

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Banking

(November 2022)

English

Part-2



GUPTA

CLASSES

GEPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of GreenCell Mobility Private Limited (GreenCell), a platform company of Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF).

Financial assistance:

The financial package comprises **USD 20.5 million loan** from ADB's ordinary capital resources, ADB's administration of a **USD 14 million loan** from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), grants worth **USD 3,25,000** from the CTF and **USD 5.2 million** from Goldman Sachs' and Bloomberg's the Climate Innovation and Development Fund (CIDF).

- The CIDF grant will partially finance the decarbonization of 100 of the 255 e-buses by deploying solar power-plus-battery energy storage systems, which will reduce around 6355 tons of carbon dioxide a year. Overall, the project will reduce emission by 14780 tons.

Note – ADB also assisted in mobilising an additional parallel loan of USD 20.5 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Features:

i. Safety features at project **bus depots** and **e-buses** will include cameras, panic buttons, adequate depot lighting, seating arrangements, tracking, and awareness-raising materials.

ii. **In addition**, training programs will be held for bus drivers and cabin hosts on safety protocols focused on women passengers.

Note – In 2020, road transport accounted for 87 percent of all passenger trips, 18 percent of total energy consumption, and 11.7 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

Key Points:

i. The project is also qualified for a **2x gender financing rating**, a challenge launched at the G7 summit in 2018 to encourage gender lens investing among development finance institutions.

ii. Under this project, GEPL is also implementing a diversity and inclusion roadmap to initiate a program to build a stronger pool of women in leadership and technical roles.

Karnataka Bank Launches CASA Campaign

The **Karnataka Bank Ltd (KBL)** has launched a **100-day CASA** (current account savings account) campaign for the fiscal year 2022-23 (FY 23), as it approaches its 100th anniversary.

- CASA is a national campaign that will take place between **November 15, 2022 and March 24, 2023**.

The bank intends to open more than 3.65 lakh CASA accounts across all 883 branches in India as part of this campaign.

Key Points:

i. The bank will use this campaign to introduce potential customers to its digitally enabled savings account options.

ii. As part of the “KBL-Vikaas” project and digital transformation activities, the bank intends to make self-initiated digital onboarding platforms available to potential customers.

iii. In order to ensure an easy account opening and client satisfaction, the TAB and Web Banking account opening modes for onboarding Savings Bank (SB)—New-To-Bank (NTB) customers will be widely utilised during the campaign.

About Karnataka Bank Ltd (KBL):

MD & CEO – Mahabaleshwara M.S

Establishment – 1924

Headquarters – Mangaluru, Karnataka

Tagline – Your Family Bank Across India

InsuranceDekho Collaborates with LIC to Provide Latter's Products

The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** and the insurance technology company **InsuranceDekho** have formed a strategic partnership under which LIC's products will be offered to customers across India on InsuranceDekho's platform.

- This partnership will empower InsuranceDekho to democratise insurance and make it accessible to all Indians, regardless of geographic location or socioeconomic status.

Key Points:

i. LIC will make use of InsuranceDekho's technology and analytics to expand its customer base and provide quality service to all customers with this collaboration.

ii. InsuranceDekho is about to conclude the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23) with annualized premiums at Rs. 3,000 crores.

- The platform of InsuranceDekho presently hosts 330+ products from 45 insurers.

InsuranceDekho

- InsuranceDekho is an online platform that allows customers to compare insurance quotes from top-rated insurance companies and buy the insurance policy that best meets their needs.
- CEO and Co-founder of InsuranceDekho – Ankit Agrawal

About Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC):

Chairperson– Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar

Established – 1956

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

SLIC Gets PFRDA Nod to Become an Annuity Service Provider

Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited (**SLIC**) has been empanelled as an Annuity Service Provider (**ASP**) by the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (**PFRDA**), which will help the insurer manage the annuity component of the maturity proceeds under the National Pension System (NPS).

- The PFRDA's certification will help SLIC to accumulate more NPS subscribers under its Immediate Annuity Plus, which has flexible options for NPS subscribers offering retirees to continue their lives in the same financial conditions as they did before.

Key highlights:

i. SLIC as an ASP will help in mobilising **40 percent** of the NPS maturity amount that will be open to investment in its annuity schemes.

ii. ASPs will be responsible for managing the funds that are allocated for buying annuity and also manages payment of the pension after the subscriber attains the age of 60 under NPS.

