWSP :



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The Karnataka Sustainable Rural Water Supply Program will support the Government of Karnataka's ambition to provide functioning tap water connections to **every rural household** in the state.

This will include the construction of the drinking water distribution network and the installation of water metres in rural households.

Around **10 million people** across all **31 districts** in the state will benefit from this project.

Under the program, around 500 rural water reservoirs in **7 water-stressed districts - Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Bidar, Chikkaballapura, Kalaburgi, Kolara, and Tumakuru** will be revived to help **increase water storage capacity** and **groundwater recharge**.

### **PFRDA raises Ombudsman's age limit to 70 years from 65 years**

The **Centre** has **increased** the **upper age limit** by **5 years** of **ombudsman** of the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** to **70 years**.

As per the **PFRDA (Redressal of Subscriber Grievance) Regulations 2015**, the upper age limit was **65 years**.

### **Key Highlights :**

The ombudsman, which is appointed by PFRDA receives, considers and facilitates resolution of complaints or grievances, which fall within the ambit of the regulations.

A person appointed as an Ombudsman holds office for a period of **3 years** and would be eligible for reappointment for another 2 years.

Recently, the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) has made the mandatory upload of withdrawal/ **Know Your Customer (KYC) documents** to enable seamless processing of exit and annuity for the benefit of **National Pension System (NPS) subscribers**.

In the interest of Subscribers and to benefit them with timely payment of annuity income, the upload of the documents shall be mandatory with effect from **1st April 2023**.

### **About PFRDA :**

Founded : 23 August 2003



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Headquarters : New Delhi, India

Chairman : Deepak Mohanty

PFRDA is the **regulatory body** for overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India. It operates under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance** in the Government of India.

**SBI announces donation of ₹48 lakh for tree plantation**

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced a donation of **₹48 lakh** for the **plantation** of **32,000 tree saplings** at Garden City University, **Bengaluru**, in association with an NGO, That's Eco Foundation, as part of its corporate social responsibility.

The project is being implemented under **Miyawaki Technique**.

The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between **SBI, Garden City University**, and the **Eco Foundation** for the project.

**About Miyawaki Technique :**

Miyawaki is a technique pioneered by **Japanese botanist, Akira Miyawaki**, that helps build dense, native forests.

This ensures that the plant growth is **10 times faster** and the resulting plantation is **30 times denser** than usual.

The plants that are grown under this method grow in 2-3 years and are self-sustaining.

The dense, multi-layered forests created under this method are beneficial in lowering the temperature, making the soil nutritious, supporting local wildlife, and sequestering carbon.

**About SBI :**

Founded: 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

**Centre increases interest rates on small savings schemes for April-June Quarter of FY24**



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The **Union Ministry of Finance** has **increased** the **interest rates** on various **small savings schemes** between **10-70 basis points (bps)** for the first quarter (Q1) of the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) starting from **April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**.

This is the **third time** in the past 9 months that the interest rates on small savings schemes have been increased.

**Key Highlights :**

The interest rates on small savings schemes range from **4.0% to 8.2%** for **April-June 2023**.

The interest rates of schemes like the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme, Monthly Income Savings Scheme, National Savings Certificate, Kisan Vikas Patra, and Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme have been revised.

Only the interest rates on the **Public Provident Fund (PPF)** and **Post Office Savings Account** have been kept **unchanged**.

Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified **quarterly**.

**Various Interest Rates for Quarter-1 (April-June) of 2023-24 :**

No	Instruments	Rate of Interest from Jan 1, 2023 -March 31, 2023	Rate of Interest from April 01, 2023-June 30, 2023
1	Savings Deposit	4.0%	4.0%
2	1 Year Time Deposit	6.6%	6.8%
3	2 Year Time Deposit	6.8%	6.9%
4	3 Year Time Deposit	6.9%	7.0%



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5	5 Year Time Deposit	7.0%	7.5%
6	5 Year Recurring Deposit	5.8%	6.2%
7	5 Year Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.0%	8.2%
8	5 Year Monthly Income Account	7.1%	7.4%
9	5 Year National Savings Certificate (NSC)	7.0%	7.7%
10	Public Provident Fund (PPF) Scheme	7.1%	7.1%
11	Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.2% (will mature in 120 months)	7.5% (115 months)
12	Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) Scheme	7.6%	8.0%

**About Ministry of Finance :**

Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman



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Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary

**Axis Bank enters into co-lending pact with Shriram Housing Finance through Yubi**

**Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank and **Shriram Housing Finance Limited (SHFL)**, a leading Affordable Housing Finance Company, announced a strategic partnership under the **co-lending model** through the **Yubi Co.Lend platform**.

**Aim :**

To leverage the financial expertise of Axis Bank and the **loan processing technology** of SHFL to assess the credit profile of borrowers and **provide loans** at **competitive interest rates**.

**Key Highlights :**

Through this partnership, both the lenders will offer secured **MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Loans** and **Home Loans** to the middle and low-income segment borrowers based in **rural** and **semi-urban regions**.

The collaboration will leverage the tech platform, Yubi to process loans seamlessly as per the co-lending guidelines.

**MD & CEO, Shriram Housing Finance Limited** : Ravi Subramanian

**About Axis Bank :**

Founded : 3 December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

**About Yubi :**



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Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Founder and CEO : Gaurav Kumar

Yubi, formerly known as **CredAvenue**, is an **Indian fintech company** that connects businesses with financial institutions, banks and other lenders through its digital platform.

### SBI launches its Coffee Table Book – The Banker to Every Indian

The **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the country's largest financial institution, announced the launch of its **coffee table book 'The Banker to Every Indian,'** which celebrates 75 years of India's independence and SBI's glorious 200-year history.

The book is a **tribute** to the **spirit of India's independence** and the Bank's contribution to nation-building.

It showcases ethics, technological advancements, and transformation with the important initiatives undertaken by the Bank.

#### About SBI :

Founded : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

### Aditya Birla Health Insurance signed bancassurance partnership with UCO Bank

**Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Ltd (ABHICL)**, a part of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd.'s (ABCL) health insurance joint venture, announced a **bancassurance collaboration** with public sector lender **UCO Bank** for the distribution of **health insurance products** through the bank's branches across India.

ABHICL will be able to reach out to more than 40 million customers of the bank.

#### What is bancassurance?





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Bancassurance is a **relationship between a bank** and an **insurance company** that is aimed at offering insurance products or insurance benefits to the bank's customers.

This partnership arrangement can be **profitable** for both companies.

**Key Highlights :**

Customers and employees of UCO Bank will now have access to ABHICL's comprehensive suite of health-first insurance solutions, including incentivized wellness benefits of up to 100% Health Returns and chronic management programme, Day-1 cover for asthma, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes; wellness coaching on nutrition and fitness; and mental health counselling.

Now, ABHICL has **17 bancassurance partners** and over 80,000 direct selling agents across the nation thanks to the UCO Bank partnership.

**About ABHICL :**

Founded : Oct 2016

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Mr. Mayank Bathwal

ABHICL is a part of **Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. (ABCL)**, is a joint venture (JV) between **Aditya Birla Group** and **MMI Holdings** of **South Africa**.

**About UCO Bank :**

Founded : 6 January 1943

Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal, India

MD & CEO : Soma Sankara Prasad

Tagline : Honours Your Trust

**State Bank of India & Godrej Capital sign Memorandum of Understanding to offer banking products & services**



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**Godrej Capital Limited**, the financial services arm of the Godrej Group has signed a strategic **memorandum of understanding (MOU)** with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to strengthen their partnership, where the bank would provide various **financial products** and **offerings**.

**Aim :**

To capitalise on synergies that will empower its customers and accelerate the growth of its economy.

SBI and Godrej Capital will come together to make financial solutions more **accessible** and **affordable**.

As per **Dinesh Khara**, Chairman of SBI, the focus will be on delivering financial solutions to the Godrej group.

The association leverages the strengths of both groups by facilitating a gamut of financial services provided by the bank such as **banking products, credit cards, wealth management** and **insurance products** as preferred partners.

**IRDAI designates LIC, GIC Re & New India as DSIs for FY 23**

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** announced that **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, **General Insurance Corporation of India Limited (GIC Re)**, and **New India Assurance Co** are still considered **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIs)** for the financial year 2022-23.

LIC, GIC Re., and New India continue to be identified as D-SIs, as in the 2021-22 list of D-SIs D-SIs are perceived as insurers that are "too big or too important to fail".

**About D-SIs :**

D-SIs is used to describe insurance companies that are crucial to the domestic financial system due to their **size, market significance**, and **connections** both within the country and globally. The failure or financial instability of these insurers could have a severe impact on the stability of the domestic financial system



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The functioning of D-SIs is vital for the **uninterrupted availability** of insurance services to the national economy.

D-SIs are subjected to **additional regulatory measures** to deal with systemic risks and moral hazard issues.

D-SIs are being subjected to enhanced regulatory supervision.

**About IRDAI :**

Founded : 1999

Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana

Chairperson : Debasish Panda

The IRDAI is a statutory body under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India and is tasked with **regulating** and **licensing** the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

**About GIC Re :**

Founded : 22 Nov 1972

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman & MD : Devesh Srivastava

**India Post Payments Bank launches WhatsApp Banking Services for customers**

**India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**, in collaboration with **Airtel**, has launched **WhatsApp Banking Services** for **IPPB customers** in **New Delhi**, enabling them to access banking services on their mobile phone.

**Key Highlights :**

The IPPB WhatsApp Banking channel will enable IPPB customers to seamlessly connect with the bank on WhatsApp and effortlessly avail a host of banking services, including **doorstep service request**, locating nearest Post Office.

Airtel has been working with IPPB to deliver as many as 250 million messages per month to the bank's customers many of whom are located in mofussil towns and **tier 2,3 cities**.



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The IPPB and Airtel IQ are working towards further integrating a LIVE interactive customer support agent into the WhatsApp solution which will enable customers to access **24X7 support** and get quick resolutions for their queries.

### About IPPB :

Established : 1 September 2018

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

Chairman & Director : Vineet Pandey

MD & CEO : J. Venkatramu

IPPB, is a **division** of **India Post** which is under the ownership of the **Department of Post**, a department under the **Ministry of Communications** of the Government of India (GoI).

### About Ministry of Communications :

Cabinet Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw

Minister of State : Devusinh Chauhan

### India's April-Feb fiscal deficit widens to 83% of FY23 target at Rs 14.54 lakh crore

**India's fiscal deficit** for **FY23** touched **14.54 trillion rupees** in the **11 months** through February - nearly **83%** of annual estimates.

**Net tax receipts** through February were **17.32 trillion rupees** or 83% of the annual estimate and **17% higher than last year**, per the data.

The country has targeted a budget deficit of **6.4%** for the fiscal year ending this month.

According to the data released by the **Controller General of Accounts**, the fiscal deficit or gap between the **expenditure** and **revenue collection** between April 2022 and February 2023 stood at **₹14.53 lakh crore**.

**Net tax collection** in the first 11 months of this fiscal was at **₹17,32,193 crore** while total expenditure incurred by the government was **₹34.93 lakh crore**.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had stated that the fiscal deficit target for 2023-24 was pegged at **5.9%** of the GDP.



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The government intends to bring the **fiscal deficit below 4.5%** of the GDP by 2025-26.

### **Ambit Finvest & Bajaj Finserv Direct join hands for digital lending platform for MSMEs**

**Ambit Finvest** has partnered with **SKALEUP**, the digital technology services arm of **Bajaj Finserv Direct**, to develop a **D2C (direct-to-customer) instant loan application** to give **business loans** to **MSME (Micro Small & Medium Enterprises)** business owners through a completely paperless and automated digital onboarding process.

#### **Key Highlights :**

Ambit Finvest is the NBFC of the Ambit Group and has served over 50,000 MSME business owners and disbursed more than **₹3,500 crore** in loans.

“SKALEUP’s Creditech solution is a **low-code/no-code digital platform** that enables data-driven decisions.

SKALEUP is the digital technology services arm of the company, and will enable platform development for Ambit Finvest.

#### **About Bajaj Finserv Direct :**

CEO of Bajaj Finserv Direct : Ashish Panchal

Bajaj Finserv Direct is a subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv.

#### **About Ambit Finvest :**

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Sanjay Agarwal

Tagline : Pragati Ke Partner

### **AMNS Luxembourg Holding signs \$5 billion loan agreement with consortium of Japanese banks**

The world’s second-largest steelmaker, **ArcelorMittal**, announced that **AMNS Luxembourg Holding SA**, the parent company of **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India)**, has



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entered into a **\$5 billion loan agreement** with a consortium of **Japanese banks** to finance the company's expansion plans in India.

The agreement is with the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), MUFG Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Mizuho Bank and Mizuho Bank Europe N.V.**

### Key Highlights :

The proceeds from the JBIC co-financing loan would be used to finance the expansion of the plant at Hazira, Gujarat, from **9 million tonnes (mt) to 15 mt**

The expansion project, which started in **October, 2022** upon receipt of environment permitting, will create more than 60,000 jobs.

### About AM/NS India :

AM/NS India was the **5th largest producer** of **crude steel** in **India**.

AM/NS India, a **60:40 joint venture** between **ArcelorMittal** and **Nippon Steel Corporation**.

### International Monetary Fund approves 15.6 billion dollar support package for Ukraine

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has approved a **15.6 billion United States (US) dollar support** package for **Ukraine** to assist with the conflict-hit country's economic recovery.

### Key Highlights :

The 15.6 billion US dollar support is part of a broader **115 billion US dollar** international support package to help Ukraine meet its funding needs.

Of the total amount approved by the IMF, **\$2.7 billion** is being made available to **Ukraine immediately**, & the remaining amount will be released over the next 4 years.

The **48-month Extended Fund Facility program** approved by the fund's board is worth roughly **\$15.6 billion**.

### About Ukraine :



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Prime Minister: Denys Shmyhal

President: Volodymyr Zelensky

Capital: Kyiv

Currency : Rryvnya (UAH)

**About IMF :**

Established : 1945

Headquarters : Washington DC, United States

Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)

Membership : 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)

**India** became its **member** in **December 1945**

IMF is an **international organization**.

It is designed to promote global monetary cooperation.

**India current account deficit narrows to 2.2% of GDP in Q3**

According to the data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** **India's current account deficit (CAD)**, which is the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange, has narrowed to **\$18.2 billion or 2.2%** of **Gross domestic product (GDP)** in the October to December quarter (Q3FY23) from 4.4% of the GDP in the quarter ending September. More than half of the narrowing is due to a reduction in the goods trade deficit, suggesting weakening domestic demand in **Asia's third-largest economy**.

**Key Highlights :**

Current Account Deficit (CAD), a key indicator of the external sector, had widened to **3.3%** of **GDP** in the **first half of 2022-23** from 0.2% in the comparable period of 2021-22 on the back of a sharp increase in the merchandise trade deficit.

The CAD was **\$30.9 billion or 3.7%** of the GDP in the **second quarter** of **2022-23** and at **\$22.2 billion or 2.7%** of the GDP in the December quarter of 2021-22.



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In the Oct-Dec quarter, net foreign direct investment declined to **\$2.1 billion** from \$4.6 billion in the same period a year ago.

The **lower current account deficit** in Q3:2022-23 was a narrowing of merchandise trade deficit to **\$72.7 billion** from \$78.3 billion in Q2:2022-23.

Services exports reported a growth of **24.5%** on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis on the back of rising exports of software, business and travel services.

In the December quarter, **net foreign direct investment** decreased to **\$2.1 billion** from \$4.6 billion in the year-ago period.

Net foreign portfolio investment recorded inflows of \$4.6 billion in the December quarter as against an outflow of \$5.8 billion in the third quarter of 2021-22.

According to RBI data, India recorded a current account deficit of **2.7%** of GDP during April-December 2022 period as compared to a deficit of **1.1%** during April-December 2021 period.

### PhonePe Launches E-Commerce Consumer App 'Pincode' On ONDC Platform

Walmart-owned fintech company **PhonePe** has launched a new consumer-facing application, **Pincode**, which will be integrated into **India's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) framework**.

#### About Pincode :

At present, Pincode is only available in **Bengaluru** city and will soon be launched in other cities. Pincode is launching in **6 major categories**, including grocery, food, pharma, electronics, home decor, and fashion.

The app, which will focus on hyperlocal commerce, is downloadable from Google Play and App store.

Pincode is built on the ONDC network, which allows us to **generate demand** for merchants digitised by various seller platforms in an **inclusive manner**, while creating new opportunities for growth and driving innovation at scale.

#### About Phonepe :





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Founded : 2015

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Co-Founder & CEO : Sameer Nigam

**About ONDC :**

Founded : December 31, 2021

CEO : Thampy Koshy

ONDC, is a private **non-profit Section 8 company** established by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI)** of Government of India to develop open e-commerce.

**Karur Vysya Bank ties up with SBI Life to market insurance schemes**

**Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. (KVB)** has entered into a pact with **SBI Life Insurance** to **market** the latter's **insurance schemes** through its branches.

KVB is a major player in South India with strong presence in urban, semi-urban and rural locations viz Tamil Nadu (TN), Andhra Pradesh (AP), Telangana, Karnataka to market its schemes.

**About KVB :**

Founded : 1916

Headquarters : Karur, Tamil Nadu

MD & CEO : Mr. Ramesh Babu

Tagline : Smart Way to Bank

KVB is a Scheduled Commercial Bank.

**About SBI Life :**

Founded : March 2001

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Mahesh Kumar Sharma

SBI Life is an Indian life insurance company which was started as a joint venture (JV) between the **State Bank of India (SBI)** and French financial institution **BNP Paribas Cardif**.



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### HDFC Bank launches Regalia Gold Credit Card

HDFC Bank has launched **Regalia Gold Credit Card**, a super-premium credit card in its Regalia range of credit cards.

A Regalia Gold credit card will be available to **high-income individuals**.

HDFC bank is targeting a wide range of potential customers such as travellers and lifestyle enthusiasts.

### Key Highlights :

Regalia Gold provides a **one-stop solution** with a host of exclusive offers and benefits as well as access to global travel facilitators, airport lounges, and curated benefits on lifestyle brands.

The card offers a privileged travel experience with **Club Vistara Silver Tier Membership** and **MMT Black Elite Membership**.

The card also aims at rewarding everyday indulgences by providing 5 times the reward on purchases from fashion e-commerce websites such as Myntra, Nykaa, M&S and Reliance Digital.

### About HDFC Bank :

Founded : August 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline : We Understand Your World

### SBI Wecare Senior Citizen FD scheme last date extended by 3 months

India's largest lender, the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, has once again **extended** the **SBI "WECARE" Senior Citizens' Term Deposit programme**.

After repeated revisions, the scheme has now been extended till **30 June 2023**.

### About SBI "WECARE" Senior Citizens' Term Deposit programme :

SBI in association with Senior Citizens introduces a new Deposit Scheme "SBI WECARE" protecting their income by offering **additional interest** on Term Deposits.



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The Deposit programme was introduced in **May 2020** with an initial maturity date of **September 2020**.

### Key Highlights :

**Eligible** - Customers Senior Citizens

**Type of Deposit** - Domestic Term Deposit

**Period of Deposit**- Minimum- 5 years & Maximum- 10 years

**Payment of Interest** - Monthly or yearly interest payments are made on term deposits.

**SBI FD latest interest rates** - For amounts less than Rs 2 crore, SBI offers interest rates between **3.50%** and **7.50%** for terms extending from 7 days to 10 years.

### SBM Bank India Blocks Credit Cards Offered in Partnership With Fintechs

**SBM Bank India**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of foreign lender State Bank of Mauritius (SBM), has **blocked** the **corporate credit cards** it offered in partnership with several fintech players in India following a **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** diktat to update their '**know your customer**' (**KYC**) details.

The block was implemented from 31 March 2023 and affected all major fintechs partnered with SBM India, including **M2P, RazorPay, Karbon, EnKash** and **KODO**.

Most of these fintechs count venture capital and other private investors.

### Key Highlights :

A majority of the **10 lakh credit cards** issued by SBM Bank have been **blocked**.

According to RBI data, as on **February 28, 2023** SBM's total credit card outstanding stood at **10.33 lakh**.

In **January, 2022** SBM Bank came under regulatory scrutiny as RBI banned the lender from processing any foreign exchange remittances abroad under the so-called **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** till further orders.

In 2022, it had also instructed fintech partners to stop onboarding new customers after an RBI order related to pre-paid instruments.



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**About SBM Bank India :**

Founded : 1st December 2018

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sidharth Rath

It was the **first bank** to receive a **banking licence** from India's banking regulator **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to establish a **universal banking business** in the country as a wholly owned subsidiary

**Union Bank of India becomes first Indian bank to open special vostro account for India-Malaysia trade settlement in rupee**

Public sector lender **Union Bank of India (UBI)** becomes the **first bank** in the country to **open a Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA)** through its corresponding bank in **Malaysia** i.e. **India International Bank of Malaysia (IIBM)**.

This means that trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in the **Indian rupee**, in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies.

**Aim :**

To facilitate the **growth** of **global trade** and to support the interests of the global trading community in Indian Rupee.

**Key Highlights :**

UBI's move is in line with RBI's direction in **July, 2022** to allow the settlement of international trade in Indian Rupees.

India-Malaysia bilateral trade, which has reached **US\$19.4 billion** in FY 2021-22.

**Malaysia** is the **third largest trading partner of India** in the ASEAN region, after Singapore and Indonesia that account for \$30.1 billion and \$26.1 billion bilateral trade with India respectively.

In **March 2023**, banks from **18 countries** were allowed by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to open SRVAs to settle payments in Indian rupees.



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The 18 countries are: Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Botswana, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

### About UBI :

Founded : 11 November 1919

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : A. Manimekhalai

Tagline : Good People to Bank With

### Geojit Credits launches digital loan against mutual fund holdings

**Geojit Credits**, a non-banking financial company, announced the **launch** of 'Loan Against Mutual Fund' (LAMF).

Through this, investors can avail of **quick** and **hassle-free loans** starting from **Rs 10,000** in the **100% digital mode**.

### Key Highlights :

A LAMF allows investors to **raise instant funds** at attractive interest rates for their **short-term liquidity requirements** by keeping their mutual fund investments as collateral.

Investors can avail of the **loan anytime**, and the **loan amount** will be credited to their registered bank account within a few hours.

Investors can repay their loan amount **without incurring any prepayment** or foreclosure charges.

Geojit Credits' loan against mutual funds interest rate starts from just **8.99% per annum**.

The interest would be charged only on the amount utilised by investors and for the loan duration.

Geojit Credits is a subsidiary of **Kochi-based Geojit Financial Services**.

### Bank of Maharashtra opens its first dedicated branch for startups in Pune

**Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)**, a premier public sector bank in the country, has **inaugurated** its **first dedicated Branch** for **start-ups** at **Pune, Maharashtra**.