- **Under NPS**, customers can choose from an array of insurance providers who provide rewarding annuity plans according to their needs and lifestyle.

Note – In India, the annuity premium mobilisation is above **Rs. 25,000 crore** per year.

About Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited (SLIC):

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Casparus jacobus hendrik kromhout

Chairman – T. S. krishna murthy

Headquarters – Hyderabad, Telangana

Navi and Piramal Finance enters co-lending partnership for digital loans

Navi Group, a technology-driven financial products and services company (Finserv) founded by Sachin Bansal & Ankit Agarwal announced a partnership with **Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Ltd. to offer '**Digital Personal Loan**' in India.

- Borrowers can avail personal loans up to Rs.20 lakhs with a tenure of up to 72 months on Navi app, under this partnership.

Piramal Finance will fund 80% of the loan and 20% will be funded by Navi Finserv, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Navi Technologies.

India's growth to slow in 2023 to 5.9%: Goldman Sachs

According to Goldman Sachs Group Inc, India's Gross domestic product (GDP) may decline to 5.9% in calendar year 2023 from an estimated 6.9% in 2022 amid low consumer demand from higher borrowing costs and fading benefits from pandemic reopening.

Key Points:

- i.** India's GDP grew by 8.7% in 2021-22.
- ii.** The headline retail inflation to ease to 6.1% in 2023 from an estimated 6.8% in 2022.
- iii.** Inflation has remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of 6% for the last ten months.
- iv.** India's export growth fell sharply in October 2022. It contracted 16.7% on annual basis from a growth of 4.8% in September 2022, stating a decline in global demand.

Antimicrobial Resistance will reduce global annual GDP by 3.8% by 2050: WHO

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has stated that In a high-impact scenario, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) will reduce global annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 3.8% by 2050. If this situation remains unchecked, in the next decade, this could result in GDP shortfall of USD 3.4 trillion annually and push around 24 million people into extreme poverty.

- This announcement aims to highlight the need for sustained multisectoral action to prevent and contain AMR during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) from 18th to 24th November 2022.
- This announcement was made by Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia.

Key Points:

- i.** According to new global estimations, in 2019, deaths of around 5 million people was associated with bacterial AMR of which 1.3 million deaths were directly attributable to bacterial AMR.
- ii.** AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites evolve over time and no longer respond to medicines. This makes infections harder to treat and increases the risk of disease spread.

Efforts of WHO:

- i.** Since 2014, The prevention and combating AMR has been one of the 8 flagship priorities of the WHO South-East Asia Region, at high risk for the emergence and spread of AMR.
- ii.** The member states are implementing national action plans to address AMR.
- iii.** In each Member State, a multisectoral working group or coordination committee on AMR has been established in line with the Global Action Plan on AMR, adopted in 2015.
- iv.** All Member States are enrolled in the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) AMR and the South-East Asia Region is the only WHO region in which all countries carry out the annual Tracking AMR Country Self-Assessment Surveys
In 2022, this was expanded to include the environment sector for the first time.

Challenges:

- i.** According to the review of progress launched at the 75th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in September 2022, the countries of the Region still face an array of multisectoral challenges.
- ii.** The challenges include,
 - unsafe disposal of medicine and pharmaceutical waste,
 - inadequate regulation of antimicrobial use in food production,
 - insufficient infection prevention and control in health facilities,
 - inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in homes and health facilities.

Priorities of the region:

First: To accelerate the implementation of national multisectoral action plans, for which adequate, sustained and reliable financing must be allocated (domestic, international and global).

Second: to improve the surveillance of AMR infections and strengthen the laboratory capacity. This is vital to know the true extent of the issue and to effectively target energy and resources.

Third: to develop and enforce regulations on the appropriate use of antimicrobial medicines in all relevant sectors, and ensure that such regulations promote and facilitate access to appropriate antimicrobial use.

Fourth: to step up the investments in adequate water, sanitation and hygiene, a critical health intervention. This will also have a significant impact on the tsunami of environmental pollution and contamination-driven antimicrobial resistance.

One Health Action:

As a part of WAAW 2022, the One Health Quadripartite (WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), highlighted the need to increase One Health action to address AMR with the theme “**preventing antimicrobial resistance together**”.

- The one health action will increase national, Regional, international and global awareness and support to address AMR.

Over 1 billion young people are at risk of hearing loss: Study

According to the research published in open access journal BMJ Global Health, more than 1 billion teens and young people are potentially at risk of hearing loss because of their use of headphones and earbuds and attendance at loud music venues.