The dedicated branch will provide all kinds of support to a startup during its growth journey.



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**A S Rajeev**, MD & CEO, Bank of Maharashtra and **Prashant Girbane**, Director General, Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) inaugurated the Start-up Branch at FC Road, Yashomangal, Pune City Zonal Office.

Start-ups are an entrepreneur venture in the early stage of business operation, which if properly nurtured becomes an integral pillar of economic growth, employment generation while satisfying evolving needs of its clients with innovation.

During the event **Bank of Maharashtra** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** venture capital for proactive financing of start-ups.

**About BoM :**

Established : 16 September 1935

Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra India

MD & CEO : A. S. Rajeev

Tagline : Ek Parivaar, Ek Bank (One Family One Bank)

**World Bank lowers India's FY24 growth forecast to 6.3%**

The **World Bank** has **lowered** its **forecast** for **India's economic growth** in the current fiscal year that started on April 1 to **6.3% from 6.6%**.

Asia's third-largest economy recorded year-on-year growth of **4.4%** in October-December, down from 11.2% a year back and 6.3% in the preceding quarter

The World Bank estimated a **6.9% growth** in FY23 .

**Key Highlights :**

It projected the **current account deficit** to narrow to **2.1%** of gross domestic product for the current fiscal year from an estimated 3% in the previous year, on the back of robust service exports and a narrowing merchandise trade deficit.



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The finance ministry's Economic Survey has projected economic growth to be **6.5%** in the 2023-24 fiscal beginning April 2023, while the RBI has projected **India's economic growth** to slow down to **6.4%** in FY24 from **7%** in the previous fiscal.

Recently, S&P Global Ratings kept its forecast for India's economic growth unchanged at **6%** in the fiscal year starting April 1, before rising to **6.9%** in the following year.

In the quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific, S&P saw **inflation rate** easing to **5%** in **2023-24 fiscal**, from 6.8% in the current financial year.

### About World Bank :

Established : December 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States

President : David Robert Malpass

Membership : 189 countries

The World Bank is an **international financial institution** that provides loans and grants to the governments of **low-** and **middle-income countries** for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.

The World Bank is the collective name for the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and **International Development Association (IDA)**.

### Asian Development Bank cuts India's economic growth to 6.4% in FY24

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** slashed its **India growth forecast** for **FY24** to **6.4%** from **7.2%** estimated earlier, citing risks arising from global and domestic factors.

For FY23, ADB pared down its growth forecast to **6.8%** from 7% estimated earlier.

The current account deficit is projected to decline to **2.2%** of GDP in **FY24** and **1.9%** in **FY25**.

ADB stated that private consumption will be the main driver of growth and the large domestic consumption base will mitigate the impact of a global slowdown.

### About ADB :

Established : 19th December 1966.



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Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Members: 68 members (49 from Asian & the Pacific & 19 outside)

ADB is a **regional development bank**

**Axis Bank introduces 'Digital Dukaan', an enhanced Payments & Business Management solution for merchants**

**Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank, in partnership with **Visa** announced the launch of an app '**Digital Dukaan**', a comprehensive digital offering that will **empower merchants** to accept payments through various digital modes and also enable them to manage their day-to-day business digitally.

**About 'Digital Dukaan' :**

The Digital Dukaan' has been specifically designed to address business requirements such as **accepting digital payments, inventory management and billing**, among others.

This Android Smart POS application has an in-built camera with LED flashlight that will enable scanning of product barcodes, allow tap and pay option for transactions up to **Rs 5,000** and also support other value-added services such as EMI, acceptance of Sodexo card, Buy Now Pay Later, etc.

It will also enable merchants to set up an online store and grow their business effortlessly by creating new channels.

**Key Features of Digital Dukaan :**

**Inventory management** – Hassle-free managing of stocks; receipt of alerts & reminders on limited stocks along with pre-loaded catalogue

**Digital Billing** – Quick billing, as it accepts multiple payment modes like Credit / Debit Cards, UPI etc.

**Customized real-time business reporting**- Getting customized reports to efficiently manage the business





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**Digital Khatabook** - Easy to manage credits and payment collection from customers

**Customer management** - Managing customer data at one place and offering loyalty options

**About Axis Bank :**

Founded : 3 December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

**UPI processes 8.7 billion transactions in March, highest ever since inception**

India's homegrown payments system, **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, recorded its **highest-ever number of transactions** at **8.7 billion** in **March 2023**.

This was the highest number since the **inception** of **UPI**.

8.7 billion transactions amounted to **Rs 14.05 trillion**.

UPI had processed 8 billion transactions for the first time in January, 2023.

**Key Highlights :**

As per **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data**, UPI transactions in March 2023 were **60% higher** in **volume terms** from the year-ago period.

UPI transactions in March 2023 were **46% higher** in **value terms** from the year-ago period.

In March 2022, UPI had processed **5.4 billion transactions** & amounting to **Rs 9.6 trillion**.

**About UPI :**

Introduced: 11 April 2016

UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

Currently, UPI processes about **30 crore transactions a day**.

**Canara Bank Launches Premium Payroll Account for Salary account holders**



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**Canara Bank** has introduced “**Premium Payroll Package**” for the **Salary account holders** with competitive features.

The product has been designed to meet **all Banking requirements** of Salaried Customers.

### Unique features :

Free Term Life Insurance

Insta over Draft

Free Personal & Air Accident Insurance coverage

Premium Cards

Canara Bank’s customers can avail this facility across all its branches in India.

### About Canara Bank :

Founded : 1 July 1906

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India

MD & CEO : K Satyanarayana Raju

Tagline : Together We Can

### South Indian Bank partners with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance

**South Indian Bank Limited (SIB)** has announced partnership with **Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd (Chola MS)** to offer health and general **insurance products**.

This partnership would enable customers of South Indian Bank to access the diverse range of insurance products offered by Cholamandalam MS General Insurance, thus fulfilling their need for protection against damage/ loss.

The arrangement **aims to enrich** the **bank’s insurance offerings** by enabling its customers to access the product via the wide network of bank branches PAN India.

The key product offerings include: **personal accident cover, home and property insurance, farmer care, EMI insurance, home package and retail health**.

### About South Indian Bank Limited :

Founded : 1929



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Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala, India

MD & CEO : Murali Ramakrishnan

Tagline : Experience Next Generation Banking

**About Cholamandalam MS General Insurance :**

Founded : 2001

Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

MD : Suryanarayanan V

Chola MS is an Indian insurance firm and a joint venture (JV) between the **Murugappa Group**, an Indian conglomerate, and the **Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Group**, a Japanese insurance company.

**RBI releases Data on India's International Investment Position for the End of December 2022**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released **data** on **India's International Investment Position (IIP)** for the end of December 2022.

As per data, non-resident net claims on India fell by **US\$ 12.0 billion** between October and December 2022, reaching **US\$ 374.5 billion** at the end of December 2022.

**Key Highlights :**

As of the end of December 2022, **reserve assets** accounted for **64.3%** of India's international financial assets.

In December 2022, India's international assets covered **70.0%** of its **international liabilities**, up from 72.5% the previous year.

The proportion of debt liabilities in total external liabilities climbed to **50.2%** at the end of December 2022, up from 49.8% the previous quarter and 48.4% the previous year.

The decrease in net claims was owing to a greater growth in Indian residents' abroad financial assets (US\$ 28.7 billion) than an increase in Indians' overseas liabilities (US\$ 16.7 billion).



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The gain in Indian residents' foreign assets during Q3:2022-23 was mostly due to a **US\$ 30.0 billion** increase in reserve assets, which had previously decreased by US\$ 56.5 billion in the previous quarter.

**Trade credits** and **loans** were the **key contributors** to India's increase in foreign liabilities.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### RBI Imposes Penalty On Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services & Indian Bank

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary **penalty** of **₹6.77 crore** on **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited** for **non-compliance** with the “Non-Banking Financial Company-Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016”.

The **statutory inspection** of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

Meanwhile, the RBI imposed a fine of **Rs 55 lakh** on **Indian Bank** for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer) Directions, 2016.

This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 51 (1) of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

Also, the RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹10.50 lakh** on **Muthoot Money Limited, Ernakulam, Kerala** for non-compliance with certain provisions of the ‘Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016’.

### About MMFSL :

Founded : 1991



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Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MMFSL is an **Indian rural non-banking financial company**.

### About Indian Bank :

Founded : 15 August 1907

Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO : Shanti Lal Jain

### Reserve Bank of India Allows Pre-Sanctioned Credit Lines Via UPI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) governor **Mr Shaktikanta Das** proposed to **expand scope** of **United Payments Interface (UPI)** by permitting operations of pre-sanctioned credit lines by banks through UPI.

### Key Highlights :

UPI is a robust payment platform supporting an array of features.

Presently it handles **75%** of the **retail digital payments volume** in India.

The UPI system has been leveraged to develop products and features aligned to India's payments digitisation goals.

In other words, the UPI network will facilitate payments financed by credit from banks.

This can reduce the cost of such offerings and help in the development of unique products for Indian markets.

At present, UPI transactions are enabled between **deposit accounts at banks**, sometimes intermediated by pre-paid instruments including wallets.

The central bank will soon issue detailed instructions in this regard.

Recently, **RuPay credit cards** were permitted to be **linked** to **UPI**.

According to **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, transactions on the UPI platform advanced by **60% year-on-year** in March to a record **8.7 billion**.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935



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Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### **IIFL Finance Secures \$100 million from Export Development Canada & Deutsche Bank**

Fairfax-backed, leading Mumbai-based **non-banking financial company (NBFC)**, **IIFL Finance Limited (IIFL)**, has secured **USD 100 million** in long-term funding, jointly, from **Export Development Canada (EDC)** and **Deutsche Bank**.

The NBFC secured **USD 50 million** from **EDC** and **USD 50 million** from **Deutsche Bank**, respectively.

#### **Key Highlights :**

The deal was structured under the aegis of **Deutsche Bank** as mandated lead arranger, book runner and co-financier.

This would also be **IIFL's second loan** from EDC.

Previously, it had secured funding of **USD 100 million** from EDC in **2019**.

IIFL Finance had raised **USD 400 million** through its maiden dollar bond issue in **February 2020**.

It was able to buy back the **maximum possible amount**, as approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with the remaining amount due for maturity in **April 2023**.

#### **About IIFL Finance Limited :**

Founded : 1995

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Managing Director : Nirmal Jain

### **FY23 bank credit growth Increased by 15% & highest since FY12 - RBI data**

According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data** India's **Bank credit** rose by **15% year-on-year (YoY)** in 2022-23 (**FY23**), against 9.6% YoY in 2021-22 (**FY22**).

FY23 credit growth is highest since 2011-12, when it was **19.3%**.

#### **Key Highlights :**



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Bank deposits expanded **9.58%** YoY in FY23, against 8.9% YoY growth seen in the FY22. The RBI data showed that bank deposit mobilisation lagged behind credit disbursements in FY23. They raised **Rs 15.78 trillion** through deposits in FY23, against Rs 13.51 trillion raised in FY22. The **credit in absolute terms** rose **Rs 17.83 trillion** in FY23, up from Rs 10.43 trillion in FY22. According to the RBI's Scheduled Bank's Statement of Position in India, the outstanding credit stood at **Rs 136.75 trillion** at the end of FY23 (March 24, 2023), up from Rs 118.91 trillion a year ago (March 25, 2022 — FY22). Outstanding deposits stood at Rs 180.43 trillion, against Rs 164.6 trillion a year ago. The **interest rate** on one-year term deposits was in the range of **5-5.6%** around the end of March 2022 and moved up to 6-7.25% by the end of March 2023. The **savings deposit rate** remained in the range of **2.7-3%** in March 2022 and March 2023.

**Indian Bank Launches New Fixed Deposit Scheme IND Super 400 Days With High Interest to Women**

**Indian Bank**, a public sector bank, launched a **new retail term deposit** named “**IND SUPER 400 DAYS**” with **0.05% higher interest rate** to women investors & fixed maturity tenor of **400 days** in the form of FD/MMD (Fixed Deposits/Money Multiplier Deposits)

**Key Features :**

Deposit Amount	Minimum – <b>Rs.10000/</b> Maximum – <b>Less than Rs. 2 Crore</b> (Bulk deposits of Rs.2 crore & above are not eligible)
Period of Deposit	<b>400 Days</b>
Validity	scheme is valid till <b>April 30, 2023</b>



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**IND SUPER 400 DAYS -Rate of Interest (% pa) :**

	Women	Others
Public	7.15 %	7.10%
Senior Citizens	7.65%	7.60%
Super Senior Citizen ( 80 yrs and above)	7.90%	7.85%

**Indian Bank FD interest rates :**

Indian Bank has hiked the interest rate on FDs with tenure of 2 years to less than 3 years by 20 basis points (bps) from 6.50% to **6.70%**.

Indian Bank offers an additional rate of interest of **0.50% p.a.** for amounts up to **Rs 10 crore** for senior citizens.

Indian Bank also offers a special term deposit called "**IB – Golden Ager**" for super senior citizens (Age 80 years and above).

Recently, on December 19, 2022, Indian Bank also introduced a special retail term deposit product called "**IND SHAKTI 555 DAYS**" with a **555-day maturity period** and for deposit amounts ranging from Rs. 5000 to less than Rs 2 crore.

Indian Bank is offering an interest rate of **7%** for the **general public** and **7.50%** for senior citizens. This scheme is valid till **March 31, 2023**.

**Reserve Bank of India develops online application for Full-Fledged Money Changers & non-bank Authorised Dealers Category-II**





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The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has developed a **software application**, known as **'APConnect'** for processing applications related to licencing of **Full-Fledged Money Changers (FFMCs)**, non-bank Authorised Dealers (AD) Category-II, authorisation as **Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS) Agent**, renewal of existing licences/authorisations, for seeking approval and submission of various statements/returns.

In this regard, RBI has directed them to register on the application **within 3 months** from the date of circular.

On receipt of confirmation from the Regional Office of the Reserve Bank regarding generation of licence through APConnect, the existing FFMCs/non-bank AD Cat-II shall surrender their existing licence to the respective Regional Office of the Reserve Bank.

### About FFMCs :

Full Fledged Money Changer is a company that carries out trading activities like **forex currency** after prior approval from the RBI.

These companies are sanctioned under the **Foreign Money Exchange Act of 1999**.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### Bank of Maharashtra launches digitised personal loans

As part of its ease of banking initiative for customers, **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has launched a **digitised personal loan** for customers in select regions & **enhanced** its **WhatsApp banking** with the addition of "apply for loan" and "loan balance inquiry features"

Also BoM announced launch of several new products and utilities including digitised personal loans and upgraded mobile banking.

### Key Highlights :



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The existing customers in **Pune region** (Pune West, Pune City & Pune East), **Bengaluru, Kolkata, Patna** and **Chandigarh** can avail loan up to **₹20 lakhs** through digitised medium.

To add to the customer delight, the bank came up with features for its **Visa** and **Rupay Debit Cards**.

The Rupay Petro Debit Card provides rewarding fuel savings and other benefits to the customers, more particularly creating ease of doing business through cashless cards which shall be used by tour & transport operators etc

The Mobile banking spectrum has been further improved through several new features viz. **ASBA information, mudra loan information, term deposit ROI chart, Government Schemes, FAQ on Demat Account, Agriculture Loan** under Kisan Corner & Gold loan information in its continual efforts to enhance ease of banking, for its customers and staff.

A utility called, Loan lead added by the Bank for canvassing quality MSME accounts, which is going to capture through Digital Banking Units for the **Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED Certified)** for MSME customers.

To increase the bank's **vehicle loan portfolio**, the bank made an Integration with **Maruti Suzuki** & through this integration, digital leads will be captured directly in loan life cycle management software of the bank.

### About BoM :

Established : 16 September 1935

Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : A. S. Rajeev

Tagline : One Family One Bank

### UPI payments emerges as 2nd most popular mode to repay digital loans

The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** has emerged as the **second most preferred method** of repaying digital loans, coming at **27%**, only after **e-NACH** or **electronic National Automated Clearing House** which was the preferred route for **36%** of the borrowers.

### Key Highlights :



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As per, the Financial Mood of the Millennials Report by financial services platform CASHe for FY23, **84% customers** prefer taking a credit line over personal loans (14%) and BNPL (Buy Now Pay Later 2%).

Satchetised loans of **less than ₹10,000** are preferred by **49%** of millennials, the data showed adding that there is significant credit demand from bureau-based prime (44%) and near-prime (38%) millennials.

**Unforeseen medical** and **monthly expenses** were the top two reasons found for availing of short-term digital credit followed by shopping, home renovation, education, among others, which reflects the need for unsecured and accessible digital credit products.

**Bengaluru** led among cities for **credit demand** followed by Hyderabad, Pune, Ghaziabad, and Gurugram. West Bengal, Punjab, Gujarat, Assam, and Kerala were the States from where millennials with the highest bureau scores have availed credit.

**SIP (systematic investment plans)** has emerged as the **most popular option** for **online investors**, accounting for **35%** of investing activities, digital gold for **18%**, tax-saving products for **15%**, goal-based investments for **10%**, real estate for 10 per cent and fixed deposits for **5%**.

**RBI excludes Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank PJSC from Second Schedule**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that the “**Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank PJSC**” (**ADCB**) has been **excluded** from the **Second Schedule** to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934. The Second Schedule to the Act lists the banks that are eligible to operate in India and outlines their respective regulatory requirements.

ADCB is a leading banking institution in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.

However, as of recent times, the bank has been undergoing some significant changes that will affect its operations in India.

On February 23, 2023, the RBI issued a notification announcing the cessation of ADCB as a banking company under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, which has been published in the Gazette of India (Part III – Section 4) dated March 25 – March 31, 2023.

As a result, the ADCB would no longer be able to carry on banking business in India.



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Now the ADCB will no longer be listed in the Second Schedule, and therefore, will not be able to operate in India as a **banking company**.

**Reserve Bank of India revised the regulatory framework for urban co-operative banks**

The **Reserve Bank of India** has **revised** the **regulatory framework** for **urban co-operative banks (UCBs)**, prescribing minimum net worth of **₹2 crore** for Tier-1 banks and ₹5 crore for all other banks

**UCBs shall have minimum net worth as under:**

Tier 1 UCBs operating in a **single district** shall have minimum net worth of **₹2 crore**.

All other UCBs (of all tiers) shall have minimum net worth of **₹5 crore**.

UCBs which currently do not meet the minimum net worth requirement, as above, shall achieve the minimum net worth of ₹2 crore or ₹5 crore (as applicable) in a phased manner.

Such UCBs shall achieve at least **50%** of the applicable minimum net worth on or before **March 31, 2026** and the entire stipulated minimum net worth on or before March 31, 2028.

**UCBs shall maintain minimum CRAR as under:**

Tier 1 UCBs shall maintain, as hitherto, a minimum CRAR of **9%** of **Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs)** on an ongoing basis.

Tier 2 to 4 UCBs shall maintain a minimum CRAR of **12%** of RWAs on an ongoing basis.

UCBs in Tier 2 to 4, which do not currently meet the revised CRAR of **12%** of RWAs, shall achieve the same in a phased manner.

Such UCBs shall achieve the CRAR of at least **10%** by March 31, 2024, **11%** by March 31, 2025, and **12%** by March 31, 2026.

The instructions come into effect from April 1, 2023.

Also, RBI revises criteria for classifying UCBs as Financially Sound and Well Managed.

Tier-2 UCBs are banks with deposits more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore; Tier-3 UCBs are banks with deposits more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore; and Tier-4 UCBs are banks with deposits more than ₹10,000 crore.



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Funds raised through **Perpetual Debt Instruments** included in Tier 1 capital and debt capital instruments included in Tier 2 capital should not be reckoned as part of net worth.

### Reserve Bank of India to launch centralized portal PRAVAAH for licencing, approval applications

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has planned to launch a secured web-based centralized **portal** named '**PRAVAAH**' (**Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And AuthOrisation**) to simplify and streamline application processes.

#### Key Features :

The portal will show **time limits** for deciding on the applications/approvals sought.

The new system will bring greater efficiencies into regulatory processes and facilitate ease of doing business for the regulated entities of RBI.

The facility will be extended to all types of applications made to RBI across all functions.

Currently, the application and approval processes for the same take place in varied **on-line** and **off-line modes**.

#### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### State Bank of India to launch new current accounts & savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** is planning to launch new variants of **current account** (with balances of **₹50,000** and **₹50 lakh**) and "**Parivar**" (**family**) **savings account** in FY24 to minimise the gap between deposit growth and credit growth.

The new plans come in the wake of deposit growth lagging credit growth over the last few quarters.

#### Aim :



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To increase its customer base and attract more deposits, particularly from retail customers.

### Key Highlights :

Domestic deposits of India's largest bank grew **8.86% year-on-year (y-o-y)** by the end of 2022, while domestic advances were up **16.91% y-o-y**.

SBI expects that its **domestic deposits** and **domestic advances** will grow about **12%** and **16%** y-o-y, respectively, in FY24.

The low proportion of low-cost current account (CA) deposits (5.6% of the total domestic deposits of **₹40,48,149 crore** by the end of December 2022) is a drag on the bank's **net interest margin (NIM)**.

To grow retail liabilities, the bank has placed more than **500 RMCAs (Relationship Managers for Current Accounts)** in various Circles and launched CA product "**Shubharambh**" for start-ups.

The proposed Parivar Savings Bank Account will have additional features like **insurance/health check-up /concession** in locker rent.

With the launch of this account, the bank is expecting that customers will open bank accounts for their family members.

### About SBI :

Established : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

### Asian Development Bank commits Rs 150 crore to Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd

Multilateral funding agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** proposes to **subscribe non-convertible debentures** worth **₹ 150 crore** of **Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL)**, to enhance Delhi's power distribution through grid enhancements.

Besides, ADB agreed to provide a **\$2 million grant** to partially finance the purchase and integration of a pilot **battery energy storage system (BESS)**.

The **10-megawatt-hour (MWh)** BESS is South Asia's first grid-scale energy storage project at the distribution transformer level.



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It will enable electricity to be stored and delivered on demand, reducing grid instability, and providing the flexibility to integrate intermittent solar and wind energy resources.

### About TPDDL :

Founded : 4 July 2002

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

CEO : Ganesh Srinivasan

TPDDL formerly North Delhi Power Limited (NDPL), is a joint venture between the Government of **National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi** and **Tata Power Company Limited**, which holds a 51% majority stake in the venture.

TPDDL is the distribution arm of **Tata Power**.

### About ADB :

Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 countries

### NSE Indices launches India's 1st-ever REITs and InvITs index

**NSE Indices Limited**, a subsidiary of National Stock Exchange (NSE), has launched **India's first ever Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** called Nifty REITs and InvITs Index.

### Aim :

To **track** the **performance** of REITs and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded (listed and traded or not listed but permitted to trade) at the NSE.

### Key Highlights :

The Nifty REITs & InvITs Index has a base date of **July 01, 2019**, and a **base value** of **1000**.

The index will be reviewed and rebalanced on a **quarterly basis**.



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The weights of securities within the index will be based on their **free-float market capitalisation**, subject to a security cap of **33% each**, and the aggregate weight of the top three securities is capped at 72%.

### What Are REITs And InvITs?

REITs invest in **real estate projects**, whereas InvITs invest in **infrastructure projects** with a long gestation period.

Through these trusts, investors get exposure to diversified **regular income-generating** real estate and infrastructure assets.

### About NSE Indices Limited :

Founded : March 1998

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Mukesh Agarwal

### Kotak General Insurance partners with actyv.ai to sell insurance products to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

**Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Co. Ltd** (Kotak General Insurance) has partnered with **actyv.ai** to offer bite-sized insurance products to new-age **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** companies.

### Key Highlights :

Kotak General Insurance will leverage actyv.ai's **Artificial Intelligence (AI)- powered platform** to provide insurance solutions to support the business sustainability of small businesses.

Through this partnership with Kotak General Insurance, enterprises on actyv.ai's platform will now be able to offer group insurance to all of its **distributors, retailers, and suppliers**.

### About actyv.ai :

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka

Founder and Global CEO : Raghunath Subramanian





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**About Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Co. Ltd :**

Founded : 2015

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Suresh Agarwal

**JICA & Citibank to Provide \$125 Million To IndusInd Bank For Onlending To Agricultural Sector**

The Japanese lender, **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** has teamed up with **Citibank** to provide a **\$125 million funding** line to domestic private sector lender **IndusInd Bank**.

IndusInd will be utilising the co-finance funding for onlending to the agricultural sector in India. The funding includes a **JPY 13 billion** (approx USD 97.45 million) loan from the JICA and another **\$30 million** from Citi to IndusInd.

According to the Citing official data, the agriculture sector accounts for **17%** of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and employs **45%** of the people, & there is an urgent need to improve access to finance to stimulate capital investments in the agricultural sector.

**Key Highlights :**

The facility will be helpful in purchase of farm equipment, seeds, and fertilisers for farmers and will also be used by small agricultural supply chain service providers.

Previously, Citi has committed **\$1 trillion** to sustainable finance by **2030**, as well as expanding access to basic services for 15 million underserved and low-income households, including 10 million women.

JICA's previous commitments to India include over **Rs 4,000 crore support** to build the **Mumbai Trans Harbour Link**.

**About IndusInd Bank Limited :**

Founded : April 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra



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MD & CEO: Sumant Kathpalia.

Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer

### About JICA :

Established : October 1, 2003

Headquarters : Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan

### Banks keep savings deposit rates unchanged in current cycle - RBI

As per **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Monetary Policy report** for **April,2023** banks have kept **savings deposit rates unchanged** in the current tightening period.

During this period, banks have increased term deposit rates.

### Key Highlights :

As per the report, increase in term deposit rates in the current tightening cycle has been more than increase in lending rate.

This has helped in improving the lenders' **net interest margins (NIM)**.

The net interest margin is the **difference between the interest earned by a bank and the interest paid by it.**

The net interest margin improved from **3.44%** as of December 2021 to **3.73%** as of December 2022.

In March 2023, term deposits formed **58.5%** of aggregate deposits of **scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)**.

Savings account and current account deposits were **32.6%** and **8.9%**, respectively.

RBI deregulated the interest rates on saving bank deposits from October 2011.

The **weighted average domestic term deposit rate (WADTDR)** on fresh deposits was raised by **222 bps** during May 2022 to February 2023.

As per the report, **external benchmark-based lending rates (EBLRs)** were raised by the banks by **250 bps** during May 2022- March 2023.

The **marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR)** – the internal benchmark for loan pricing – rose by **140 bps** over the same period.



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The **weighted average lending rate (WALR)** on sanctioned fresh rupee loans increased by **173 bps** and that on outstanding rupee loans by 95 bps during May 2022 to February 2023.

### ICICI Bank introduces EMI facility for UPI payments by scanning QR code

**ICICI Bank** has introduced an **easy EMI facility** for **UPI payments** made by scanning QR code. Customers eligible for PayLater, the Bank's '**buy now, pay later**' service can avail of the EMI facility in an instant, easy and seamless manner.

#### Key Highlights :

This **first-of-its-kind facility** enhances the affordability of lakhs of the Bank's customers as they can now instantly buy products or services just by scanning the required merchant QR code at a store and making payments in EMIs.

Customers can pay a transaction amount above **₹10,000** in easy instalments in **3,6 or 9 months**.

**ICICI Bank** was the **first bank** to introduce **PayLater facility** in **2018** to enable customers to buy small ticket items immediately in a completely digital and paperless manner.

PayLater facility enables customers to shop online, pay bills and pay to any merchant UPI ID at physical stores instantly.

#### About ICICI Bank :

Founded : 5 January 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi

### Bajaj Finance partners with SBI General Insurance to offer more consumer-centric motor insurance policies

To ensure a hassle-free purchase of motor insurance policies, **SBI General Insurance** has partnered with **Bajaj Finance** to offer one-of-its-kind **car** and **bike insurance policies**.

Vehicle owners can visit the Bajaj Finance portal to buy the SBI General car and bike insurance policies online in just a few steps.

#### SBI two-wheeler insurance policy through Bajaj Finance :



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The SBI General Two-Wheeler Insurance Policy - Package covers **accidental damages** caused to the owner's vehicle and third-party property and life.

The insurer also offers customers a wide range of add-on covers to enhance their basic plan.

### SBI four-wheeler insurance policy through Bajaj Finance :

SBI General's Private Car Insurance Policy - Package is an all-in-one four-wheeler insurance policy tailored to provide **customers comprehensive coverage** against accidental losses.

### About SBI General Insurance :

Founded : 2009 (started operations in 2010)

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Kishore Kumar Poludasu.

### Reserve Bank of India released framework for the acceptance of green deposits by Regulated Entities

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the framework for the **acceptance of green deposits of regulated entities (RE)**.

The framework will come into effect from **June 1, 2023**.

### Aim :

To **encourage regulated entities (RE)** to "offer green deposits to customers, protect interest of the depositors, aid customers to achieve their sustainability agenda, address greenwashing concerns and help augment the flow of credit to green activities/projects".

### Key Highlights :

As per the RBI guidelines, a Green Deposit means:

An interest-bearing deposit, received by the RE for a **fixed period** and the proceeds of which are earmarked for being allocated towards green finance.



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Lending to and investing in the activities or projects that contribute to **climate risk mitigation, climate adaptation and resilience**, and other climate-related or environmental objectives – including biodiversity management and nature-based solutions.

The green deposits will be denominated in **Indian rupees only**.

The REs will have to allocate proceeds raised from green deposits towards the green activities or projects.

RBI has also mentioned about a list of 'exclusions' for REs.

This includes projects involving new or existing extraction, production and distribution of fossil fuels; nuclear power generation; and direct waste incineration.

**Applicability :**

These instructions are applicable for **all scheduled commercial banks**, including small finance banks.

However **regional rural banks, local area banks** and **payments banks** are excluded.

The framework will also apply to all deposit-taking **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** registered with the RBI, including housing finance companies (HFCs).

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**SEBI asks alternative investment funds to provide “direct plan” option to investors; introduces trail model for distribution commission**

To bring transparency in expenses and curb mis-selling, Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has asked **alternative investment funds (AIFs)** to provide an option of “**direct plan**” for investors and introduced a trail model for distribution commission.

The circular regarding the 'Direct Plan' will be applicable for onboarding from **May 1, 2023**.



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### Key Highlights :

AIFs will have to ensure that investors who approach the AIF through a registered intermediary, which is separately charging the investor any fee such as **advisory fee or portfolio management fee**, are on-boarded through direct plan only.

Introducing a trail model for distribution commission, Sebi stated that category III AIFs would charge distribution fee from investors only on an **equal trail basis**.

It means no upfront distribution fee would be charged by such AIFs directly or indirectly from their investors.

Further, any distribution charge paid would be only from the management fee received by the managers of such category III AIFs.

### About SEBI :

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** , Gol.

### International Monetary Fund Projects India's Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast To 5.9% For FY24 & 6.3% in FY25

The latest bi-annual World Economic Outlook Report by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has **lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** forecast for the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) to **5.9%** from 6.1% projected earlier.

It projects India to grow **6.3%** in **2025 fiscal**, **50 basis points** lower than estimated earlier.

### Key Highlights :

Meanwhile, the IMF projects India's retail inflation to ease to **4.9%** in **FY24** from **6.7%** in **FY23**.

It expects consumer price inflation to further soften to **4.4%** in **FY25**.



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India's current account deficit fell to **2.2%** of GDP in FY24 from 2.6% in FY23.

Global growth is expected to fall from **3.4%** in **2022** to **2.8%** in **2023** before recovering partially to 3% in 2024.

### About IMF :

Established : 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States of America

Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva

Membership : 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)

### DBS Bank India to launch proprietary credit card

**DBS Bank India Limited**, a 100% subsidiary of Singapore headquartered DBS Bank, will by **June, 2023** roll out its **proprietary credit cards**.

This credit card offering will be targeted at mass affluent and above (premium segment, including HNIs).

Currently, DBS Bank India has a co-branded credit card with **Bajaj Finserv** and a customer base of **2,00,000**.

### Key Highlights :

DBS Bank India is also planning to foray into the **affordable housing loans segment** this fiscal.

It will look to target mostly customers in the Tier II and Tier III cities for selling this product.

Meanwhile, DBS Bank India has announced a partnership with **IndiaFilings**, a leading platform for **startups** and **small businesses** in India.

DBS Bank India, which now has **522 physical branches** in the country, will look to add another 80-100 branches in the next 18 months with the bulk of this increase expected to come in North and Western India.

DBS Bank India had a few years back acquired **Lakshmi Vilas Bank (South India Based)**.

### RBI allows Karnataka Bank to collect direct, indirect taxes



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The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has authorised private sector lender **Karnataka Bank** to **collect direct and indirect taxes** on behalf of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** and the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.

The authorisation has been given on the recommendation from the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance (MoF)**.

Customers are already enjoying seamless online payments for custom duty by selecting Karnataka Bank in the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway '**ICEGATE**' portal of CBIC.

The ICEGATE portal of the **Central Board for Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** provides e-filing services to the trade, cargo carriers and other trading partners electronically.

**About Karnataka Bank :**

Founded : 18 February 1924

Headquarters : Mangalore, Karnataka, India

MD & CEO : Mahabaleshwara M. S

Tagline : Your Family Bank Across India

**City Union Bank launches Voice Biometric Authentication for mobile banking**

**City Union Bank Limited (CUB)** has launched **India's first voice biometric authentication** for logging into its mobile banking app.

The voice biometric service was developed by Chennai-based deeptech start-up, **Kaizen Secure Voiz Pvt Ltd**, under the guidance of the 5G use case lab of the **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, an RBI established institution focussed on research in banking technologies.

**Key Highlights :**

Voice biometric will be one other option for the customer to log in, apart from existing modes like **User ID/PIN, face ID, fingerprint authentication**, etc.

CUB also clarified that the customers can choose any one of these authentication options as per their convenience





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The bank has been at the forefront of many technology innovations and implementation, including the **first robot (Lakshmi)** in the banking industry, multilingual chatbots in the mobile banking app, the country's **first wearable debit card** in the form of a wrist watch and key chains, among others.

### About CUB :

Founded : 1904

Headquarters : Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India

MD & CEO : N Kamakodi

### Canara Bank & NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd launch cross-border inward bill payment services for Indians based in Oman

**Canara Bank** in partnership with **NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL)** has launched cross-border inward bill payment services for **Indians** based in **Oman**.

### Key Highlights :

NRIs can now leverage the robust platform offered by the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to make bill payments on behalf of their families through the **Musandam Exchange**.

This initiative signifies a milestone for Canara Bank as the **first public sector bank** in India to offer inbound cross-border bill payments through BBPS.

Musandam Exchange, managed by **Canara Bank**, is also the first exchange house in Oman to go live on **cross-border inbound bill payments**.

The cross-border bill payment service is already live in Kuwait, facilitating inbound remittances across utilities like **electricity, water, mobile phone, gas, credit card bills**, and more.

**Non Resident Indians (NRIs)** in Oman will now enjoy these benefits for the first time, marking an important juncture in India's digital payments journey, adding the service provides Indian expatriates, who until now had to rely on conventional methods to pay their domestic bills, with a much-needed option.

### About Canara Bank :



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Founded : 1 July 1906

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India

MD & CEO : K. Satyanarayana Raju

Tagline : Together We Can

### HDFC Bank to raise Rs 50,000 crore via bonds over next 12 months

The country's largest private-sector lender, **HDFC Bank**, is planning to raise up to **Rs 50,000 crore** (about \$6 billion) through bonds including **additional tier (AT) I, tier II**, and infrastructure bonds in the **next 12 months**.

HDFC Bank's board of directors will consider this proposal at its meeting scheduled for **April 15, 2023**.

### Key Highlights :

Commercial banks' combined fundraise through bonds (AT I, tier II and infrastructure bonds) was about **Rs 1.14 trillion** in 2022-23 as against about Rs 73,200 crore in FY22.

Among commercial banks, **State Bank of India (SBI)**, was the **largest issuer** in FY23.

SBI raised about **Rs 38,851 crore**, followed by HDFC Bank (Rs 23,000 crore), and Axis Bank (Rs 12,000 crore).

It will place these instruments - perpetual debt instruments (**AT1 bonds, Tier II capital bonds and long-term infrastructure bonds**) through private placement.

In FY23, HDFC Bank had issued **Rs 20,000 crore** through Tier II bonds and Rs 3,000 crore through AT1 bonds.

### About HDFC Bank :

Founded : August 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline : We Understand Your World



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**HDFC Bank signs agreement with Export Import Bank of Korea for USD 300 million credit line**

HDFC Bank has signed a “**Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement**” with **Export Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM)** for a **USD 300 million line of credit**.

The pact was signed by the two entities at GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City in **Gujarat's** capital Gandhinagar.

This agreement will help HDFC Bank **raise foreign currency funds** which it would extend to Korea-related businesses.

**Key Highlights :**

This line of credit would be utilised by HDFC Bank towards funding requirements of companies having equity participation by Korean companies as well as companies having business relationship with Korean companies.

It will also be utilised towards **funding requirements** of consumers for the purchase of cars manufactured by Korea related companies.

The Export-Import Bank of Korea (Korea Eximbank) is an **official export credit agency** of **South Korea** having a balance sheet size of close to **USD 100 billion**, which provides export-import and overseas investment credit to support Korean enterprises conducting business overseas.

**HDFC Mutual Fund launches schemes for large, mid and small-cap segments**

HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) has launched **3 index schemes** – **HDFC S&P BSE 500 Index Fund**, **HDFC NIFTY Midcap 150 Index Fund**, and **HDFC NIFTY Small-cap 250 Index Fund**.

The three index funds will offer diversified exposure to **large-, mid- and small-cap segments**.

The new fund offer (NFO) opened on April 6, 2023 and will close on April 18, 2023.

The open-ended schemes will replicate the S&P BSE 500, NIFTY Midcap 150 Index, and NIFTY Smallcap 250 Index, respectively.



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There are **no entry** and **exit loads**, and the minimum subscription amount is **Rs. 100**.

### SEBI Unveils its New Logo on the 35th Foundation Day

Capital Market Regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** unveiled its **new logo** on its **35th Foundation Day** at a ceremony conducted at the SEBI Head Office in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

#### About the New Logo :

The new SEBI logo retains its **traditional blue colour palette**.

The new logo reflects the combination of **rich traditions** of SEBI and new data and **technology-based approach** to all 3 areas of its mandate in the securities market.

These areas are the development and regulation of the securities market and investor protection. The new logo reflects the continuing commitment of SEBI to being a facilitator in the growth of the economy through capital formation and retaining its rich tradition of a consultative approach in policy making while adopting the power of data and technology.

#### About SEBI :

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (**first woman** to lead the SEBI)

SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), GoI.

### YES Bank becomes first Indian company with over 50 lakh shareholders

Private sector lender **YES Bank** has become the **first Indian company** to have over **50 lakh shareholders**, according to the shareholding pattern of the bank on March 31, 2023.

**Tata Power** is at **number 2** in terms of maximum number of shareholders, with a total of 38.5 lakh people investing in its shares.



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On the other hand, **Reliance Industries** is at number 3 in this list with 33.6 lakh crore shareholders.

This was an increase from **48.1 lakh shareholders** as of **December 2022**, most likely owing to the end of the 3-year lock-in period for shareholders that held equity shares of the bank when it underwent the reconstruction scheme in March 2020.

### About YES Bank :

Founded : 2004

Headquarters : [Mumbai](#), [Maharashtra](#), [India](#)

MD & CEO : [Prashant Kumar](#)

Tagline : Experience Our Expertise

### RBI simplifies the application process for registration of Core Investment Companies

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **simplified** the **application process** for the registration of **core investment companies (CICs)**.

Also, the number of documents to be furnished along with the application form has been **reduced** to **18** from the existing set of 52 documents to make the registration process user-friendly.

This has been done to make the registration process hassle free and smoother.

The 18 documents to be provided along with the application are indicative and not exhaustive.

If RBI calls for more documents, the applicant company is required to respond within a time period of **one month**.

### What are CICs?

Core Investment Companies (CICs) are **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** having acquisition of shares and securities as their business.

CICs hold at least **90%** of their net assets as investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.

Investments in equity shares in group companies form at least **60%** of net assets of a CIC.

### About RBI :



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Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : [Shaktikanta Das](#)

Deputy governors : [Mahesh Kumar Jain](#), M. Rajeshwar Rao, [Michael Patra](#) and T. Rabi Shankar

### India's non life insurers report double digit growth in FY23

According to provisional data released by the **General Insurance Council (GIC)**, **India's non-life insurers** reported growth in the high teens in fiscal 2023 due to robust performance across segments.

The gross premium underwritten by non-life insurers in fiscal 2023 stood at **Rs 2.6 crore**, which is **16.4% higher than** the FY22.

### What Is Underwriting?

Underwriting is the process through which an **individual or institution** takes on **financial risk** for a fee.

This risk most typically involves **loans, insurance, or investments**.

It helps to set fair borrowing rates for loans, establish appropriate premiums, and create a market for securities by accurately pricing investment risk.

### Key Highlights :

Standalone private health insurers reported the strongest year-on-year revenue growth.

Gross underwritten premium rose **26%** from a year earlier to Rs 26,242 crore.

The revenue of general insurers offering insurance for **home, travel, motor, health, fire**, and other natural or manmade calamities rose **16%** over the preceding year to Rs 2.1 lakh crore in FY23.

The private general insurers reported **20% growth** over FY22, while the year-on-year growth for public sector insurers lagged at 10%.

Revenue for specialised state-run non-life insurers rose **5.3%** over last year to Rs 15,841 crore.

Among general insurers, the market share for **private general insurers** expanded to **51.35%** from 49.71%, while the market share for public-sector general insurers fell to 32.27% from 34.03%.



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On an overall basis, there was a marginal decline of **12 basis points**.

**How India's three listed non-life insurers fared in 2023:**

**ICICI Lombard General Insurance :**

Revenue rose **17%** year-on-year to Rs 21,025 crore.

Market share stood at **8.18%** in March, compared with 8.14% a year earlier.

**The New India Assurance :**

Gross premium was up **6%** over the previous year at Rs 34,487 crore in March.

Market share fell to **13.42%** from 14.75% a year earlier.

**Star Health & Allied Insurance :**

Gross premium for the standalone health insurer rose **13%** over the previous year to Rs 12,951 crore.

Market share fell marginally to **5.04%** in March, as against 5.19% a year earlier.

**PhonePe gets additional USD 100 million fund from General Atlantic**

Walmart Inc-owned Indian payments firm **PhonePe** had raised an **additional \$100 million (Rs 820 crore)** from **General Atlantic (GA)** from United States (US) based private equity firm and other investors as part of its ongoing \$1 billion fundraise to expand into the lucrative lending space.

With this fresh funding, the Walmart group firm has raised **USD 750 million** till date.

**Tiger Global, Ribbit Capital, and TVS Capital** have invested **\$100 million**, while Walmart cut a cheque for \$200 million in the current round, at a pre-money valuation of **\$12 billion**.

**About Phonepe :**

Founded : 2015

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Co-Founder & CEO : Sameer Nigam

**IRB Infrastructure Trust becomes first private InvIT to get listed on National Stock Exchange**



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**IRB Infrastructure Trust**, sponsored by IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd was listed on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** becoming the **first private InvIT** to be listed.

The move comes after the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** listed **guidelines** on the listing framework for non-listed infrastructure investment trusts (InvIT).

### Key Highlights :

The valuation of the trust units was determined based on **third-party evaluation** and further endorsed by the Trust's investors as well.

The value ascertained comes to around **16 times FY24 revenue**, which will further keep appreciating with more projects coming in.

On March 22,2023 **MMK Toll Road Pvt. Ltd**, an Investment Manager to the Trust, approved the listing of Units of the Trust on NSE.

### What is InvIT?

Infrastructure investment trusts, popularly known as InvITs, are a kind of **hybrid securities**.

They are technically defined as a **collective investment scheme** similar to a mutual fund, which allows individuals and institutional investors to directly invest in infrastructure projects.

They are designed as a **tiered structure** with the sponsor setting up the InvIT which in turn invests into the eligible infrastructure projects either directly or via **special purpose vehicles (SPVs)**.

### About IRB Infrastructure Trust :

Chairman : Virendra D. Mhaskar

**IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd**, sponsors of IRB Infrastructure Trust, holds **51%** in the InvIT and the rest is held by GIC affiliates.

### Go Digit General Insurance re-files IPO papers with SEBI

**Go Digit General Insurance Ltd** has refiled its **preliminary IPO (Initial Public Offering)** papers with **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** after making certain changes to its employee stock appreciation rights scheme.





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The revision comes after SEBI returned **Go Digit's draft IPO (initial public offering) papers** on January 30 and requested that the company resubmit them with specific modifications.

### Key Highlights :

The size of the company's IPO remains unchanged in the revised documents. The proposed IPO for Go Digit consists of a new issuance of equity shares valued at **₹1,250 crore** and an **offer for sale (OFS) of 10.94 crore equity shares** made by the company's promoter, Go Digit Infoworks Services, and current shareholders.