- The study states that young people are particularly vulnerable due to their use of personal listening devices (PLDs).
- WHO estimates that more than 430 million people across the globe currently have disabling hearing loss. This number could rise to over 2.5 billion by 2050.

Key Points:

i. The previously released research study states that PLD users often choose volumes as high as 105 decibels (dB) while average sound levels at entertainment venues range from 104 to 112 dB. This exceeds the permissible sound levels of 80 dB for adults and 75 dB for children even if for very short periods.

ii. The research included 33 studies, corresponding to data from 35 records (17 records focused on PLD use and 18 focused on loud entertainment venues) and 19,046 participants.

About World Health Organisation (WHO):

Director General– Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Established in 1948

Kotak General Introduces Add-on Insurance Feature for Private Car Owners

On 21st November 2022, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company (**Kotak General Insurance**) launched Kotak Meter (Switch On/Switch Off), an add-on cover for Private Car insurance policy to allow policyholders pause the insurance cover when the vehicle is idle.

- Following the launch, Kotak General Insurance claims to become **India's first company** to offer a cashback via an add-on for private car insurance policy.
- The 'Meter' add-on was initially introduced through Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)'s regulatory sandbox

About Meter add-on:

i. The Meter (switch-on/off) add-on, users can download the Kotak Meter Mobile App from Play Store or App Store, which allows the vehicle owners to switch their car insurance coverage 'On and Off' based on usage.

- This means that the vehicle owners can pay for insurance only when the vehicle is in use.

ii. The policyholders will get **one reward day** in their policy cover for every 24 straight hours that the cover has been paused.

- These reward days can be redeemed either by getting a discount at the time of renewal or a cashback up to **40 percent** of own damage (OD) premium at the end of the policy term, depending on the number of reward days accrued.

iii. The cost of this add-on feature will be **Rs. 250**, which will also cover theft, fraud and natural calamities while the cover is paused, but not accidental damage.

About Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company (Kotak General Insurance):

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company is a subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Suresh Agarwal

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Establishment – 2003

ICICI Bank Launches Two New Products for NRIs – Dollar Bond & LAD

ICICI Bank Limited, a private sector lender has launched two new products, Loan Against Deposits (**LAD**) and **Dollar Bonds** for Non Resident Indian (**NRI**) customers at its branch in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**), a Gujarat-based emerging global financial and Information Technology (IT) services hub.

- ICICI Bank becomes the **first bank** to offer such products in GIFT City, Gujarat.

About the products:

i. The Loan Against Deposits (LAD)– This is similar to a loan in foreign currency against a deposit in India and includes Non Resident External (NRE) Fixed Deposits (FD) in rupees.

- Clients can avail this facility for short-term cash requirements without premature closure of term deposits which entails penalties.
- Customers can avail up to **95 percent** of the deposit value.
- The customers can get flexible tenures with fixed or floating interest rates.

ii. The Dollar Bonds – This offer is an alternative investment option for NRIs, to book dollar bonds through ICICI Bank in GIFT city from among 50 marquee issuers or companies for these bonds.

Other offerings for NRIs:

i. Global Current Account – This is a non-interest bearing account with no minimum balance, that helps NRIs to deposit money in foreign currencies such as USD (Dollar), EUR (Euro), GBP (British Pound Sterling) in India.

ii. Global Savings Account – NRIs can deposit money for a short term and earn interest from the deposits.

iii. Term Deposits – These are similar to Foreign Currency Non Resident (FCNR) deposits with minimum lock-in period of 7 days compared to 1 year for FCNR in India. Customers can deposit in currencies such as USD, EUR, GBP.

About ICICI Bank Limited:

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Sandeep Bakhshi

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Establishment – 1994

CRISIL lowers India's FY23 growth by 30 bps to 7%; ICRA slashes Q2 GDP to 6.5%

On November 21, 2022, Credit rating agency **CRISIL** (formerly Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited) reduced India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast by 30 basis points (bps) for 2022-2023 to **7%** from 7.3% earlier.

- ICRA Limited (ICRA) [formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited] has lowered the economic expansion at 6.5% for the Q2 of FY2022-23.

CRISIL Forecast:

CRISIL has downgraded its forecast of India's growth, primarily because of the slowdown in global growth that has started to impact our exports and industrial activity.