The company had first filed the **draft red herring prospectus (DRHP)** with SEBI in **August 2022** to raise funds through an initial share sale.

The draft papers were "returned in terms of **SEBI's ICDR (Issuance of Capital and Disclosure Requirements)** rules, which exempts rights granted under employee stock option plans to subsist at the time of filing the draft prospectus, but does not similarly exempt employee stock appreciation rights.

Go Digit is backed by **Canada-based Fairfax Group** and offers motor insurance, health insurance, travel insurance, property insurance, marine insurance, liability insurance, and other insurance products to meet the needs of its customers.

### SEBI releases guidelines on upfront contribution by issuers for LPCC's Settlement Guarantee Fund

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** notified a **framework** for the **upfront collection of funds** from eligible issuers of debt securities.

The set guideline is to build the Settlement Guarantee Fund of the **Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC)**.

The new framework will come into force from **1 May 2023**,

The eligible issuers would be notified by the LPCC as per its risk management policy.

### Key Highlights :



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LPCC is an **entity** established to undertake the activity of **clearing** and **settlement** of **repurchase agreement transactions**.

Under the framework, SEBI stated that an amount of **0.5 basis points** of the issuance value of debt securities per annum based on the **maturity of debt securities** will be collected by the stock exchanges and placed in an escrow account before the allotment of the debt securities.

This amount is applicable on a **public issue or private placement** of debt securities.

In its board meeting in **September 2020**, SEBI had approved a proposal to facilitate the setting up of an LPCC.

**AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL)** has been granted recognition as LPCC by SEBI.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** also gave **necessary approvals** to **ARCL** to function as a Clearing Corporation with a limited purpose and to offer central counterparty services for repo transactions in debt securities.

**Small Industries Development Bank of India Launches Pilot Scheme 'Mission 50K-EV4ECO' for Enhanced Financing in Electric Vehicle Space**

**Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched the pilot financing scheme Called the **Mission 50K-EV4ECO** for better financing terms in the **electric vehicle space (EVS)** and strengthening the whole ecosystem.

**Aim :**

To strengthen the EV ecosystem, including uptake for **two, three** and **four-wheelers** through direct and indirect lending.

The pilot scheme, which is the **precursor** to **EVOLVE** scheme by SIDBI-World Bank, has two components - **direct lending** and **indirect lending**.

This pilot will be followed by scaling up support to the ecosystem from multilateral support.

**Key Highlights :**



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Under direct lending, SIDBI will directly give loans to eligible **Micro Small & medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** (including aggregators, fleet operators, and EV leasing companies) for the purchase of electric vehicles and develop charging infrastructure, including battery swapping.

The indirect scheme targeted at NBFCs, including small unrated focused and emerging NBFCs, actively engaged in EV financing, will reach out to the last mile by inducing access to funds as also reducing landed cost.

Electric two- and three-wheelers offer the greatest potential for EV adoption in India, accounting for **79%** of passenger road activity, and are already cost-competitive relative to conventional vehicles.

### About SIDBI :

Established : April 2, 1990

Headquarters : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

Chairman & Managing Director : Sivasubramanian Ramann

SIDBI is the **apex regulatory body** for overall licensing and regulation of **micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies** in India.

It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI).

### Chennai Metro in association with State Bank of India launches Singara Chennai Card

**Chennai Metro Rail Ltd** in association with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** (banking partner) launched the **Singara Chennai Card (NCCM – National Common Mobility Card)**.

### About Singara Chennai Card :

The technology for the RuPay NCCM cards has been developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

The card has a unique feature of a Stored Value Area which can be used to store a maximum amount of **2000 rupees** that can be used for ticket purchases in Offline mode

The Singara Chennai cards can be used in **Chennai metro stations**, and at other metros that accept **RuPay NCCM cards**, including the MMRDA Mumbai Line 2A & 7; Bangalore Metro;



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Delhi Metro Airport Line; Kanpur Metro; and for BEST Buses in Mumbai and Kadamba Transport Buses in Goa

Initially, the NCMC card will be issued by SBI at metro stations in Koyambedu, Central Station, the Airport, High Court, Alandur, Thirumangalam, and Guindy, and can be used at the automatic gates of all the metro stations.

In the future, consumers would be able to use the card for travel on buses, suburban railways, for toll, parking, smart city and retail shops, in many parts of the country.

SBI has also a **dedicated website** (<https://transit.sbi/swift/customerportal?pagename=cmrl>) for applying for a new card and for further recharging cards.

**Paycraft**, a payments company, will manage the **end-to-end ticketing system** for Chennai Metro. This will be the **second ticketing system** to be launched by **Paycraft** within a year, following its successful launch on the **Pune Metro**.

### About NPCI :

Founded : 2008

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

NPCI is an umbrella organization for operating **retail payments** and **settlement systems** in **India**.

It is an initiative of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, **2007**, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

### About SBI :

Founded : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

**SBI Reintroduced 400 Days 'Amrit Kalash' Fixed Deposit Scheme With 7.1% Interest**



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The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has reintroduced its special fixed deposit scheme, '**Amrit Kalash**', for **retail customers**.

This **400 days** term deposit offers a rate of **7.1%** for the general customer and a **50 basis point (bps)** higher (7.6%) for senior citizens

The scheme is available from April 12, 2023 till June 30, 2023.

Senior citizens will get additional interest of **50 basis points** on the scheme.

India's largest bank had first floated this scheme on **February 15, 2023**.

It was valid up to **March-end 2023**.

This scheme comes at a time when the banking system's deposit growth is lagging credit growth.

**Domestic retail term deposits**, including non-resident Indian (NRI) rupee term deposits (less than Rs 2 crore), new and renewals, term deposits, and special term deposits are eligible for this specific tenure deposit scheme.

As of **March 24, 2023**, the banking system's deposit growth was at **9.6% year-on-year (y-o-y)** against credit growth of 14.5% y-o-y.

**Northern Arc Capital facilitates \$20 million ECB loan for CreditAccess Grameen**

**Northern Arc Capital**, the technology-enabled diversified financial services platform has structured and arranged **\$20 million external commercial borrowings (ECB)** funding from **The Development Bank of Austria, Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank AG (OeEB)** for microfinance institution, **CreditAccess Grameen Limited (CA Grameen)**.

This funding will be utilised by CA Grameen to provide **micro-loans** to women borrowers from low-income households for income-generating activities, thereby promoting their access to formal financing.

The fundraise comes close on the heels of **CreditAccess Grameen's first ESG fundraise** from Swedfund International AB qualifying under the 2X Challenge in 2021.

As a part of the deal process, Northern Arc assisted CreditAccess Grameen in end-to-end Indian financial market scoping, credit analysis, due diligence, transaction structuring and execution.



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Northern Arc is a **technology-enabled diversified financial services** platform that provides credit to MSMEs, households, financial institutions and emerging businesses.

**MD & CEO of CreditAccess Grameen** : Udaya Kumar Hebbar

**CGTMSE ups guarantee coverage for MSEs from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore**

The **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)** has increased the **coverage ceiling** under its Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme from ₹2 crore to **₹5 crore** per borrower for credit facilities extended by lending institutions to **Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)**.

This move is expected to **encourage** the public and private sector banks, Member Financial Institutions and foreign banks to step up loans to MSEs.

**Key Highlights :**

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the changes are effective April 1, 2023 comes when the loan growth to the MSE segment slowed to **13.2% year-on-year** as on February 24, 2023 against 24% y-o-y as on February 25, 2022,

As on February 24, 2023, the **scheduled commercial banks'** credit to MSEs stood at **₹5,87,494 crore** compared with ₹5,18,873 crore as on February 25, 2022.

The **annual guarantee fee (AGF)**, which is generally passed on to the borrowers for loans up to **₹10 lakh** has been reduced to **0.37%** (from 0.75%) and for loans above ₹10 lakh up to ₹50 lakh to 0.55% (from 1.10%).

The AGF for loans above **₹50 lakh up to ₹1 crore** is 0.60%; **above ₹1 crore up to ₹2 crore** (1.20%); and for loans above ₹2 crore up to ₹5 crore (1.35%).

Earlier, there was a single slab of **₹50 lakh** up to ₹2 crore for which the AGF was 1.20%.

**About CGTMSE :**

CGTMSE is jointly set up by the **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India (GoI) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to catalyse flow of institutional credit to Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs).



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The credit guarantee scheme (CGS) assures a lender that if an MSE unit that has availed itself of collateral-free credit facilities (fund-based and/or non-fund based) fails to discharge its liabilities, then the trust would make good the loss to the tune of **75-85%** of the credit facility.

### **HDFC Capital Advisors Limited receives SEBI approval for control transfer in merger process**

**HDFC Ltd** stated that the market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has cleared a proposal for change in control of **HDFC Capital Advisors Limited (HCAL)**, a subsidiary of HDFC Limited and a co-investment portfolio manager subject to certain conditions.

#### **Key Highlights :**

As per the proposed composite scheme of amalgamation, HDFC Investments Limited and HDFC Holdings Limited, **wholly-owned subsidiaries** of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC Limited)** would be **first merged** into HDFC Limited and subsequently into HDFC Bank.

Already, HDFC has received the required approvals from the SEBI, shareholders of HDFC and HDFC Bank, the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** and the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.

The proposed entity will have a combined asset base of around **Rs 18 lakh crore**.

Once the deal is effective, HDFC Bank will be **100%** owned by **public shareholders**, and existing shareholders of HDFC will own **41%** of the bank.

Every HDFC shareholder will get **42 shares** of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares owned.

### **UPI Most Preferred Mode for Digital Payments in India in 2022**

As per the **India Digital Payments Annual Report for 2022** released by global payments player **Worldline India**, the **most preferred medium** for **digital payments** was **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** in 2022.

#### **Key Highlights :**

A total of **8,792 crore digital payments** were undertaken in 2022 worth **₹149.5 lakh crore**.



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The total number of transactions in UPI jumped by **70%** in **2022**, pushing the count up to **74 billion**.

The value of transactions increased at a slower pace than the volume.

With a **54% hike**, the value of transactions stood at Rs 126 trillion.

UPI has a volume and value market share of **84%** in 2022.

**Debit and credit cards** collectively accounted for **14%** of the transactions in terms of value and 7% of transactions in terms of value.

### Most preferred modes :

Within UPI, **Person-to-Merchant (P2M)** and **Person-to-Person (P2P)** were the most preferred payment modes among consumers.

P2M transactions accounted for **54%** of **UPI transactions** and **23%** in **terms of volume**.

P2P transactions comprised **46%** of the volume of transactions and **77%** in terms of value..

### Toppers of UPI Usage as of 2022 :

**State Bank of India (SBI)** and **ICICI Bank** were among the **top 5 banks**, both in terms of being a **UPI remitter** and **beneficiary bank**.

The other top UPI remitter banks in 2022 were **HDFC Bank**, **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and **Union Bank of India (UBI)**.

The **top UPI beneficiary banks** were **Paytm Payments Bank**, **YES Bank** and **Axis Bank**.

### About Worldline India Private Limited :

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO : Ramesh Narasimhan

### South Indian Bank introduces flexible savings accounts for Non-Resident Indians

The **South Indian Bank** has launched **2 flexible saving products** namely, **SIB SEAFARER** and **SIB PULSE** for its **non-resident Indian (NRI)** customers.

### Aim :





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To offer flexibility to NRI customers to either **maintain** the **term deposits** or the prescribed **minimum balance** in the saving account.

The two products have been launched specifically for **mariners** and **healthcare professionals**.

**Features of SIB SEAFARER & SIB PULSE :**

SIB SEAFARER	SIB PULSE
Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of <b>Rs.10,000/-</b> in linked accounts (eligible for the latest 2 NR Accounts opened)	Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of <b>Rs.10,000/-</b> in linked accounts (eligible for the latest 2 NR Accounts opened)
<b>No minimum balance is required</b> for the maintenance of the NRI Term Deposit of <b>Rs.2,00,000/-</b> and above	NR Term Deposit above <b>Rs.2 Lakh</b> or RD with minimum monthly instalment above Rs.20,000/-
Experience best-in-class digital banking through <b>Mirror+</b> and <b>SiBerNet</b> .	Get 1000 SIB REWARD points on opening the NRE/ NRO account together
UPI payment facility available	UPI payment facility available
Airport lounge access with an International debit card available.	Airport lounge access with International debit card available.
Priority banking facility available for you and your family	Priority banking facility available for you and your family

**About SIB :**



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Founded : 1929

Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala, India

MD & CEO : Murali Ramakrishnan

Tagline : Experience Next Generation Banking

**AU Small Finance Bank Partnered with Bharat Bill Payment System to launch bill payments via video banking**

**AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)**, India's largest small finance bank, has become the **first commercial bank in India** to integrate with the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**, to launch bill payment services through **video banking**.

**Aim :**

To **promote digital accessibility** and enhance economic capability leading to greater financial inclusion

**Key Highlights :**

The bill payment services through video banking enables customers to pay bills without the need to visit a branch.

Through AU SFB's video banking service, people can make payments like **FASTag, loan repayment, insurance, investments, education fees, municipal taxes, utility payments including gas, electricity, mobile, landline, water, DTH bills**, and others.

To access this, customers of AU Small Finance Bank can conveniently connect with the bank's video banker through or **AU 0101 app**.

The SFB is already offering more than **400 services** to its customers through video banking.

**About AU Small Finance Bank :**

Founded : 1996 as AU Financiers (India) Ltd.

In 2017, AU Financiers (India) Ltd became a small finance bank.

Headquarters : Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Chairman : Raj Vikash Verma



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MD & CEO : Sanjay Agarwal

**ACKO partners with Ola to Introduce Battery Insurance Plan for Electric Vehicles**

Private insurer **ACKO General Insurance** in partnership with **Ola Electric** and **Ather Energy** launched an "**Extended Battery Warranty**" plan, targeting **electric vehicle (EV) owners**. The policy is designed to boost EV affordability by enabling banks to lengthen loan terms and **reduce monthly instalments**.

The **first-of-its kind policy** safeguards battery life for up to 4 or 5 years and provides performance coverage for up to **60,000 km**.

The insurance plan is part of ACKO's broader strategy to establish an EV infrastructure by partnering **original equipment manufacturers (OEMs)** and providing comprehensive insurance plans to customers.

There is **223%** growth in EV sales in 2022, India's EV market is anticipated to rise at a **44.5%** CAGR between the years 2020 and 2025.

**About ACKO General Insurance :**

Founded : 2016

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chief Executive Officer : Varun Dua

The company received its licence from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India** in September 2017.

**Karnataka Bank launches special home loan campaign - KBL Centenary Mahotsav**

On the occasion of the **Centenary year** of the **Karnataka Bank**, the bank has launched a **Special campaign "KBL Centenary Mahotsav"** for **Home loan** from 17, April 2023 to 17 July 2023.

Customers can avail the benefits of digital banking and offers of the special campaign across all its **901 Branches**.



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Under the KBL Centenary Mahotsav campaign, customers can avail Home loan with discount in upfront fee, attractive rate of interest starting from **8.75%**, **Nil processing charges** for Home loan and other benefits

Karnataka Bank has developed digital loan products for home loans, allowing customers to enjoy seamless digital processing and immediate in-principle approvals at their convenience and comfort.

**About Karnataka Bank :**

Founded : 18 February 1924

Headquarters : Mangalore, Karnataka, India

MD & CEO (interim) : Sekhar Rao

Tagline : Your Family Bank Across India

**IndusInd Bank signs \$100 million loan agreement with JBIC**

**IndusInd Bank's GIFT City IBU (IFSC Banking Unit)** branch has entered into a **\$100 million long-term loan agreement** with the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to foster the growth of Japanese construction equipment companies in India.

The funds raised will be used to provide need-based credit facilities to upstream and downstream companies that comprise the supply chain of Japanese **original equipment manufacturers (OEMs)** in India,

This is the **first of its kind lending** by JBIC through any IFSC Banking unit at GIFT City.

The loans will be further co-financed by **Mizuho Bank, Japan, the Shizuoka Bank, Singapore,** and **Joyo Bank, Japan.**

**Key Highlights :**

Currently, the program will cover the **component suppliers** and **dealers** of the selected Japanese OEMs, as well as the final buyers of the construction machinery manufactured by those companies.

MD and Group CEO, GIFT City : Tapan Ray



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**About IndusInd Bank :**

Founded : April 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia.

Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer

**About JBIC :**

Headquarters : Tokyo, Japan

President & CEO : Tadashi Maeda

JBIC, is a Japanese public financial institution and export credit agency .

It was created on October 1, 1999, through the **merger** of the **Japan Export-Import Bank (JEXIM)** and the **Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF)**

**SBI board approves fund raise of up to \$2 billion for FY24 via long-term debt**

The board of the country's biggest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** approved **long term fund raising** of up to **\$2 billion (about Rs 16,000 crore)** for **FY24** through bonds.

The fund - raising will be in single/multiple tranches under '**Reg-S/144A**', through a public offer and/or private placement of senior unsecured notes.

In **March 2023**, SBI raised **Rs 3,717 crore** by issuing a **Tier 1 bond** at a **coupon rate** of **8.25%**

Meanwhile, the **Board of Directors** of **Bank of India (BoI)** approved the raising of capital aggregating up to **₹6,500 crore** in **FY24** via issue of fresh equity capital and Basel III compliant Tier-2 bonds.

The equity capital raise could be in the form of follow-on public offer/qualified institutional placement/rights issue/preferential Issue and/or Basel III compliant Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bonds (domestic and foreign currency).

It will also issue Basel III compliant Tier-2 bonds up to **₹2,000 crore**.

**IBA sets up 4 member working group on ARCs**



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The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has constituted a **4 member working group** on **asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)**.

The 4-member group comprises

**Hari Hara Mishra**, CEO of Asset Reconstruction Companies Association

**Purshotam Agarwal**, chief investment officer of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)

**Mythili Balasubramanian** Executive Director of Edelweiss

**Tarun Kumar**, director of Encore Asset Reconstruction Company.

The group will operate continuously on various issues and take them up with the **IBA**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **union government**.

**What are ARCs?**

An ARC is a **specialised financial institution** that buys the **Non Performing Assets (NPAs) or bad assets** from banks and financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets.

The ARCs are registered under the RBI and regulated under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002)**.

**About IBA :**

Established : 26 September 1946

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chief Executive : Sunil Mehta

Chairman : Atul Kumar Goel

**Indian Bank signs MoU with TN e-Governance agency to offer payment aggregator services**

**Indian Bank** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Tamil Nadu (TN) e-Governance Agency (TNeGA)**, a state nodal agency under the Information Technology & Digital Services (IT&DS) Department Government of Tamil Nadu, for integrating **Indian Bank Payment Aggregator** for the e-Governance Applications of various departments in TN.



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**Key Highlights :**

With this MoU, all TN Government departments can avail plug and play platform for any payment related needs.

The Indian Bank Payment Aggregator platform services shall **offer timely** and **cost effective solutions** to these departments besides providing citizens and businesses with a seamless payment experience.

This payment aggregator solution platform **facilitates integrated payment mechanisms** for online payment and collection through aggregation and reconciliation services with various payment channels like all debit/credit cards, UPI payment wallets and net banking.

**About Indian Bank :**

Established : 1907

Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu

MD & CEO : Shanti Lal Jain

**RBL Bank launches unique digital fixed deposit scheme for new-to-bank customers**

**RBL Bank** has launched an **innovative Digital Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme** available to **new-to-bank customers**.

Customers can book the Digital FD within minutes without having to visit a branch or opening a savings account with the Bank.

**Key Highlights :**

With an interest rate of up to **7.8%** for a tenure of **15 months to 725 days**, the digital FD provides investors with an interesting investment option.

The online FD comes with several additional benefits, such as embedded insurance cover, seamless savings account opening process, ability to track and manage FD digitally, etc.

The FD holders can opt for insurance cover under a **Hospital Daily Cash Benefit policy** which offers daily cash benefit for hospital expenses.



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The Digital FD is enabled through a **quick online KYC process**, making it easy and hassle-free for customers to open an FD within minutes.

### About RBL Bank :

Founded : 6 August 1943

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : R. Subramaniakumar

Tagline : Apno Ka Bank

### Federal Bank signs agreement with Agri Fintech KiVi as Banking Correspondent

**Federal Bank** has entered into a **Banking Correspondent agreement** with **Chennai-based KiVi**, an agri fintech start-up operated by Agrosperity Tech Solutions, with a view to scaling and **expanding** its **agri lending portfolio** in **Tamil Nadu (TN)**.

Federal Bank launched the instant KCC platform in **September 2022**.

It is claimed to be the **first of its kind** in agriculture lending, it offers farmers convenience and turnaround time.

### Aim :

To provide **small-value loans** to small and marginal farmers, and is designed to facilitate efficient credit flow to underserved rural populations.

In the initial phase of this partnership, KiVi aims to serve **10,000 farmers** in Tamil Nadu.

KiVi employs a phygital model that combines features of the lending technology platform and the last-mile channel to serve farmer households and Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) such as input retailers, output aggregators or other village entrepreneurs.

### About Kivi :

CO, Founder and CEO of KiVi : Joby

KiVi is a **first-of-its-kind technology platform** designed for farming as a business enterprise.

It **provides digital solutions** and a phygital platform for the farmer to procure input, access credit, implement agronomy practices, and process and market output.





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**About Federal Bank :**

Established : April 23, 1931  
Headquarters : Aluva, Kochi, Kerala.  
MD & CEO : Shyam Srinivasan  
Tagline : Your Perfect Banking Partner

**RBI allows AU Small Finance Bank to deal with foreign exchange**

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **granted AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) Licence** to act as **Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD-I)** under section 10 of FEMA, 1999 to deal in foreign exchange.

Recently, RBI approved the re-appointment of **Sanjay Agarwal** as **managing director** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of AU Small Finance Bank for a period of 3 years.

The re-appointment is valid with effect from April 19, 2023 till April 18, 2026.

Besides, the regulator has also cleared the re-appointment of **Uttam Tibrewal** as the **whole-time director** for a period of 3 years.

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935  
Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India  
Governor : Shaktikanta Das  
Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**About AU Small Finance Bank :**

Founded : 1996 as AU Financiers (India) Ltd.  
In 2017, AU Financiers (India) Ltd became a small finance bank.  
Headquarters : Jaipur, Rajasthan, India  
Chairman : Raj Vikash Verma  
MD & CEO : Sanjay Agarwal

**Bengaluru tops highest digital transactions in 2022**



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According to a report tabled by **Worldline India**, a payment solutions provider, **Bengaluru (Karnataka)** has **topped** the list of cities rampantly using **digital transactions** with a volume of **29 million** and a value of **Rs 6,500 crore** of transactions.

Bengaluru was followed by **New Delhi, Delhi 19.6 million transactions** worth USD 50 billion, **Mumbai, Maharashtra (18.7 million transactions** worth USD 49.5 billion), **Pune, Maharashtra (15 million transactions** worth USD 32.8 billion), **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) (14.3 million transactions** worth USD 35.5 billion) are among the **top 5 cities** with the highest digital transactions.

According to the report, physical merchants like grocery stores, restaurants, clothing and apparel, pharmacy, etc. accounted for over **43%** of digital transactions in terms of volume and about **40%** in terms of value.

Around **85%** of digital transactions in terms of volume are related to E-commerce space, gaming, utility and financial services.

Education, travel and hospitality sector contributed **15%** in digital transactions volume and **75%** in terms of value.

**About Worldline India Private Limited :**

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO : Ramesh Narasimhan

**RBI accepts Rs 5,500-cr bids at switch and conversion auction of govt bonds**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** accepted bids worth **Rs 5,500 crore** at an auction for conversion and **switching** of **5 government of India (GoI) bonds** against the notified amount of **Rs 11,000 crore**.

As for **floating rate bond (FRB)** maturing in **2024**, for conversion into paper to be redeemed in 2032, it accepted **Rs 2,000-crore bids**, as against the notified amount of **Rs 4,000 crore**.

**AIIB to Open First Overseas Office in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**



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The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** signed a host member **agreement** to officially open in **Abu Dhabi** the **Bank's first overseas office**, an Interim Operational Hub (the Hub).

**Jin Liqun**, President and Chair of the Board of Directors of AIIB, joined **His Excellency Dr. Sultan Al Jaber**, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and UAE Governor of AIIB, during the signing ceremony in Abu Dhabi.

### Key Highlights :

The office would serve as a strategic destination in the Middle East and the world, supporting AIIB's development agenda and **financing infrastructure projects** to achieve sustainable economic growth.

It also enhances client and member engagement, project monitoring and implementation services across the globe.

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development was mandated to represent the UAE on the bank's board and to actively participate in its periodic meetings.

As of today, AIIB has approved **212 projects** amounting to over **USD 40 billion** in **33 member countries**, which have contributed to economic development and improved the quality of life for communities in beneficiary countries.

### About AIIB :

Established : 16 January 2016

Headquarters: Beijing, China

President : Jin Liqun

Membership : 106 Member States

The AIIB is a **multilateral development bank** that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia.

It is the **world's second largest** multilateral development institution.

### About UAE :



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President/Crown Prince : Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Prime Minister : Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Capital : Abu Dhabi

Currency : UAE dirham

**InPrime Finserv Officially Recognized as Non-Banking Financial Company from Reserve Bank of India**

InPrime Finserv, a financial services start-up catering to the informal economy, has obtained a Certificate of Registration (COR) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).

With this license, InPrime joins an exclusive group of startups that have received approval from the RBI to build a lending business.

The company plans to commence operations in Bangalore in the coming months and gradually expand its presence in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, playing a significant role in promoting financial inclusion in India.

**About InPrime Finserv :**

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka

Co-founder & CEO : Rajat Singh

InPrime Finserv is a brand owned by STK Credit Private Limited, a NBFC.

**Mission :**

To "Redefine the way informal customers access formal finance."

It is focused on providing financial services to the "Prime" segment of India's informal economy, which consists of around 50 million households with an annual credit need of Rs. 5 Lakh Crores. Additionally, InPrime plans to empower customers holistically by providing multiple repayment channels and a gamified financial and digital literacy program to promote self-service.

**RBI provides 3 year relaxation of HDFC bank to meet PSL**



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given a **relaxation of 3 years** for **HDFC Bank** to comply with the **priority sector lending norms (PSL)** following its merger with HDFC Ltd (HDFC).

However, RBI **refused** to make any **exceptions on cash reserve ratio (CRR)** and **statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) requirements**.

Under the PSL norms, commercial banks are required to devote over **40%** of their overall advances to areas marked as priority sectors for the emancipation of certain marginalized sections of society, whereas a non-bank lender like HDFC does not have to comply with such mandates.

CRR is the **percentage of deposits** that a **commercial bank** like HDFC Bank has to park with the central bank for which it **does not earn any interest**, while SLR is a **percentage of deposits** that are **mandated** to be **invested** in **government securities**.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### About HDFC Bank Ltd :

Founded : August 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline : We Understand Your World

### Union Bank of India secures 1st Rank in EASE reforms

For the **first time**, **Union Bank of India (UBI)**, secured **1st rank** as per the report on **Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE) Reforms Index** for Q3 FY 2022-23 published by **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**.

### Key Highlights :

EASE is an initiative by the DFS (GOI) as part of the PSB Reforms Agenda.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

It is currently under its **fifth iteration** which focuses on Enhanced Digital experience, Data – driven, Integrated and Inclusive Banking.

The performance of PSBs is measured on five themes under EASE 5.0, in which, Union Bank of India has set the benchmark under the **four themes** i.e., "**Digitally - enabled customer offerings**", '**Big data and analytics**', '**Modern Technology Capabilities**' and "**Employee development and Governance**" by securing 1st rank amongst PSBs.

### About UBI :

Founded : 11 November 1919

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : A. Manimekhalai

Tagline : Good People to Bank with

### Canara Bank partnered with Reserve Bank of India innovation hub

**Canara Bank**, in collaboration with **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, has launched the "**Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H**" as one of customer friendly services adding to our pursuit of "**Customer Delight**".

**Form 15G (Individual and HUF)** and **Form 15H (Individual-Senior Citizen)** are **self-declaration forms** that an individual submits to the bank requesting not to deduct TDS on interest income as their income is below the basic exemption limit.

For this, providing **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** is **compulsory**.

RBIH (Reserve Bank Innovation Hub) identified the problem, consulted several Banks for potential solutions and then conceptualised and created a blueprint to address the above issue.

### About Canara Bank :

Founded : 1910 (Nationalised in 1969)

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India

MD & CEO : K Satyanarayana Raju

Tagline : Together we can



**Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs**  
**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

**Mastercard partners with India's M1xchange to roll out digital invoice discounting for farmers**

**Mastercard** announced its collaboration with **M1xchange** to offer a digital invoice discounting solution to farmers, farmer producer organizations (FPOs), and agri-**Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** through **Farm Pass**, its cutting-edge agritech platform.

The solution is the **first of its kind** for the **agriculture sector** & will help lenders in underwriting credit offerings through the **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)**.

Farm Pass is part of **Mastercard's broader Community Pass platform**.

**Key Highlights :**

As part of the collaboration, M1xchange, an RBI-approved facilitator for discounting and sale of receivables to banks and **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)**, will bring on board its vast network of agri-businesses and lenders.

This solution will allow **farmers** and **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)** to directly connect with buyers, negotiate the **best price** for their **produce**, and get **paid faster**.

**About M1xchange :**

Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana

Chief Executive Officer : Sundeep Mohindru

**About Mastercard :**

Founded : 1966

Headquarters : New York, U.S

CEO : Michael Miebach

**ICICI Bank Introduces EMI Facility for UPI Payments by scanning QR code**

**ICICI Bank** has introduced **equated monthly instalment (EMI) facility** for **Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payments** made by **scanning QR code**.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

This **first-of-its-kind facility** enhances affordability of lakhs of the bank's customers as they can now instantly buy products or services just by scanning the required merchant QR code at a store and making payments in EMIs.

### Key Highlights :

Customers eligible for **PayLater, the bank's 'buy now, pay later' service** can avail of the EMI facility in a seamless manner.

The facility can be availed across a host of categories such as electronics, groceries, fashion apparels, travel and hotel bookings.

Customers can pay a transaction amount above **Rs 10,000** in instalments in **3, 6 or 9 months**.

ICICI Bank introduced **PayLater facility** in **2018** to enable customers to buy small ticket items immediately in a digital and paperless manner.

### About ICICI Bank Ltd :

Founded : 5 January 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi

Tagline : Hum Hai na khayal apka

### HDFC Bank & Axis Bank to acquire a 9.94% stake each in Go Digit's life insurance business

Two of India's largest private lenders, **Axis Bank** and **HDFC Bank**, have signed **definitive agreements** to **acquire a 9.94% equity stake** each in the **Go Digit Life**, the life insurance business of insurtech unicorn Go Digit, which is set to go public.

In two installments, the formal agreements for HDFC Bank's investment in Go Digit-Life total **69.90 crore Indian Rupees (INR)**.

The banks will make an initial subscription of **INR 10.93 Cr** in the **first tranche** to acquire a stake in the company, with the option to invest the remaining **INR 58.97 Cr** later.





**Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs**  
**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

The transaction will be completed within **3 to 6 months** after the company receives its life insurance license.

The first tranche investment is subject to IRDAI granting requisite approval to Go Digit Life for the application filed by Go Digit Life under Form IRDAI/R2

**Key Highlights :**

The life insurance firm was established in **December 2021**, and in **May 2022** it became a **public limited corporation**.

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has not yet issued a certificate of registration to Go Digit-Life for it to undertake the life insurance business.

By an IPO, which would involve a **fresh issuance** of **INR 1,250 crore** and an offer to sell **109.45 million shares**, the business hopes to raise \$440 million.

**About Axis Bank :**

Established : 3 December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

**About HDFC Bank :**

Established : August 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline : We Understand Your World

**SEBI issues a procedure for seeking prior approval for change in control of vault managers**

Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with a **procedure** for **vault managers** to seek prior approval from the watchdog in case of a change in control.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

The vault manager is regulated as a SEBI intermediary for providing vaulting services meant for gold deposited to create **electronic gold receipts (EGRs)**.

The obligations of the vault manager include accepting deposits, storage, and safekeeping of gold, creation as well as withdrawal of EGR, grievance redressal, and periodic reconciliation of physical gold with the records of the depository.

Any person intending to carry on the business as a vault manager can make an application to SEBI for a grant of a certificate of registration.

The applicant shall be a body corporate incorporated in India and shall have a minimum net worth of **Rs 50 crore**.

Every certificate of registration granted will be valid unless it is suspended or canceled by SEBI.

### Regulations:

The vault managers are required to have systems for recording all transactions in **electronic form** pertaining to vaulting services.

They need to maintain the documents to ensure that gold is traceable; details of storage, transfer and withdrawal of gold; purity, quantity and weight of deposited gold; and creation and extinguishment of EGRs.

They need to preserve these records and documents for a **minimum period of 5 years**.

They need to abide by the code of conduct specified by the regulator.

### About SEBI :

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** (MoF), GoI.

### SEBI Approves Transfer Of Controlling Stake Of HDFC AMC To HDFC Bank



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

HDFC Ltd revealed that the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **granted** its **approval** for the intended transfer of majority ownership in **HDFC Asset Management Company Limited (HDFC AMC) to HDFC Bank**, as a part of the amalgamation plan.

SEBI has also advised HDFC AMC to ensure compliance with all other provisions of SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, **1996**, and circulars.

The merger, anticipated to be completed by the **third quarter** of the upcoming financial year, is being hailed as the **largest transaction** in **India's corporate history**.

This deal, valued at approximately **USD 40 billion**, will result in the creation of a formidable financial services giant, as HDFC Bank takes over the largest domestic mortgage lender on **April 4, 2022**.

Once the deal is effective, HDFC Bank will be **100% owned by public shareholders**, and existing shareholders of HDFC will own **41%** of the bank.

Every HDFC shareholder will get 42 shares of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares they hold.

### **Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to launch gold-pegged digital currency**

The **Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe**, or RBZ, plans to introduce a **gold-backed digital currency** as legal tender in **Zimbabwe**.

It is believed that the government took this step to stabilizing the local currency after its continuous devaluation in comparison to the **United States (US) dollar**.

This initiative taken by Zimbabwe will allow the exchange of Zimbabwean dollars with digital gold tokens and secure Zimbabweans **against currency volatility**

### **RBI cancels Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank's banking licence, allows to operate as a non-banking Institution**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **cancelled** the **banking licence** of **Kerala-based Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank** and has allowed it to function as a **non-banking institution**.

The cancellation of the bank's license and its new categorisation as a non-banking Institution has been done under various sections of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

The Bank was granted a license in **January 1987**.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

Further, the bank has to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it, whenever demanded, even after being notified as a non-banking Institution.

### What is the difference between Bank & NBFC?

According to RBI, the difference between a bank and NBFC is that a **bank** is a **government-authorized entity** that provides banking services to the people, whereas **NBFC** is a **company providing banking services** to the people without holding a bank licence.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### Bajaj Allianz General Insurance & actyv.ai Partners to Offer Insurance Products

Bajaj Finserv's insurance subsidiary, **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company** has entered into a partnership with **actyv.ai**, the **Singapore-headquartered enterprise** under the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**, to **offer insurance products** to **MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium enterprises)** through their technology platform and the partner ecosystem across the Supply chain.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, a private general insurer, will leverage the technology stack of the actyv.ai platform by offering innovative insurance products to champion the **sustainability of suppliers, distributors and retailers**.

With this collaboration, Bajaj Allianz will offer bite-sized commercial insurance products like fire and burglary, in addition to group health products like personal accident, hospital cash, credit-linked health plans and group health plans.

### About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance :

Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra

Managing director (MD) and chief executive director (CEO) : Tapan Singhel



**Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs**  
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Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited is a **joint venture (JV)** between **Bajaj Finserv Limited** (recently demerged from Bajaj Auto Limited) and **Allianz SE**.

**About actyv.ai :**

Founded : 2019

Founder and Global CEO of actyv.ai : Raghu Subramanian

**SEBI proposals clear the air on ESG investments**

Capital Market Regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with a holistic **regulatory framework** for **ESG disclosures** by **India Inc, investors, and rating agencies** to facilitate a balanced approach to ESG.

In order to **enhance** the **reliability** of ESG disclosures, the **BRSR (Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report) Core** should be introduced, which contains a limited set of **key performance indicators (KPIs)**.

**Quantifiable parameters :**

According to SEBI, initially **top 150 listed companies** will have to disclose and obtain a reasonable assurance on BRSR Core parameters from FY24 and that will be gradually **extended** to the **top 1,000 listed entities** by FY27.

The parameters are quantifiable under **9 broad themes** - such as change in GHG footprint, change in water footprint, investing in reducing its environmental footprint, embracing circularity (details related to waste management by the entity), enhancing employee well-being and safety, enabling gender diversity in business, enabling inclusive development, and fairness in engaging with customers and suppliers.

Under these themes, there are about **50 KPIs** to facilitate comparability of the disclosures.

The BRSR core contains factors that are relevant to both the manufacturing and service sectors and are more relevant especially in the Indian context, as attributes such as job creation and inclusive development are considered.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

To start with, SEBI stated that these requirements of disclosure and assurance should be applicable to the top 250 listed entities (by market capitalization), on a comply-or-explain basis from FY25 and FY26, respectively.

SEBI also mandated ESG schemes to invest **at least 65%** of AUM in listed entities, where assurance on BRSR Core is undertaken.

### About SEBI :

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (**first woman to lead the SEBI**)

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, GoI.

### Emkay Global gets SEBI's in-principle approval for mutual fund business

**Emkay Global Financial Services** has received **in-principle approval** from the capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch a **mutual fund business** in **India**.

### About Emkay Global Financial Services :

Founded : 1995

It offers services such as institutional equity, portfolio management services, wealth management, investment banking and global investing.

### Key Highlights :

At present, there are **44 MF players** with total assets under management of about **₹40 lakh crore** with top 10 players accounting for a lion's share of business.

Bajaj Finserv was the latest entrant to **receive full-fledged mutual fund licence** and it has recently filed papers for launching 7 new fund offers.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

Similarly, billionaire **Nitin Kamath-led Zerodha Broking**, which has received **SEBI's in-principle approval** for **entering mutual fund business**, plans to tie-up with Vasanth Kamath-owned fintech firm smallcase.

MF sponsors subject to having a net-worth of **₹100 crore** for contribution towards the net-worth of the Asset Management Company.

This net-worth of the AMC has to be maintained till the time it posts profit for **5 consecutive years**.

Existing players have to maintain a **net-worth** of **₹50 crore** and are required to show net profit in 3 out of the immediately preceding 5 years, including the 5th year.

### **Nexus Select Trust gets SEBI's approval for REIT IPO**

**Nexus Select Trust**, the retail-focused real estate investment trust sponsored by private equity firm **Blackstone**, has received the **final observations**, and go ahead from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for its **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) initial public offering (IPO)** of units.

The **₹4,000-crore** IPO consists of a fresh issue of ₹1,600 crore while the remaining ₹2,400 crore is through an offer of sale from its main sponsor Blackstone and some other smaller holders.

The REIT **aims** for a listing by **May 15, 2023** and is expected to file its final offer document.

The REIT's portfolio comprises 17 malls with a total leasable area of **10 million square feet**.

With an **enterprise value** of **₹23,000 crore** and a **debt** of **₹3,600 crore**, the REIT will still have about \$500 million for making acquisitions and adding to its portfolio.

It already has an acquisition pipeline of **2.5 msf** of assets identified in places such as **Ranchi, Jharkhand** and **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.

### **IndusInd Bank to enter insurance, mutual funds business & launch digital bank 'Indie'**

In a bid to expand its portfolio beyond its core banking business, **IndusInd Bank** is planning to foray into **mutual funds**, insurance and **broking** sectors.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

The bank is likely to approach the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and other regulators to get the necessary licences.

IndusInd Bank is also planning to launch its own digital bank 'Indie'.

The necessary approvals for all these expansion plans and other logistics by the bank is likely to be completed in about **2 years**.

### About IndusInd Bank :

Founded : April 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia.

Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer

### RBI amends norms on remittances to IFSC under liberalised scheme

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has aligned the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** for **International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)** set up under the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019**, with that for other foreign jurisdictions.

The resident Individuals may also open a **Foreign Currency Account (FCA)** in IFSCs, for making the permissible investments under LRS.

### Key Highlights : -

The condition of repatriating any funds lying idle in the account for a **period** up to **15 days** from the date of its receipt is withdrawn with immediate effect.

LRS for IFSCs shall now be governed by the provisions of the scheme as contained in the Master Direction on LRS.

### What is LRS?

The Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) is part of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999** which lays down the guidelines for outward remittance from India.





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LRS allows Indian residents to freely remit up to **USD \$250,000 per financial year** for current or capital account transactions or a combination of both.

Any remittance exceeding this limit requires prior permission from the RBI.

Budget 2023 increased **tax collection at source (TCS)** for foreign remittances under LRS from **5% to 20%**.

This new rule will come into effect from **July 1, 2023**.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### NSE revises norms for exclusion from index in case of demerger

The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has come out with **new norms** to retain the **demerged entity** of an index constituent in the respective index.

A demerged company will remain part of the index, only if the exchange has decided to conduct a **Special Pre-Open session (SPOS)** for the **spun-off entity**.

### Key Highlights :

The change would be applicable to the scheme of arrangement of all companies involving demerger which may be approved by equity shareholders of respective companies on or after **April 30, 2023**.

Additionally, the spun-off business/entity should be included in the index at constant price (which is the **difference between the demerged company's closing price one day prior** to ex-date of demerger and price derived during SPOS).

However, the spun-off business/entity, which is the newly listed entity, should be removed from the index after **3 days**.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

In case, during the first two days if the spun-off business/entity hits the price band on both days, the exclusion date should be deferred by another three days.

### About NSE :

Founded : 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Ashishkumar Chauhan

### Reliance General becomes first insurer to accept CBDC in partnership with YES Bank

**Reliance General Insurance** has become the **first general insurance company** to accept **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (e₹)** for **premium payments**.

The insurer has tied up with YES Bank to facilitate the collection of premiums in digital mode using the **bank's e-rupee platform**.

Customers who have an active e-rupee wallet with any bank can scan Reliance General Insurance's CBDC **QR code** to **make easy, safe, instant, and green payments**.

Currently, **Reliance General Insurance's physical e-rupee QR code** is available at select branches for walk-in customers to scan and pay instantly.

Customers who have an active **e₹ wallet** with any bank can scan Reliance General Insurance's e₹ QR code to make immediate payment.

It plans to make it available at all branches across the country, on its website, and on the Reliance Self-i app in the next few months.

### What is e-rupee :

e-rupee is a **digital token**, equivalent to a banknote, and is legal tender or sovereign currency backed by the RBI.

It removes all the issues of handling physical cash and offers the same anonymity as a banknote.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

Moreover, since all transactions are done through an RBI-regulated entity, it **reduces banknote-related risks** such as anti-money laundering, the counterfeiting of currency, etc.

### About Reliance General Insurance :

Founded : 17 August 2000

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO : Rakesh Jain

### About YES Bank :

Founded : 2004

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar

Tagline : Experience Our Expertise

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### Asian Development Bank Committed \$20 billion in 2022 for Asia-Pacific

Multilateral funding agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** committed **USD 20.5 billion** from its own resources in **2022** to help Asia and the Pacific as it continues its **recovery** from the **COVID-19 pandemic despite** fresh economic headwinds and crises.

The financial and operational results published in **ADB's Annual Report 2022** pointed how the bank combined finance and knowledge, and leveraged partnerships to help the region cope with economic shocks exacerbated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a worsening food crisis, and extreme weather events.

### Key Highlights :

The \$20.5 billion comprised **loans and guarantees, grants, equity investments, and technical assistance** provided to governments and the private sector.

ADB mobilised an additional **\$11.4 billion** in **co-financing**.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

ADB committed **\$6.7 billion** in financing for **climate mitigation** and **adaptation** in 2022, making progress toward its ambition of providing \$100 billion in cumulative climate financing during **2019–2030**.

To address the region's worsening food crisis, ADB provided **\$3.7 billion** under its \$14 billion food security programme, delivering essential food relief for people most in need and strengthening food production systems.

### About ADB :

Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 countries

### Razorpay joins hands with ONDC to offer payment reconciliation service

**Razorpay**, a fintech payments and banking platform for businesses, will join the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, a non-profit company set up by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** as an **alternative** for **internet shopping**.

This would make it the **first payment gateway** in **India** to launch payment reconciliation services for buyer and seller apps.

This will provide them with an integrated single view of all their transactions.

### Key Highlights :

Through this service, it will facilitate ease of transacting on ONDC by timely routing settlement information for a given transaction and assisting **Network Participants (NPs)** with settling funds.

The payment reconciliation service for Network Participants (NPs), such as buyers, sellers, and logistic partners, will streamline the payment processes on ONDC and will provide NPs with an integrated single view of all their transactions.

Razorpay is the **second fintech company** to join ONDC.



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

In March, 2023 Walmart-backed **PhonePe** went live on ONDC through its **hyperlocal commerce app – Pincode**.

Earlier this month, Razorpay formed an advisory board and roped in former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, **NS Vishwanathan**, as the **Chairperson**.