- i. For 2023-24, the Indian economy will slow to 6% from 6.5% earlier projections due to the global slowdown and tightening financial conditions. It will average 6.6% between fiscals 2024 and 2026.
- ii. India's inflation to average 6.8% in 2022, before easing to 5% in 2023-24.
- iii. As per CRISIL, India will grow faster than its emerging market peers such as China (4.5 per cent growth estimated for 2023-25), Indonesia (5.2%), Turkey (3%) and Brazil (1.6%).
- iv. Falling exports have affected domestic industrial momentum as for the first time in more than two years exports plunged over 25% in October 2022.
- v. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has been on a falling trend since July 2022 for export-linked sectors. This can be intensified in 2024.

ICRA Forecast:

ICRA has estimated a 6.5% growth for the Q2 of FY2022-23, nearly half of the year-ago quarter when the economy had clipped at 12.7%.

- i. As per ICRA, the sectoral growth in Q2 is to be driven by the services sector (9.4%), with a subdued trend foreseen for the industry (2%), and agriculture, forestry and fishing (2.5%).
- ii. Around 9 of the 16 services sector high-frequency indicators saw double-digit expansion in Q2.
 - The combined revenue expenditure of the 24 states grew 16.7% in Q2
 - Central Government's non-interest revenue expenditure contracted by 1.4% in Q2.

KVG Bank receives National Award from PFRDA for Atal Pension Yojana enrolment

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has received a National Award from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for significant enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

- The Chairman of KVGB, **P Gopi Krishna**, received the award from the Chairperson of PFRDA, **Supratim Bandyopadhyay** in an event organised at New Delhi, Delhi.

Key Points:

- i. KVGB has so far enrolled 3,34,687 (cumulative) accounts to the APY. During 2022-2023, the bank enrolled 69,132 accounts, exceeding its target of 50,320.
- ii. The bank currently has **629** locations in the 9 districts from Vijayapura to Mangaluru.
- iii. The 3 social security programmes (Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and APY) introduced by the Government of India are all being implemented with a significant contribution of KVGB.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

- i. The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched in 2015 to create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor.
- ii. APY is administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- iii. All bank account users between the ages of 18 and 40 are eligible for APY, and the contributions vary depending on the pension amount selected.
- iv. At the age of 60, subscribers will start receiving the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000- Rs 5000.
- v. The APY's goal is to encourage people to make small savings throughout their prime earning years so they may retire with a pension.

Flipkart & Axis Bank partner to launch 'Flipkart Axis Bank Super Elite' Credit Card

Flipkart and Axis Bank have partnered to launch the 'Flipkart Axis Bank Super Elite Credit Card' as an effort to scale the **Flipkart SuperCoins reward programme** and enhance the customer shopping experience.

- The card offers benefits and easy redemption opportunities on every transaction.

- Previously in 2019, Flipkart and Axis bank partnered to launch Flipkart Axis Bank Credit Card.

What is Supercoins reward in Flipkart?

SuperCoins is the first of its kind rewards system as part of the **Flipkart Plus program** that can be used to redeem rewards.

Key Points:

- i. With the Flipkart Axis Bank Super Elite Credit Card, Flipkart customers can earn a total of 8 SuperCoins for every Rs 100 spent and a maximum of 200 SuperCoins can be earned on every successful transaction. Flipkart Plus customers earn a total of 16 SuperCoins for every ₹100 spent and they can earn a maximum of 400 SuperCoins on every successful transaction on Flipkart.
- ii. For all other transactions outside of Flipkart, customers will earn two SuperCoins with no upper limit for every **Rs 100** spent on all eligible spends.
- iii. Customers can get this card at an annual fee of **Rs 500**, which is waived off on an annual expense of Rs 2 lakhs on the card.

Axis Bank launches 7th Knowledge Summit 'Evolve' for MSMEs

Axis Bank launches 7th edition of knowledge summit 'Evolve' for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on the broader theme of '**Indian SMEs: Shifting Gears for Next Level Growth**' along with sub-themes such as 'Digitalisation to Building Indian SMEs' and 'Export Opportunities for SMEs in the New World Order'.

- It was hosted by Axis Bank with its knowledge sharing partner **Dun & Bradstreet**.
- The summit was addressed by **Sangram Singh**, President of Commercial Banking Coverage Group (CBG), Axis Bank, and **Krishan Gupta**, MD (Managing Director) of Organic Wellness Product Private Limited.

Key Points:

- i. It was hosted across 20 cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, etc.
- ii. This edition focused on how technology and digitalization can help achieve exponential growth from exports.
- iii. It provides a platform for MSMEs to interact and learn from industry thought leaders.