### About Razorpay :

Established : 2014

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka

Managing Director and Co-founder : Shashank Kumar

### State Bank of India raises USD 750 million via 5-year bond issuance

India's largest bank **State Bank of India (SBI)** has **raised \$750 million via a 5-year bond issuance** at a coupon rate of **4.875%**.

The bonds are benchmarked against a 5-year US treasury and priced at a spread of **145 basis points (bps)** over the benchmark.

The bonds will be issued through our **London branch** as of **May 5, 2023** and shall be listed on Singapore Stock Exchange and India International Exchange, GIFT City.

The bonds were issued under **SBI's MTN (medium-term note) Programme** and will be listed on Singapore SGX and the India INX, Gift City.

The Notes are expected to carry a final rating of BBB- and BBB- from Standard & Poor's and Fitch, respectively.

**Citigroup, Emirates NBD Capital, HSBC, JP Morgan, MUFG, and Standard Chartered Bank** acted as joint global coordinators and joint lead managers for this offering.

### About SBI :

Founded : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

### SBI General Insurance launches Health Edge Insurance Plan



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

**SBI General Insurance** has launched a **new digital-only health product, Health Edge Insurance**, where starting premium is less than **Rs 5,500 per annum** for a **Rs 3 lakh cover**.

### Key Features of the Policy:

Single Comprehensive Plan variant with **9 Basic Indemnity Covers** and **18 Optional covers**

Premiums starting from less than **Rs.15/day**

Entry age: **18-65 years (Adults)**, and **91 days to 30 years (Children)**

Multiple Sum Insured ranges from **INR 3 Lacs to 25 lacs**

Long-term Policy options are available for up to **3 years**

The Health Edge plan includes **9 in-built covers**; hospitalization, pre-hospitalization medical expenses, post-hospitalization medical expenses, day-care treatment, emergency road ambulance cover, bariatric surgery cover, modern treatment/ advance procedures, AYUSH treatment, and stay-fit health checkup.

### About SBI General Insurance :

Founded : 2009 (started operations in 2010)

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Kishore Kumar Poludasu

It is a **joint venture (JV)** between **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Insurance Australia Group (IAG)**.

### WYLD, World's 1st social currency payment card launched in India

**WYLD**, the **world's first social currency payment card** has launched in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

It is powered by **Visa**, the platform will allow everyday social media users (with as little as 1K followers) to leverage their Instagram following to earn massive cashbacks on everyday spends.

The startup raised **\$350,000** in pre-seed funding, led by **Better Capital**.

Currently, the platform is invite-only, and open to the first 5,000 users on their waitlist of 10,000 potential customers, for their beta-testing phase.

### About WYLD :



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

Founded : 2021

WYLD is a Fintech and Martech mobile app and payment card, riding on the idea that nano and micro social media users are the true disruptors of this market.

The app lets anyone with over 1000 followers on Instagram and a 'WYLD Score' of over 100, to apply for the WYLD payment card.

### SEBI Introduces norms to check misleading ads

Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with an **advertisement code** for **investment advisers** and **research analysts** whereby they have been prohibited from issuing statements which may **mislead investors** as well as from using superlative terms in their advertisements.

They have also been restrained from using complex language in an advertisement.

### Key Highlights :

The advertisements by **Investment Advisers (IAs)** and **Research Analysts (RAs)** should not contain superlative terms such as "**best, No 1, top adviser/research analyst, leading**".

However, factual details of any award received by them can be included.

The new code, aimed at further strengthening the conduct of IAs and RAs, will come into force from **May 1, 2023**.

The advertisements should not contain statements, which are **false, misleading** and based on assumptions, any statement designed to exploit the lack of experience and knowledge of investors,

The advertisements should not also have any promise of assured return to investors, reference of past performances of IA and RA as well as use of SEBI logo.

Further, the advertisement issued by an IA or a RA should contain their names, logo, office address, registration numbers.

### About SEBI :



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Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Gol.

### UIDAI & NPCI plan to set up an e-KYC aggregator

The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** and the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** are planning to set up an aggregator platform for **eKYC (electronic know-your-customer)**.

Aadhaar-based eKYC is used for paperless verification of a customer's credentials for new mobile connections and bank accounts.

It will enable the registration of entities regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** or any insurance and pension regulators.

Once implemented, the platform is expected to help several **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** reach out to consumers to offer loans apart from aiding fintech players and insurance intermediaries.

UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016**.

### About NPCI :

Founded : 2008

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

### Reserve Bank of India granted NBFC license to Neobanking Jupiter

**Neobanking startup Jupiter** has secured a **non-banking finance company (NBFC) licence** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, a development that will help it dole out credit from its books.





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**Sequoia** and **Tiger Global** backed-**Jupiter** intends to capitalise the lending business with around **Rs 100 crore** and raise an additional Rs 100 crore in debt to fund the NBFC's credit operations. The NBFC will be housed under **Amica Finance**, a separate entity.

The NBFC licence will help the **four-year-old fintech's revenue pipe** and increase margins in lending. Further, it will be able to directly serve customers instead of working as just a **loan-service provider (LSP)**.

Jupiter is expected to play in longer tenure loans ranging from **3 to 24 months**, with higher ticket sizes of **Rs 75,000 to Rs 1 lakh**.

Founder of Bengaluru-based Amica Financial Technologies Ltd : Jitendra Gupta

**About Jupiter :**

Jupiter is a **neobank**, a **type of digital bank** that operates entirely online without any physical branches.

It was founded in **2019** by Jitendra Gupta, who previously co-founded **Citrus Pay**, a payment gateway company that was acquired by **PayU** in **2016**.

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**Bank Of India Increases Fixed Deposit Rates In Shubh Arambh Deposits Of 501 Days Tenor**

**Bank of India** increased interest rates on **special term deposits** known as "**Shubh Arambh Deposits**" for **501** for deposits under **Rs 2 crore**.

Following the revision, the bank offered a rate of interest of **7.80%** in a limited period special scheme to super senior citizen customers.

The deposit scheme **aims** to provide a **safe investment option** and is also available to other senior citizens aged **60-80** at the rate of **7.65%**.



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Bank of India is also offering attractive interest rates across other tenures ranging from 7 days to 10 years.

The deposits with terms from 7 days to 10 years will get interest rates up to **7.40%** for **super senior citizens** and up to **6.75%** for **regular customers**.

The revised interest rates are applicable for domestic, NRO and NRE deposits.

### About Bank of India :

Founded : 7 September 1906

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Atanu Kumar Das

### RBI Issues Detailed Norms For Outsourcing Of IT Services By Banks & Non banking financial Companies

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** came out with detailed **norms** for outsourcing of IT services by **banks, Non bank financial Companies (NBFCs)** and regulated financial sector entities to ensure that such arrangements do not undermine their responsibilities and obligations to customers.

In its '**Master Direction on Outsourcing of Information Technology Services**', RBI stated that **Regulated Entities (REs)** have been extensively leveraging IT and **IT-enabled Services (ITeS)** to support their business models, products and services offered to their customers.

With a view to provide REs adequate time to comply with the requirements, the norms will come into effect from **October 1, 2023**.

In **February, 2022** the RBI proposed the issuance of suitable regulatory guidelines on outsourcing of IT services with an **aim** to ensure effective management of attendant risks.

### Key Highlights :

According to RBI, the underlying principle of the directions is to ensure that outsourcing arrangements **neither diminish REs' ability** to fulfil its obligations to customers nor impede effective supervision by the central bank.



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A RE shall take steps to ensure that the service provider employs the same high standard of care in performing the services as would have been employed by the RE, if the same activity was not outsourced.

According to the RBI, a RE should not engage an IT service provider that would result in the reputation of RE being **compromised or weakened**.

A RE intending to outsource any of its IT activities should have a comprehensive board-approved IT outsourcing policy.

Also, REs should ask their service providers to develop and establish a **robust framework** for **documenting, maintaining** and **testing business continuity plans** and **disaster recovery plans**.

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**ICICI Bank enables FASTag based parking payment at Mangaluru International Airport**

**ICICI Bank**, one of India's leading private sector banks, has introduced a **new digital and contactless payment facility** for **parking** at the **Mangaluru International Airport**.

ICICI Bank is the **only bank** to introduce the FASTag facility at the Mangaluru International Airport.

**Key Highlights :**

The parking facility at Mangaluru International Airport now features scanners that read the FASTag, a **radio-frequency identification (RFID)** tag affixed to the **windshield of a vehicle, allowing for automatic entry and exit recording** of the **vehicle's entry and exit time**.



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The facility allows FASTag users of any bank to pay the parking charges **digitally** and in a **contactless manner**, resulting in quicker movement of vehicles in the parking zone.

### About ICICI Bank :

Founded : 5 January 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi

### RBI Circular on branch audit of PSBs cause disquiet

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **left** it to the **banks** to decide the **percentage** of their **branch business** they want to get **audited from FY24**.

Auditors say this would severely impact their ability to properly assess the situation and highlight the risks.

For the current financial year, the RBI has drastically **reduced** the **percentage of business** of the branches that can be audited.

A recent circular from the RBI declared that the statutory branch audit of the **PSBs** should be carried out to cover a **minimum** of **70%** of the funded and non-funded business for FY23 and from FY24 they can decide the percentage of business coverage they want audited.

Earlier, the audit coverage of any PSB branch was **90%**.

The RBI has also specified that the PSB board can decide on selection of branches for audit purposes, which would effectively mean that all branches will not be covered under the audit.

There are a total of **84,000 bank branches** in India and RBI has stated that each auditor can cover only 2 branches.

### Shivalik Small Finance Bank partners with Arya.ag to enable ease of finance to small farmers

**Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB)** has partnered with grain commerce platform **Arya.ag** to **finance small farmers** against warehouse receipt.

### Mission :



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To drive financial inclusion for farmers and **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** and offer loans through Shivalik SFB under **Warehouse Receipt Finance**.

Under the Partnership, Shivalik SFB will focus on small and underserved segments through the delivery of **digitally focussed, affordable products** and **differentiated customer experience**.

**About Shivalik Small Finance Bank :**

Established : 1998

Headquarters : Noida, Uttar Pradesh

MD & CEO : Anshul Swami

Tagline : A Bank For Your Welfare

**SBI partners with a start-up, Garuda Aerospace**

India's biggest public sector bank, **State Bank of India (SBI)** collaborates with a startup, **Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd (GAPL)** with a view to making **drone technology more accessible** to the agricultural sector while also increasing efficiency in the sector's use of the technology.

**Key Highlights :**

Garuda Aerospace is a **human-centric brand** that is focused on developing **low-cost drone solutions** to optimise industries through accurate data.

The company uses impactful intelligence drone solutions.

Having only started in **2015**, garuda aerospace already made a significant mark on the drone industry.

Garuda Aerospace is an international standard-certified company for **Aerospace Quality Management Systems**.

Currently, the company has begun the process for a **Wireless Planning & Coordination (WPC) licence**.

**About SBI :**

Founded : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India



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Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

**About Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd :**

Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Founder & CEO : Agnishwar Jayaprakash

**HDFC Bank launches digital distribution platform**

**HDFC Bank** introduced a **Digital Distribution Platform (DDP)** – ‘**HDFC Bank Smart Saathi**’, a state-of-the-art solution which is built on a robust and digitally enabled technology architecture that provides a secure and user-friendly experience to all its users.

This platform will use advanced technology solutions to connect **Business Correspondents (BCs)** and **Business Facilitators (BFs)** to the bank.

It was launched in Delhi by **Vivek Joshi**, secretary, Department of Financial Services, and **Smita Bhagat**, group head, Government and Institutional Business, Alternate Banking Channels and Partnerships, Inclusive Banking Group and Start-Ups, HDFC Bank.

**About ‘HDFC Bank Smart Saathi’ :**

HDFC Bank Smart Saathi will contribute by making banking products and services available, especially **credit** for **rural customers**, which will help in the development of the country.

Over the next 12 to 18 months its plan is to reach **2 lakh villages** through a combination of our branches and agent network.

HDFC Bank Smart Saathi will enable its agents to offer over **40 banking products** and services, including loan products.

**About HDFC Bank Ltd :**

Founded : August 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline : We Understand Your World

**WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund launches multi-asset NFO with tax benefits**



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**White Oak Asset Management Company (AMC)** has announced the launch of its **new fund offer (NFO) White Oak Capital Multi Asset Allocation Fund.**

The NFO will open for subscription from **May 3, 2023 to May 10, 2023** and remain open for 7 days. The fund invests across asset classes like **equity, foreign equities, debt, gold, silver** and **money market securities.**

**Key Highlights :**

The minimum application amount is **Rs. 500** and in multiples of Rs. 1 thereafter.

As it is an open-ended scheme, it will reopen again for buying later.

The **systematic investment plan (SIP) amount** is Rs. 500 on weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

Where one opts for a quarterly mode of SIP payment, the amount is **Rs. 1,500** and in multiples of Re. 1 thereafter.

The NFO scheme is eligible for **Long Term Capital Gain Tax**, along with indexation benefit on holding for a period of over **3 years.**

The scheme can be a hassle-free and tax-efficient way of investing in various asset classes via a **single mutual fund scheme.**

**RBI removes restrictions on interest-earning FCA in India's IFSC**

In an effort to make **India's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** more appealing, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed individuals to **open interest-earning Foreign Currency Accounts (FCA)** without restriction.

The RBI also removed the requirement to repatriate funds remaining idle in the FCA account for up to **15 days.**

In **February 2021**, the RBI allowed resident individuals to make remittances under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** to IFSCs set up in India.

**Key Highlights :**

Moreover, only a **non-interest-bearing FCA** was allowed in IFSCs under LRS.



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Any funds lying idle in the account for a period up to **15 days** from the date of its receipt were to be immediately transferred back to the domestic account of the investor in India.

Under the LRS, authorised dealers were allowed to facilitate remittances by resident individuals up to **\$ 250,000 per financial year** for any transactions permitted under the law.

This move by the RBI will also help banks at IFSC mobilise liabilities.

It will give them cheaper access to funds and in turn, allow them to lend at more competitive rates.

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### Market share of PSU general insurers drops 800 bps in 5 years: IRDAI

The 4 public sector general insurance companies - New India Assurance, United India Insurance, Oriental Insurance, and National Insurance Company have lost 800 basis points (bps) in market share in last 5 years to their private counterparts, the data from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) revealed.

In 2018-19, the 4 had a cumulative market share of 40.04%, with New India Assurance having a market share of 14% and United India Insurance with a market share of 9.63%.

But, gradually in the past 5 years, these state-backed firms have lost their market share to private sector players, due to the declining health of their business.

The latest data shows that at the end of FY23, the market share of these firms cumulatively declined to 32.37% a drop of 803 bps.

### Key Highlights :

Among the 4 insurers, New India Assurance witnessed a marginal fall in its market share, of just 64 bps, and maintained its position as India's leading general insurer.





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The other 3, witnessed a considerable erosion in their market standing. Kolkata-based National Insurance Company saw the most erosion in market share of over 300 bps, followed by United India Insurance (276 bps), and Oriental Insurance (171 bps).

Except for New India Assurance, the state-owned general insurance firms suffered huge losses and have seen a depletion in their solvency margin, leaving limited room to focus on growth. According to FY22 disclosures, Oriental Insurance suffered a net loss of Rs 3,104 crore; United India Insurance's loss was to the tune of Rs 2,135 crore and National Insurance Company's losses mounted to Rs 1,664 crore.

Among the four state-owned insurers, only New India Assurance reported a net profit of Rs 164.27 crore.

According to disclosures, Oriental Insurance's solvency ratio stood at 0.15% at the end of FY22; United India had a solvency ratio of 0.51%, and National Insurance's was just 0.63%.

The insurance regulator mandates insurance companies to have a solvency ratio of 1.5.

About IRDAI :

Established : 1999

Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana

Chairman : Debasish Panda

The IRDAI is a statutory body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance (MoF) ,Government of India (GoI) and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.

**JPMorgan buys First Republic Bank as third major US bank fails in two months**

United States (US) regulators stated that First Republic Bank has been seized and a deal agreed to sell the bank to JPMorgan Chase & Co, in what is the third major U.S. institution to fail in 2 months.

The banking giant will take \$173 billion of loans and about \$30 billion of securities of First Republic Bank, including \$92 billion of deposits.



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The California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation announced that it had taken possession of First Republic and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) would act as its receiver.

The rescue comes less than 2 months after Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank failed amid a deposit flight from U.S. lenders, forcing the Federal Reserve to step in with emergency measures to stabilize markets.

Those failures came after crypto-focused Silvergate voluntarily liquidated.

The failed bank's 84 offices in 8 states will reopen as branches of JPMorgan Chase Bank.

JPMorgan has been on an acquisition spree since 2021, acquiring more than 30 companies in deals worth more than \$5 billion combined.

About JPMorgan Chase & Co :

Founded : December 1, 2000

Headquarters : New York, United States of America

JPMorgan Chase & Co. is an American multinational financial services company.

It is the largest bank in the United States (US) and the world's largest bank by market capitalization.

Airtel Payments Bank & NPCI launches face authentication for Aadhaar-enabled payment system

Airtel Payments Bank (APB) has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to roll out Face Authentication for AePS (Aadhaar-enabled Payment System) at its 500,000 banking points.

Airtel Payments Bank is amongst the first 4 banks to offer Face Authentication for AePS in the country.

**Key Highlights :**

NPCI's AePS allows customers to carry out financial and non-financial transactions at any banking point using their Aadhaar number or virtual ID to access their Aadhaar-linked bank account.

Until now, transactions were being authenticated using the customer's Aadhaar number and fingerprint or Iris match in the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) records.



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The new facility will enable customers to validate the transaction by undertaking face authentication along with the Aadhaar number.

The authentication is processed using the Face Authentication RD Application by the UIDAI. In the first phase, the facility is made available for non-financial transactions – Balance enquiry and mini-statements - for the Bank's customers.

About APB :

Established : 2017

Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana

MD & CEO : Anubrata Biswas

It is a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel.

In 2022, the bank was granted the scheduled bank status by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the second schedule of the RBI Act, 1934.

About NPCI :

Founded : 2008

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

Pakistan becomes largest recipient of ADB funded programmes in 2022

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Report 2022, Pakistan became the largest recipient of the ADB-funded programmes/projects, receiving loans of USD 5.58 billion out of total loans of USD 31.8 billion to 40 countries.

Pakistan is facing a deep economic crisis and it received concessional funding of USD 2.67 billion from the bank.

Key Highlights :

The report highlighted the region's vulnerability to climate change as Pakistan was also hit by devastating floods that killed more than 1,700 people, directly affected 33 million people, caused damages in billions of dollars, and worsened an already fragile economic situation.



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ADB committed \$3.7 billion from the programme in 2022, including essential food assistance for those in need, including women and girls, in Afghanistan (using UN systems), Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Afghanistan and Pakistan were severely impacted by rising food and energy prices.

Drought and flash floods have increased food insecurity in Afghanistan.

As per the report, ADB responded timely to emerging and ongoing crises in the Asia and Pacific region.

Pakistan was one of the founding members of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1966.

About ADB :

Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 countries

### India Post Bank ties up with Forum of Industry Academic Knowledge Sharing to make postmen digitally literate

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with the **Forum of Industry Academic Knowledge Sharing (FIAKS) platform** to **provide digital literacy** and **spread awareness among postmen (or Gramin Dak Sevaks)** to avoid digital frauds.

#### What is FIAKS?

FIAKS, a **cross-border platform** comprising over 5,000 members, will carry out research, development, and designing of digital content under the programme **FIAKS Digital Shiksha Prasaar Abhiyaan** along with other partners.

The body will provide virtual and physical training to the postmen identified by IPPB.

#### About IPPB :

Founded: 1 September 2018

Headquarters : New Delhi, India



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CEO: J. Venkatramu

IPPB, is a **division of India Post** which is under the ownership of the **Department of Post**, a department under the **Ministry of Communications** of the Government of India.

### India & Russia to explore possibility of accepting RuPay and Mir cards

**India** and **Russia** will explore the possibility of **accepting RuPay** and **Mir cards** in each other's country for **hassle-free payments** amid sanctions imposed by the West on Moscow.

This decision was made during the meeting of the **Internal Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC)**.

This meeting was chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India **Shri S Jaishankar** and Russia's Deputy Prime Minister **Shri Denis Manturov**.

### Key Highlights :

The mutual acceptance of RuPay (India) and Mir cards (Russia) will help Indian and Russian citizens to make hassle-free payments in Indian rupees and Russian ruble in their respective countries.

In addition, the meeting also explored the possibility of interaction between **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and **Russia's Faster Payments System (FPS)**.

Besides, it was also agreed to look at adopting the **Russian financial messaging system, Services Bureau of Financial Messaging System of the Bank of Russia**, for cross border payments.

**Currently**, overseas payments from India and vice versa are through the **SWIFT network**.

Recently, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** and Singapore Prime Minister **Mr Lee Hsien Loong** launched the cross-border connectivity between **UPI** and **PayNow**.

Linkage of India's UPI and Singapore's PayNow now allows people in the two countries to undertake **faster** and **cost-efficient digital transfers**.

The PayNow-UPI linkage is the **world's first real-time payment systems linkage** to use a scalable cloud-based infrastructure that can accommodate future increases in the volume of remittance traffic.



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To begin with, the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**, **Indian Bank** and **ICICI Bank** will facilitate **both inward and outward remittances** while **Axis Bank** and **DBS India** will facilitate **inward remittances**.

The UPI was launched in **2016**, and since then it has emerged as the most popular and preferred payment mode pioneering **person-to-person** and **person-to-merchant transactions**, accounting for **75%** of the **total digital payments**.

**National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** was incorporated in **2008** as an umbrella organisation for operating **retail payments** and **settlement systems** in **India**

It has created a robust payment and settlement infrastructure in the country.

It facilitates payments through a bouquet of retail payment products such as **RuPay card**, **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)**, **UPI**, **Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)**, **BHIM Aadhaar**, **National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC Fastag)** and **Bharat BillPay**.

**Pine Labs partners with ICICI Bank to accept digital rupee on its PoS terminals**

**Pine Labs**, a merchant commerce omni channel platform, has announced the acceptance of **Digital Rupee (e Rupee)** on its **PoS (Point of Sale) terminals** in partnership with **ICICI Bank**. The technology integration between the two entities will now support e₹ acceptance at Pine Labs' point-of-sale terminals across key retail outlets in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** and **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

**Key Highlights :**

Pine Labs' execution of the Digital Rupee payment process is completely digital via dynamic QR built within its smart Android PoS terminals.

This would present a seamless payment option to the users and **improve** the **operational efficiency** of merchants with Pine Labs PoS terminals

**Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Central bank digital currency (CBDC) pilot** for both person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) digital rupee transactions is currently live with



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leading banks like **State Bank of India (SBI)**, **ICICI Bank**, **Yes Bank**, **IDFC First Bank**, **Union Bank of India (UBI)**, **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, and **HDFC Bank**.

### About ICICI Bank Ltd :

Founded : 5 January 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi

Tagline : Hum Hai na khayal apka

### About Pine Labs :

Founded : 1998

Headquarters : Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

CEO : B Amrish Rau

Pine Labs is an **Indian company** that provides **financing** and **retail transaction technology**.

### GST revenue collection for April 2023 highest ever at Rs.1.87Cr

The **gross Goods and Service Tax (GST) revenue collection** is the **highest** ever at **Rs 1,87,035 crore** for **April 2023**.

It includes **Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Rs 38,440 crore**, **State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) Rs 47,412 crore**, **Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) Rs 89,158 crore** (including Rs 34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and **Cess Rs 12,025 crore** (Rs 901 crore collected on import of goods).

### Key Highlights :

The government has settled **₹45,864 crore** to **CGST** and **₹37,959 crore** to **SGST** from **IGST**.

The **total revenue** of the Centre and the States in the month of April 2023 after regular settlement is **₹84,304 crore** for **CGST** and **₹85,371 crore** for the **SGST**.

The revenue for **April 2023** is **12% higher than** the GST revenue for the same month the previous year.



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During the month, **April 2023** the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are **16% higher than** the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

Gross GST collection for the **first time** has crossed the **Rs 1.75 lakh crore** mark.

On **20 April 2023**, the **highest ever tax collection** was done in a **single day** in this month.

On 20th April 2023, **₹ 68,228 crore** was paid through **9.8 lakh transactions**.

The highest single day payment last year (on the same date) was **₹ 57,846 crore** through 9.6 lakh transactions.

### About Ministry of Finance :

Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman

Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary

### Axis Bank & India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd enters Co lending Partnership to offer MSME Loans

**Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector Bank and **India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd (India Shelter)**, a Gurgaon based Housing Finance Company, announced a **strategic partnership** under the **co-lending model**.

With this partnership, both lenders will be offering **Secured Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) loans** to middle and low income segment borrowers based in the semi-urban regions.

The partnership will leverage the deep financial expertise of Axis Bank and the strong loan processing technology of IndiaShelter to assess the borrower's credit profile and offer them loans at optimal interest rates, **ensuring a seamless banking experience**.

India Shelter Housing Finance MD & CEO : Rupinder Singh

### About Axis Bank :

Established : 3 December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India





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MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

**Dvara SmartGold enters into a strategic partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank to offer gold loans**

**Dvara SmartGold**, a Fintech company that is building a full stack financial services offering, anchored around gold as an asset class, announced a strategic partnership with **Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB)** to offer **gold loans** with a seamless online and offline experience to customers.

Initially, this offering is available across **Tamil Nadu, Chattisgarh** and **Maharashtra region**.

**Aim :**

To attract customers away from the **traditional, unregulated channels** dominated by **moneylenders** and **pawnbrokers**.

**Key Highlights :**

Under this partnership, Dvara SmartGold, which is a fintech and a portfolio company of Dvara Holdings (formerly **Dvara Trust**), will **provide gold loans** to its customers with Jana SFB as the **lending provider**.

Customers of Dvara SmartGold will have the option to use the platform to apply for gold loans and receive funds directly in their bank accounts.

**About Dvara SmartGold :**

Founded : 2019

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra , India

**About Jana SFB :**

Founded : 2018

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India



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**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

**Foreign portfolio investors pulled out Rs 29,921 crore from banking and financial services sector in FY23**

In **Financial Year 2022-23 (FY23)**, Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew **Rs 29,921 crore** from the **banking and financial services sector**, making it the **third highest loser** of FPI money after **Information Technology (IT) Services (Rs 51,138 crore)** and **Oil & Gas (Rs 37,674 crore)**.

**Key Highlights :**

FPIs' stake in **RBL Bank** decreased by **4% to 25%** as of March 2023, while in **IndusInd Bank**, their exposure was trimmed by **4% to 42.16%**.

Similarly, FPIs' shareholding in **HDFC Bank**, **Bandhan Bank**, and **Kotak Mahindra Bank** decreased by **3%**, **2%**, and **1%**, respectively.

However, their stake in **ICICI Bank** remained **unchanged** at **44%** in FY23.

During the previous fiscal, FPIs increased their stake in banks such as **Yes Bank (by 12%)**, **IDFC First Bank (6%)**, and **Axis Bank (2%)**.

FPIs' holding in **Yes Bank** rose to **23.1%** as of **March 2023** from **10.97%** in **March 2022**, primarily due to private equity majors **Carlyle** and **Advent** acquiring a **9.99% stake** in **Yes Bank** for around **₹8,896 crore** during the December quarter.

**ADB announces IF-CAP programme to facilitates billions in climate change financing**

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has announced the **Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IF-CAP)** program to **accelerate climate change financing** in the region.

IF-CAP's initial partners are **Denmark**, **Japan**, the **Republic of Korea**, **Sweden**, the **United Kingdom**, and the **United States**.

IF-CAP financing will contribute to ADB's ambition for **\$100 billion** from its resources for combating climate change for **2019–2030**.



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ADB is committed to achieving inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

IF-CAP's initial ambition of **\$3 billion** in guarantees could create up to **\$15 billion** in new climate investment.

It will contribute to ADB's raised ambition of **\$100 billion** in **climate finance** for **2019-2030**.

### About ADB :

Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 countries

### South Indian Bank enables electronic bank guarantee facility for customers

The **South Indian Bank** has introduced an **e-BG (Electronic Bank Guarantee) facility** for its customers in **partnership** with **National E-Governance Service Limited (NeSL)**.

It facilitates **API-based paperless issues** of bank guarantees, thereby reducing the need for physical documentation and record maintenance.

South Indian Bank issued its First e-BG favouring a leading Public Sector Unit in **April, 2023** for an amount of **Rs.4.57 crore** through NeSL.

### About the new facility :

The facility replaces the **existing manual** and **paper-based model** of issuing Bank Guarantees.

Paper-based BGs involve manual intervention for **stamping, signing** and **transferring** the physical BGs while e-BGs are **stamped electronically**, eliminating the need for purchasing of physical stamp paper, printing the documents and physical signatures.

This initiative will reduce turnaround time and promote ease of doing business for business customers of the bank.

e-BG of NeSL has been developed in association with **Indian Banks' Association** in response to banks' requirements for a digital product.



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**About South Indian Bank :**

Founded : 1929

Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala

MD & CEO : Murali Ramakrishnan

**About NeSL :**

MD and CEO : Debajyoti Ray Chaudhari.

NeSL is India's first Information Utility.

It is registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

**LIC introduces group post-retirement medical benefit scheme**

The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has introduced the **Group Post Retirement Medical Benefit Scheme**.

The plan is a **Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Life, Group Savings Insurance** product.

The plan is available for any employer with **50 or more employees**.

The plan helps to meet the employer's obligation for **Post-Retirement Medical Benefit** to their employees.

The plan also offers a **fixed Life Cover Benefit (Sum Assured)** to each member.

Any employer willing to fund for their Employees' Benefit may adopt the scheme.

The product is an addition to the bouquet of **LIC's eleven Group products** and **one Group Accident Benefit Rider**.

**About LIC :**

Founded : 1 September 1956

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairperson : Siddharth Mohanty

**Max Life & Indian Industries Association join hands to offer life insurance access to MSME Workers**



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**Max Life Insurance Company (Max Life)**, a private life insurer, has entered into a **strategic partnership** with the **Indian Industries Association (IIA)** to provide **life insurance plans** to the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** sector's workforce in **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.

Under the recently announced **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) State insurance plan**, Max Life aims to enhance accessibility and drive affordable insurance penetration across UP.

The collaboration with IIA aims to provide life insurance policies to underserved populations in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

**Key Highlights :**

Max Life is the appointed **lead insurer** for the state of **Uttar Pradesh** under IRDAI's State insurance plan

These activities will be undertaken with **Sana Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd.** as the enrollment partner to engage with the MSME workforce.

**About Max Life :**

Founded : 2001

Headquarters : New Delhi, India

MD & CEO : Prashant Tripathy

Max Life Insurance Company is a **joint venture (JV)** between **Max Financial Services Limited** and **Axis Bank Limited**.

Max Financial Services is a part of Max Group.

**About IIA :**

Headquarters : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

President : Ashok Kumar Agarwal

IIA is an apex **representative body** of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.

**Visa Launched CVV-free online transactions for tokenized cards**



**Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs**  
**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

Card payments company **Visa** launched **cardholder verification value (CVV)** free online transactions for **domestic tokenized credentials** in **India**.

With the help of this feature, users can carry out **online transactions without entering CVV**, if the card has been tokenized.

The merchants who will adopt CVV free features will not need to ask customers for their CVV every time they do a transaction.

They will verify a **three-digit CVV only once**, at the time of tokenizing the card.

**Key Highlights :**

Tokenization masks the card details with a **unique code**, making the transactions more secure.

Tokenized transactions are **two-factor authenticated**, one at the time of tokenization and later at the time of putting the OTP.

Tokenization removes the need for a customer to put details such as the **16-digit debit or credit card number**, CVV and the expiry date at merchant websites every time the person makes a transaction.

It secures the user from cyber frauds, as online merchants don't save the card data of customers but only the tokens.

Merchants like **Zomato** and payment service providers like **Razorpay live** with Visa's CVV-free solution.

Visa has earlier paused Visa Safe Click service, launched in **2019** to eliminate the requirement of CVV or OTP for transactions **below Rs 2,000**.

Through tokenization, card details are hidden with a unique code.

Latest RBI data shows total debit and credit transactions totaled **458.8 million** in February, worth Rs 1.68 lakh crore.

**National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** data shows total UPI transactions in February exceeded **7.53 billion**, processing payments worth Rs 12.35 lakh crore.

**GSTN Notifies Deferment Of The Implementation Of Time Limit On Reporting Old E-Invoices by 3 months**



**Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs**  
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The **Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN)**, the company responsible for processing goods and services tax returns has deferred by **3 months** the imposition of a **7-day time limit** for reporting **old e-invoices** on the e-invoice portals for GST taxpayers with an aggregate turnover of **Rs 100 crore & above**.

The new rule was supposed to be implemented by 1 May 2023.

Instead of May 01, 2023 this obligation will now come into effect on **1 August 2023**.

However, given the operational difficulties faced by the taxpayers, the GST authorities have decided to defer it.

**Key Highlights :**

e-invoice is a system in which **business-to-business (B2B) invoices** are **electronically authenticated** by GST Network, the entity that provided the IT backbone for the administration of GST.

Under the e-invoicing system, an identification number is issued against every invoice by the **Invoice Registration Portal (IRP)** to be managed by the **GST Network (GSTN)**.

Initially, this will only apply to taxpayers with a turnover of **Rs 100 crore and above**.

This will not apply to credit or debit notes.

GST Network (GSTN) has opened its **national e-invoicing registration portal (IRP)** to all taxpayers to use for creating and sending electronic invoices to customers.

Presently, **only taxpayers with ₹10 or above sales revenue** per annum are mandated to use the government's e-invoicing system.

**GetVantage becomes first Revenue Based Finance start-up to get NBFC licence**

**GetVantage**, India's premier alternative financing fintech platform, has secured a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, becoming the **first and only revenue-based financing** and alternative funding platform in the country to do so.

GetGrowth Capital, the NBFC arm of GetVantage will manage the lending operations.

**Key Highlights :**



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GetVantage will capitalise the NBFC with **₹50 crore**.

It **aims** to raise **₹200 crore** in total to scale up its lending operations.

GetVantage is supported by investors, which include **Chiratae Ventures, Varanium, InCred, DMI,** and **Japanese investors like Sony and DI.**

The company is on track to hit annual disbursements of over Rs 500 crore in short-term working capital finance and help over 1,000 emerging SMEs across India with funding in the **next 18 months.**

Earlier, **BharatPe** acquired a majority stake of **51% in NBFC Trillion Loans** to boost its lending business.

Founder and CEO of GetVantage : Bhavik Vasa

### Federal Bank & NeSL partner to offer electronic bank guarantee

Indian private sector bank **Federal Bank** has partnered with **National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)** to launch an **electronic bank guarantee (e-BG)** facility.

With this partnership, Federal Bank hopes to completely **replace** the **traditional paper-based process** 'in due course'.

### What does " bank guarantee" mean?

A bank guarantee is an **assurance a financial institute** like a **bank** offers to the external party if the borrower is unable to pay the debt.

### Key Highlights :

Electronic Bank Guarantee facilitates the **issuance, invocation, amendment,** and **cancellation of Bank Guarantee** in digital form and removes the need of printing any document/request thereof.

It is **safe, secure,** and **fast, facilitating trade/business activities.**

Individual, Sole Proprietor, Company, Partnership Firm, Govt. Agencies, Association of People, Body of Individuals are **eligible** to avail of this facility.

This is currently available **only in states** where e-stamping is available.





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The **benefits** of **e-bank guarantee** include saving time and cost, enabling faster communication, removing the scope for fraud, and ensuring correct payment of stamp duty.

**About Federal Bank :**

Established : April 23, 1931  
Headquarters : Aluva, Kochi, Kerala.  
MD & CEO : Shyam Srinivasan  
Tagline : Your Perfect Banking Partner

**About NeSL :**

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India  
MD & CEO : Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri  
NeSL is **India's first Information Utility** and is registered with the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** under the aegis of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**.

**Axis Bank enables UPI for RuPay credit cards**

India's third largest private sector bank, **Axis Bank**, has successfully **enabled linkage** of **RuPay credit cards** with **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

Axis Bank has become the **latest entrant** in the list of banks that offer customers to link their RuPay credit card with UPI, with other banks being **Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Union Bank of India (UBI)**.

Bank customers can pay with their RuPay Credit Card when **scanning UPI QR Codes** or at the merchant's UPI checkout page.

The feature will allow bank customers to receive credit card rewards and the lender is rolling out the functionality in phases.

UPI transactions rose **43% year-on-year (y-o-y)** to a record `14.1 trillion in value terms during April, 2023.

In terms of overall volume, it rose **59% y-o-y** to a new high of 8.9 billion.

**About Axis Bank :**



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Established : 3 December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

**Yes Bank launched 'YES KIRAN' Solar Financing Scheme For Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**

**YES Bank** , has launched a lending proposition called “**YES KIRAN**” to provide **financial assistance** to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) manufacturers** who want to install solar panels at their premises.

**Aim :**

To support the **adoption** of **sustainable energy practices** by MSMEs while also bringing **cost efficiency** by reducing their expenses towards power and fuel.

**About YES KIRAN :**

YES KIRAN offers a range of benefits to MSMEs, including less operational cost, end-to-end support, flexible loan tenure at competitive interest rates, and a variety of tie-ups with leading solar panel manufacturers and installers such as Tata Power Solar Systems Limited, Goldi Solar, Loom Solar.

The bank has also partnered with companies like **Panasonic Solar Power System** to help businesses transition to renewable energy solutions.

It also fulfils India's G20 vision of achieving a target of over **50% energy production** from renewable sources by **2030**.

**About YES Bank :**

Founded : 2004

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar

Tagline : Experience Our Expertise



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**Central bank of India launched a unique Recurring Deposit scheme with life cover**

**Central bank of India** has launched a **unique Recurring Deposit scheme** with life cover “ **Cent SurakshitSamridhi**” exclusively for earning individual in the age group of **18 - 50 years** with additional benefit of Life insurance coverage of 100 times of principal instalment amount till the maturity of Recurring Deposit.

**Key features of the scheme :**

Eligibility : Age group 18-50 years (Earning customer only)

Instalment : Minimum 10 k Maximum 1 lac.

Period of Deposit : 84 months

Maturity Amount : 100 times of principal instalment amount

Life Insurance Coverage : 100 times of principal instalment amount.

Insurance Premium : Will be borne by the bank in regular accounts.

Premature Withdrawal : Available with penalty clause.

Loan Facility : Available after six months.

Death Clause : Life insurance coverage amount plus RD closure amount. (Terms & Conditions applicable.)

**About Central bank of India :**

Founded : 21 December 1911

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Matam Venkata Rao

Tagline : Build a Better Life Around Us./ Central To You Since 1911

**RBI imposes ₹1.73 crore fine on HSBC under Credit Information Companies Rules**



**Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs**  
**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty** of **Rs 1,73,75,000 (Rs 1.73 crore)** on the **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC Ltd)** for the contravention of certain rules under Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006 (CIC Rules).

The statutory **inspection for supervisory evaluation (ISE)** of the bank was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2021, and the examination of the Risk Assessment Report and all related correspondences pertaining to the same.

This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under the **provisions of Section 25 (1) and Section 23 (4) of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005.**

**Penalties on two cooperative banks :**

Apart from HSBC Bank, RBI has also imposed penalties on **two co-operative banks** for violation of norms.

Kerala-based **Thrissur Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd** has been fined **Rs 2 lakh** for flouting gold loan norms.

**Bhilai Nagrik Sahakari Bank** has been fined **Rs 1.25 lakh** for not depositing unclaimed deposits in time under the **Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme (DEAF Scheme).**

**About HSBC Ltd :**

Founded : 3 March 1865

Headquarters : Hong Kong

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, commonly known as HSBC, was the parent entity of the multinational HSBC banking group until 1991, and is now its **Hong Kong-based Asia-Pacific subsidiary.**

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935



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Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### SEBI permits Foreign Portfolio Investors Direct Market Access to exchange-traded commodity derivatives

In order to promote institutional participation in **Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs)**, the capital market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** **allowed stock exchanges** to **extend direct market access (DMA)** to registered **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** with immediate effect.

#### What is DMA?

Direct Market Access (DMA) facilitates the clients of a broker to **directly access** the exchange trading system through the broker's infrastructure to place orders without manual intervention by the broker.

Also, DMA provides certain advantages to brokers such as direct control over orders, **faster execution of orders, reduced risk of errors** associated with manual order entry, **maintaining confidentiality, lower impact costs** for large orders and implementing better hedging and arbitrage strategies.

#### Key Highlights :

Based on representations received for enabling DMA facility to FPIs in ETCDs and deliberations by **Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee (CDAC)** of SEBI, has been decided to allow stock exchanges to extend DMA facility to FPIs for participation in ETCDs.

This permission is subject to certain conditions that require brokers to follow procedure for application for DMA, operational specifications, client authorisation, and broker-client agreement, risk management, among others.

In **September 2022**, SEBI allowed FPIs to participate in the ETCDs in order to **increase depth** and **liquidity** in the market.



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SEBI had already allowed institutional investors such as **Category III Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**, **Portfolio Management Services** and **Mutual Funds** to participate in the ETCD market.

### About SEBI :

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, GoI.

### Unnati's Ora Finance Becomes 1st Agritech Firm to Receive NBFC License

**Unnati**, a fintech-based agritech company, made an announcement regarding its **subsidiary, Ora Finance**, becoming the **first-ever agritech firm** to receive an **non-banking financial company (NBFC) license**.

It will allow the company to meet the **financial requirements** of those in the **agricultural sector**, like farmers, retailers, traders, brands, and food processors.

Unnati has a network of more than **one lakh registered retailers** and traders who use its uStore app to engage with the farmers and manage their agribusinesses on a day-to-day business.

These partners reach out to over **1.3 million farmers** through its apps.

### What is NBFC?

A NBFC is a **financial institution** that **does not have a full banking license** or is not supervised by a national or international banking regulatory agency.

### Eligibility criteria of NBFC :

The company must be registered under the **Companies Act, 2013**, or any other relevant law.

The company must have a **minimum net owned funds** of **Rs. 2 crores**.



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The company must have a board of directors with at least one director having **at least 10 years of experience** in the banking or financial sector.

### India extends \$1 billion credit line for Sri Lanka by a year until March 2024

India has **extended a \$1 billion credit line for Sri Lanka by one year until March 2024**, giving the crisis-hit country a backup funds to pay for essential imports.

The credit line, part of about **\$4 billion** in emergency assistance extended by India during the **peak of Sri Lanka's financial crisis in 2022**, was scheduled to end in March, 2023.

There is about **\$350 million** left of the credit line that can be utilised as needed.

### About Sri Lanka :

President : Ranil Wickremesinghe

Prime Minister : Dinesh Gunawardena

Capital : Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative), Colombo (executive and judicial)

Currency : Sri Lankan rupee (Rs)

### AIBEA is set to launch 'Bank Clinic' to help retail customers with grievance redress

The **All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA)**, is the oldest and largest national trade union of bank employees in India plans to set up an **online 'Bank Clinic' to assist bank customers with grievance redress**.

Once a bank's retail customer lodges an online complaint with "Bank Clinic", ALBEA's team will take up the complaint with the Bank for redress.

The Bank Clinic will be one more channel through which a retail bank customer can get his grievances addressed besides the **normal Banking Ombudsman channel**.

### About AIBEA :

Founded : 20 April 1946

General Secretary : C. H. Venkatachalam

### RBL Bank goes live on 'Direct Tax Collections' through TIN 2.0



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**(Dec 2022 to May 2023)**

**RBL Bank** formerly known as **Ratnakar Bank** has **gone live with 'Direct Tax Collections'** on behalf of the **Government of India (GoI)** through the **new Tax Information Network (TIN2.0) portal**.

This is the **second such offering** from the Bank, following its empanelment by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an **'Agency Bank'** to conduct banking business for the Central and State Governments.

The Bank already offers customs duty collections through a direct interface via **Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway (ICEGATE)**.

This enhanced service will enable RBL Bank customers to make direct tax payments seamlessly via various digital channels and RBL Bank branches.

Leveraging its enhanced technology framework, the solution provides an **easy, user-friendly platform** for managing direct tax payments and marks an important milestone in RBL Bank's Government Banking offerings.

This segment is one of the key focus area for the Bank as a high enabler for growing its liability franchise.

**About RBL Bank :**

Founded : 6 August 1943

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : R. Subramaniakumar

Tagline : Apno ka Bank

**Rukart partners with SBI for easy loans to customers buying cold storage system 'Subjee Cooler'**

**Agritech firm Rukart**, which sells **'Subjee Cooler'** to **enhance shelf life** of **fruits and vegetables**, has **tied up** with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to **help potential customers** in getting **easy loan options** to buy the product.

**Aim :**

To mitigate distress sales among marginal/small farmers and retailers.





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**About Rukart :**

Founded : May 2019

Rukart manufactures Subjee Cooler, a **cold chain storage system** that requires only 20 liters of water a day to function.

It increases the shelf life of fruits, flowers and vegetables by **4-6 days**.

The cost of the product is **Rs 50,000** each and one Subjee Cooler has a storage capacity of 100 kg.

Rukart is mentored by the **Powering Livelihoods program**, jointly run by **Council On Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)** and **Villgro Innovations Foundation**.

**About SBI :**

Founded : 1 July 1955

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

**Bank of Baroda launches electronic bank guarantee on BarodaINSTA platform**

**Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, one of India's leading public sector banks, has introduced **Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG)** on its **BarodaINSTA platform**, in partnership with **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**, a platform that provides for the issuance of Inland BGs through **electronic mode**.

Other than the BoB, banks like **HDFC, State Bank of India (SBI), Yes Bank, and Federal Bank** also **provide e-BG facilities**.

**Key Highlights :**

The new facility will enable the public sector bank to issue inland bank guarantees electronically on its digital platform BarodaINSTA.

Being entirely digital, the system will **reduce the turnaround time** in the process and provide a **safer and more accessible medium, claims** the Bank.

The beneficiary can view the final digital BG on the NeSL portal immediately upon issuance.

Such an e-BG eliminates the need for a **separate authentication** from the BG issuing Bank.



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### What is NeSL?

NeSL is **India's first Information Utility** and is registered with the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** under the aegis of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**  
MD & CEO : Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri

### About BoB :

Founded : 20 July 1908  
Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat, India  
MD & CEO : Sanjiv Chadha  
Tagline : India's International Bank

### Asian Development Bank Announces IF-CAP Program to Accelerate Billions in Climate Change Financing in Asia & Pacific

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** announced the **Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IF-CAP)**, a landmark program which could significantly ramp up support for the region in the **battle against climate change**.

The announcement was made by ADB President **Mr Masatsugu Asakawa** on the opening day of **ADB's 56th Annual Meeting** in **Incheon, South Korea**.

### What is IF-CAP?

Asia and the Pacific is uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as hurricanes, droughts, heat waves, floods, and sea-level rises.

IF-CAP's **initial partners** are **Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US)**.

With a model of **'\$1 in, \$5 out'**, the initial ambition of **\$3 billion** in guarantees could create up to **\$15 billion** in new loans for much-needed climate projects across Asia and the Pacific.

IF-CAP financing will contribute to ADB's raised ambition for **\$100 billion** from its own resources for climate change for **2019–2030**.

### About ADB :



## Last 6 Months Banking, Finance & Economy Current Affairs (Dec 2022 to May 2023)

Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 countries

### **RBI imposes Rs 2.92 cr penalty on Canara Bank for violating norms**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty** of **Rs 2.92 crore** on **Canara Bank** for violation of various norms, including linking interest rates to external benchmarks, and opening savings accounts of ineligible entities.

The RBI conducted a **statutory inspection** for **supervisory evaluation** of the bank with reference to its financial position as on **March 31, 2021**.

A **scrutiny of the bank** was carried out by RBI in **July 2020** based on a high-value fraud reported by another bank.

The penalty is based on the **deficiencies** in **regulatory compliance** and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

### **About Canara Bank :**

Founded : 1910 (Nationalised in 1969)

Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India

MD & CEO : K Satyanarayana Raju

Tagline : Together we can

### **RBI mandates rupee-only settlement of fees for certain cards**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that certain fees/ charges levied by '**Authorised Persons**' on **International Debit Cards, Store Value Cards**, among others, and payable in India have to be denominated and **settled** in **Rupees only**.



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This instruction comes in the wake of the RBI coming across a few Authorised Persons (in foreign exchange) levying certain fees/charges, payable in India on such instruments, in **foreign currency**.

The instruments also include Charge Cards/Smart Cards or any other instrument that can be used to create a financial liability as 'currency'.

Authorised Persons include banks authorised to **deal in foreign exchange, full-fledged money changers**, etc.

**About RBI :**

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

**SEBI grants final approval for proposed change in control of HDFC AMC**

Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** through its letter to **HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC) Limited**, a subsidiary of HDFC Ltd and the investment manager of **HDFC AMC AIF II**, has **granted** its final approval for the proposed change in control of HDFC AMC.

This approval will help pave the way for the merger of HDFC and HDFC Bank, expected to be finalised by the **3rd quarter** of the next financial year.

The proposed entity will have a combined asset base of around **₹18 lakh crore**.

Once the deal is effective, HDFC Bank will be **100% owned by public shareholders**, and existing shareholders of HDFC will own **41%** of the bank.

**About SEBI :**

Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra



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Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)

SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, GoI.

### **RBI directs users to pay fee & charges on forex cards in rupees**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has stated that **fees** and **charges payable** in **India** on forex prepaid cards, store value cards, and travel cards must be denominated and settled in **local currency Rupees only**.

The use of such cards is limited to **permissible current account transactions**.

It is subject to the prescribed limits under the Foreign Exchange Management Rules.

Earlier, RBI had stated that no prior permission from the bank is needed for such cards.

### **HDFC Bank & Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge Together to Promote Fresh employment**

**HDFC Bank**, India's largest private sector bank, and **Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK)**, a not-for-profit organisation under the **Department of ITE&C, Government of Telangana** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to **promote employment of fresh graduates and postgraduates**.

As per the MoU, HDFC Bank will now be able access a large pool of talent across **700 institutions** registered with 'TASK'.

The MoU was signed at Hyderabad by **Shrikant Sinha**, CEO – TASK and **Ranga Subramanian**, Head – Talent Acquisition, HDFC Bank.

Under the partnership, TASK will help HDFC Bank hire trained students.

Logistical support for placement drives and interviews will be provided by TASK.

### **About HDFC Bank Limited :**

Founded : August 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan



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Tagline : We Understand Your World

**RazorpayX Introduces Automated ESCROW+ Solution powered by Axis Trustee Services Ltd**

RazorpayX, the business banking platform of Razorpay, launched an **automated ESCROW+ solution**, powered by **Axis Trustee Services Ltd, RBL Bank & ICICI Bank.**

**Objective :**

To **provide automated, compliant, and secure money transfer experience** on Escrow accounts to businesses

**About ESCROW+ solution :**

RazorpayX's ESCROW+ solution aims to address such pain points, by providing an Escrow trustee who is vetted and on-boarded by RazorpayX.

It also offers merchants with an Escrow account to route funds they are receiving on behalf of end beneficiaries, ensuring the **right tax treatment and reporting.**

Moreover, the automated processes facilitated by Escrow+ assure **higher success rates** and seamless payouts, enhancing overall payout performance.

The ESCROW+ account is the **second type of account** that RazorpayX will be offering as part of its Business Banking Suite, in addition to current accounts.

While the solution will currently cater to digital-first businesses in **Gaming, Marketplace & eCommerce, Co-lending, and P2P-lending industries.**

In the 3 months since its beta launch, the service enabled **15 firms** to bring **Rs 350 crore** in **annualised run rate (ARR)** to India.

Additionally, it launched **RazorpayX Digital Lending 2.0**, a digital lending solution for **Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) & Fintechs** to assist them in complying with digital lending guidelines.

Managing Director & CEO at Axis Trustee Services Ltd : Deepa Rath

**About Razorpay Software Private Limited :**

Founded : 2014



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Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka

CEO : Harshil Mathur

### Union Bank of India to start wealth management vertical

**Union Bank of India (UBI)** will start a **wealth management vertical** in the current financial year. This will be done to attract and retain **HNI (high networth individual)** and **NRI (non-resident Indian) customers**.

**State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** are among **public sector banks** that have a wealth management vertical for affluent customers.

UBI posted its highest net profit in 30 quarters at **Rs 2,782 crore** in the fourth quarter of FY23.

UBI aims to become the **third largest public sector bank** in terms of profitability by 2025.

### About UBI :

Founded : 11 November 1919

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : A. Manimekhalai

Tagline : Good People to Bank with

### RBI asks banks to complete transition away from London Interbank Offered Rate from July 1, 2023

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued an **advisory** to **banks** and other **RBI-regulated entities**, emphasising the need to take **steps** to ensure a **complete transition** from the **London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)** from **July 1, 2023**.

### Key Highlights :

RBI has advised the "**Banks/financial institutions (FIs)** are advised to ensure that no new transactions undertaken by them or their customers rely on or are priced using the **US\$ LIBOR** or the **Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR)**.

RBI has advised the banks/FIs to take all necessary steps to ensure insertion of fallbacks at the earliest in all remaining legacy financial contracts that reference US\$ LIBOR.



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RBI stated that **Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd. (FBIL)** will stop publishing the MIFOR after **June 30, 2023**.

RBI had issued an advisory on '**Roadmap for LIBOR Transition**' in **July 2021**.

The banks/FIs were encouraged to carry out transactions using the widely accepted **Alternative Reference Rate (ARR)** by **December 31, 2021**.

On **05 March 2021**, the **Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), UK** has announced that LIBOR will either cease to be provided by any administrator or no longer be a representative rate immediately after June 30, 2023, in the case of the remaining US dollar settings.

### What is MIFOR?

Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR) is a benchmark rate that **commercial banks use for financial contracts in India**.

It is used for setting prices on forward-rate agreements and derivatives.

It is a mix of the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) and a forward premium derived from Indian foreign exchange markets.

Daily MIFOR rates are published by **Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd**.

### RBI Launches '100 Days 100 Pays' Campaign For Return Of Unclaimed Deposits

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced a '**100 Days 100 Pays**' campaign for banks to trace and settle the **top 100 unclaimed deposits** of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days.

The banks will commence the campaign from **June 1, 2023**.

### Key Highlights :

Balances in savings/current accounts which are not operated for **10 years**, or term deposits not claimed within 10 years from date of maturity are classified as "unclaimed deposits".

These amounts are transferred by banks to the "**Depositor Education and Awareness**" (DEA) Fund maintained by the RBI.

The issues related to unclaimed deposits were also discussed during the meeting of the high-powered **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** headed by finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.





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As of the end of **February, 2023** RBI had **Rs 35,012 crore** of **unclaimed deposits** transferred to it by Public Sector Banks.

In **April 2023**, RBI had announced a **Web portal** to enable search across multiple banks for possible unclaimed deposits based on user inputs.

### EXIM Bank to launch GIFT City trade finance arm by Q3 FY24

**EXIM (Export-Import) Bank** is expected to **operationalise** its proposed **GIFT City subsidiary** for **trade finance** by the **third quarter (Q3)** of the **current financial year (FY24)**.

The proposed subsidiary is set to be named **India EXIM Finserv IFSC Private Ltd.**

Initially, the subsidiary arm will focus on international export factoring.

EXIM Bank plans to raise **\$4 billion via overseas debt**.

It plans to raise **₹40,000-45,000 crore** in the domestic market in **FY24**, against ₹52,000 crore in FY23.

The bank expects to maintain the **14% growth** of FY23, pegging growth for the current financial year at 12-15%.

### About Export-Import Bank India :

Established : 1982.

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Managing Director : Harsha Bangari

It is **wholly owned** by the **government of India (GoI)** and was set up to finance, facilitate and promote India's international trade.

### NBFC Profectus capital gets RBI approval to provide factoring services to MSMEs

**Non-banking financial company (NBFC) Profectus Capital Private Limited** has received the **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** under the **Factoring Regulations Act, 2011** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to provide factoring services to the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.

### Key Highlights :



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Profectus Capital plans to offer timely and efficient factoring services to improve their **working capital management, boost their businesses**, and receive short-term finance to fund operations.

Profectus will continue to focus on select manufacturing and service sectors based on its cluster-based lending approach.

Moreover, it plans to focus on BBB- and above rated corporate buyers.

**Executive Director, and CEO of Profectus Capital Private Limited : K V Srinivasan**

### About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### World Bank Approves \$82 Million for Prevention of Zoonotic & Endemic Diseases in India

The **Board of Executive Directors of World Bank (WB)** approved an **\$82 million loan** for **Animal Health System Support for One Health Programme (AHSSOH)** will support **India's Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme**, towards to control animal diseases by adopting global best practices for animal health management & to prevent, detect, & respond to **endemic zoonotic, transboundary, and emerging infectious diseases**.

### Aim :

To mitigate the risks of animal disease outbreaks by enhancing disease surveillance and veterinary services in the livestock and wildlife sectors.

### What is Zoonotic disease?

Zoonotic diseases refer to **infections or illnesses** that can be **naturally transmitted from animals to humans**.

### Key Highlights :



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The \$82 million loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** uses the Program-for-Results (PforR) financing instrument that links the disbursement of funds directly to the achievement of specific program results.

The loan has a **maturity period of 11.5 years**, including a **grace period of 4.5 years**.

It will directly benefit approximately **2.9 million livestock farmers** in the states of **Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh (MP)** by providing improved access to animal health services.

It will **strengthen India's One Health approach**, which recognises that people and animals are connected with their shared environment.

**India** has the **largest livestock population** in the world so the **risk of Animal disease outbreaks** is **high**.

In India, around **68%** of the workforce relies on farming and remains in close contact with domestic animals and poultry, thereby becoming frequently exposed to sick or infected animals.

For instance, **foot and mouth disease alone costs India** over **USD 3.3 billion annually**.

**About World Bank :**

Established : December 1944

Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States of America

President : Ajay Banga

Membership : 189 countries

**Kotak Mahindra Bank introduces Privy League, an exclusive premium banking programm**

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) announced the launch of its all-new Privy League programme, an exclusive premium banking programme with unique lifestyle benefits and bespoke financial solutions tailored to high-net-worth people (HNI).

Privy League, was designed to honour their customers' achievements by providing them with unrivalled lifestyle experiences and superior banking services.

**Key Highlights :**



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The Premium Metal Debit Card for the Privy League black tier, designed by famous artist Arunanshu Chowdhury, allows clients to enjoy premium bargains, complimentary airport lounge access, and many other privileges.

The Signature LED Debit Card, developed for the Privy League Platinum category, is India's first LED card, with perks such as a 75% discount on Priority Pass.

The initiative provides a variety of Business Banking solutions, as well as advantageous rates on loans, locker rentals, brokerage, and other specialised products.

Customers have access to a powerful 3-in-1 Integrated Account, which includes a bank account, a demat account, and a trading account.

**About KMBL :**

Founded : 1985

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Uday Kotak

**India's Green Financing Requirement Estimated At 2.5% Of GDP - RBI Study**

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2022-23 states that India's green financing requirement is estimated to be at least 2.5% of Gross domestic product (GDP) annually till 2030.

The country aims to achieve a net zero emissions target by 2070.

**About the Report :**

The RBI's report covers 4 major dimensions of climate change to assess future challenges to sustainable high growth in India.

These are

- unprecedented scale and pace of climate change;
- its macroeconomic effects;
- implications for financial stability;
- policy options to mitigate climate risks.



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The report further states that **India's goal** to achieve the **net zero target** by **2070** would require an accelerated reduction in the energy intensity of GDP by around **5% annually**.

A significant improvement is also required in energy-mix in favour of renewables to around **80%** by 2070-71.

According to the report, a balanced policy intervention with progress ensured across all policy levers will enable India to achieve its green transition targets by 2030, making the net zero goal by 2070 attainable.

### **Indian Bank empanelled as Clearing and Settlement Bank with Indian Clearing Corporation Limited**

**Indian Bank** has been **empanelled** as a **Clearing and Settlement Bank** with the **Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd (ICCL)**.

**Mahesh Kumar Bajaj**, Executive Director, Indian Bank exchanged the agreement with **Devika Shah**, Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICCL to formalise Bank's empanelment at a recently held event.

The public sector bank can now facilitate banking services to members of **BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange)** for **clearing and settlement operations**.

The Indian Bank also launched the **electronic term deposit receipt (e-TDR)** product for online transmission of **fixed term receipts (FDR)** and margin with ICCL on behalf of the clearing members with its dedicated branch – **Fort, Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

### **About Indian Bank :**

Established : 1907

Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu

MD & CEO : Shri Shanti Lal Jain

### **Agriculture Insurance Company of India is set to launch insurance products for livestock, aquaculture and sericulture**

**Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC)** has announced its plans to **introduce insurance products** for the **livestock, aquaculture, and sericulture sectors**, following the approval and



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licensing received from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

AIC already has a **50% market share** in the crop insurance market under **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme** which is run by the Centre and state governments.

In the PMFBY scheme, farmers are required to pay a portion of the premium, while the remaining amount is divided equally between the Central and State governments.

For the **Kharif season**, farmers contribute **2.5%** of the premium, while during the **rabi season**, they pay only **1.5%**.

**About AIC :**

Founded : 2002

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

Chairman & Managing Director : Girija Subramanian

AIC is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI).

AIC has a capital base of **Rs 200 crore**, contributed jointly by GIC Re at 35%, Nabard at 35% and the balance by the **4 public general insurers, National Insurance, United India Insurance, New India Assurance and Oriental Insurance.**

**LIC reduces its stake in NHPC to 3.19%**

**Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** cut its holding in **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)** to **3.19%** in the **March quarter** from 3.48% in the preceding quarter.

LIC stated in its official report that it sold shares worth **₹832.8 crore** between October 18, 2022 and May 23, 2023.

LIC disclosed that its ownership in NHPC Ltd has decreased from **522.6 million** to 319.9 million shares.

This reduction means LIC's ownership has gone down from **5.203%** in October to 3.19% , as reported by LIC in a regulatory filing.

**About NHPC Limited :**

Founded : 1975



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Headquarters: Faridabad, Haryana, India

Chairman & Managing Director : Shri Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi

NHPC Limited (erstwhile **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation**) is an Indian government hydropower board under the ownership of the **Ministry of Power**, Government of India (GoI).

### About LIC :

Founded : 1 September 1956

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairperson : Siddharth Mohanty

### Centre approved digital communication system between banks and CEIB to check Loan Defaults

According to reports, the **Union government** has ended the **paper-based communication system** & introduced a **digital communication mechanism** between **Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) banks** & the **Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)** to **check Loan Defaults**.

Under this, CEIB will send a report digitally regarding borrowers to the PSU banks for a loan amount of **Rs 50 crore** or higher at pre-approval stage **within 15 days of request**.

### Key Highlights :

At present it is mandatory for all the government holding banks to furnish a report from CEIB regarding the loan seekers of Rs 50 crore or more and those who have a pending default, before processing any loans.

Under the new system the government has introduced a digital system to streamline the process of communication between banks and the CEIB.

The new system will require banks to submit their requests to CEIB through **dedicated emails** in a specific format.

In turn, CEIB will exclusively send reports to banks via email, maintaining a record of the timeline and actions taken by the banks.

With the new digital mechanism will make the process **more smooth** and **faster** with banks just having to place a request with CEIB online and getting final reports within 15 days.

### About CEIB :

Established : July 1985



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Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

Director General : Amit Mohan Govil

The CEIB is responsible to the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance (MoF)**.

It is an **Indian intelligence agency** responsible for gathering information and monitoring the economic and financial sectors for economic offences and warfare

### Axis Bank launches 'Sarathi', a digital onboarding platform for POS Terminals

**Axis Bank**, one of the largest private sector banks in India, has launched '**Sarathi**', a **first-of-its-kind digital onboarding journey** to **enable Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (POS)** for merchants.

Unlike the time-consuming traditional onboarding process, which can take several days, Sarathi offers merchants a streamlined and **hassle-free experience**.

The solution enables merchants to complete the onboarding process in just four simple steps which includes:

**Realtime database checks** for faster application processing

**Live video verification** to authenticate merchant information at his/ her convenience

It **eliminates** the **field verification process** which helps in instant decision-making

**Instant installation of POS**

The paperless onboarding process **eliminates** the **need for merchants** to fill out cumbersome forms or wait for extended periods to have their POS terminals installed.

Sarathi's features include immediate status updates, eliminating the need for follow-up visits, and the ability to transact on the same day their application is processed.

### What is a POS Terminal?

A point-of-sale (POS) terminal is a **hardware system** for **processing card payments at retail locations**.

Software to read magnetic strips of credit and debit cards is embedded in the hardware.

### About Axis Bank :

Established : 3 December 1993

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India





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MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

**HDFC Bank Launches Future Bankers 2.0 Recruitment Program Partners with Manipal Global Academy of BFSI**

HDFC Bank in association with the **Manipal Global Academy of BFSI (Banking, Financial Services & Insurance)** has launched **Future Bankers 2.0**, a **pan-India recruitment programme** to transform young graduates into banking professionals within one year.

**About Future Bankers 2.0 :**

Future Bankers 2.0 is a **one-year professional diploma** that aims to create a **robust, future-ready talent pipeline** for HDFC Bank's retail banking business, a key thrust area for the bank. It offers an exciting mix of classroom sessions, guest lectures, group discussions, role plays, and field work.

In addition to this, the programme provides **8 months** of paid internship and on-the-job training at HDFC Bank's branch locations within the country to further strengthen a student's grounding in **banking products, processes, compliance framework, and day-to-day banking operations.**

Upon successful completion of the course, a student will get a **Postgraduate Diploma in Sales & Relationship Banking** from **Manipal Academy of BFSI** and an assured job opportunity as a personal banker at the grade of Deputy Manager with HDFC Bank.

All the successful candidates will be offered an annual CTC up to **Rs.5.59 lakh\***.

**About HDFC Bank Ltd :**

Founded : August 1994

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline : We Understand Your World

**ADB & India Signs \$141.12-Million Loan For Industrial Corridor Development In Andhra Pradesh**

**Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **USD 141.12-million loan** to support the development of **high-quality internal infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh (AP).**



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### Objective of the loan :

To support the **development** of **essential infrastructure**, such as roads, water supply systems and power distribution networks, in three industrial clusters located in Andhra Pradesh.

This financing is the second tranche of the **USD 500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF)** for the programme approved by ADB in **2016** to build infrastructure in three industrial clusters in the **Visakhapatnam** and **Srikalahasthi-Chittoor nodes** in AP.

ADB also approved a **\$250 million loan** as part of the MFF to support the government's **National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP)** through **October 2021**.

### Key Highlights :

The ADB financing through adopting a **multi-sectoral approach** will help the state in promoting industrialization to **increase** the **share of manufacturing** in the state's gross domestic product, build competitiveness and create jobs in the project target areas.

The financing will help strengthen industrial infrastructure in Visakhapatnam node with the development of internal infrastructure in the start-up area of the **160-hectare (ha) Rambilli** and **441-ha Nakkapalli** industrial clusters, widening of **13.8-kilometer (km)** of the **Atchuthapuram–Anakapalli road** and improvement of 4.4-km access road to the Nakkapalli cluster.

Internal infrastructure in the proposed clusters will include internal roads, storm water drains, water supply systems, and electric power distribution systems.

In Srikalahasthi-Chittoor node, the project will help develop the start-up area of the **938-ha Chittoor–South industrial cluster**, and improve a 9.5-km access road to the Chittoor-South industrial cluster and an 8.7-km access road to the Naidupeta industrial cluster.

### About ADB :

Established : 19 December 1966

Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

President : Masatsugu Asakawa

Membership : 68 countries

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