About Axis Bank:

MD & CEO- Amitabh Chaudhry

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tagline- Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

Airtel Payments Bank Launches Face Authentication-based Account Opening

On 22nd November 2022 **Airtel Payments Bank** launched the **face authentication-based** savings bank account opening for customers, **first-of-its kind** in India to ease the process of account opening.

Highlights:

- i. This new facility will help business correspondents (BCs) to open the savings account by undertaking face authentication e-KYC (Know Your Customer).
 - The authentication will be processed through a mobile application developed by Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**).
- ii. The bank is set to make this facility available across all its 5 lakh banking points by the end of 2022.

Features of Face Authentication based KYC:

The process of e-KYC facility is handled through Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) / Machine Learning (**ML**)-**based** face authentication Registered Device (RD) application which prevents fraudulent activities by cross-checking an individual's photo with the image captured in Aadhaar and allows secure customer onboarding.

- Prior to this facility, Users had to authenticate using Aadhaar-based One Time Password(OTP) and fingerprint biometric authentication to open an account.

Note:

Airtel Payments Bank recently integrated with the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) on National Financial Switch (NFS) to facilitate Micro ATM transactions for debit card users in metro and tier 1 cities in

India.

Features of Savings account:

- i. The bank ensures easy accessibility with over 5 lakh banking points and will offer an annual interest rate of 2.5 % upto 1 lakh end of the day balance and 6% above 1 lakh to 2 lakhs of end of the day balance.
- ii. The bank offers free personal accident insurance cover of **Rs. 1 Lakh** with **no minimum balance requirement**.

- The account does not have any daily limits and a maximum of 10,000 transactions are allowed per account in a month.

About Airtel Payments Bank:

At present, Bharti Airtel Limited and Bharti Enterprises Limited hold a 70:30 partnership in Airtel Payments Bank

Managing Director (MD) & CEO – Anubrata Biswas

Establishment – 2017

Headquarters – Gurugram, Haryana

Federal Bank has launched a deposit scheme for NRIs titled 'Deposit Plus'

On 22nd November 2022 **Federal Bank Limited** launched a deposit scheme for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) titled '**Deposit Plus**', which offers higher interest than the existing Non-Residential External (NRE) fixed deposits.

Key points:

- i. The maximum interest rate offered in this scheme will be **7.50 percent** for a tenure of **700 days**.
- ii. The interest accrued on this scheme will be added to the principal (reinvestment plan) on a quarterly basis and are exempt from income tax.
- iii. The deposits cannot be closed prematurely, however, customers have the option of availing loans up to 75 percent of the deposit amount in the event funds are required prior to maturity.

About Federal Bank Limited:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Shyam Srinivasan

Headquarters – Aluva, Kerala

BillBox Unveils Wearable Device for Contactless Payments

BillBox, an Indian payments and merchant ecosystem solution provider, has launched **TapTap**, a wearable device that enables contactless payments, in collaboration with **NSDL Payments Bank** and **Visa**, a world leader in digital payments.

- The wearable TapTap device's purpose is to simplify payments and offer users convenience. TapTap wearable contactless payments is only available for Visa Platinum prepaid card users and will cost ₹1499 per wearable

Key Points:

- i. TapTap is a fintech programme manager for prepaid and gift card programmes.
 - It would provide Indian consumers with cost-effective, innovative, and secure digital banking solutions.
- ii. To enable payments at point-of-sale (POS) machines at merchant outlets, the device is available in multiple formats and would be connected via a mobile app. It has been launched with silicon band, silicon strap and silicon loop
- iii. The product will be extremely useful to a part of the population seeking super-fast payment options beyond plastic money and QR (Quick Response) codes.

Additional Info:

As per RBI norms in India, a user can tap for an amount up to ₹5000 without OTP (one time password) or PIN but any amount above that would require second-factor authentication of OTP. The user can transact up to

₹2,00,000 in a month with full Aadhar KYC.

Note: Viraj Majmudar is the Managing Director & Group CEO of BillBox.

About NSDL Payments Bank:

MD & CEO – Abhijit Kamalapurkar

Commenced Operations – 2018

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

BOB Partners with Solar Start-up ASPL & AFPL; BoB Opens First Mid-Corporate Branch at Kochi

Bank of Baroda (**BoB**) partnered with Aerem Solutions Private Limited (**ASPL**), and its subsidiary Aerem Finance Private Limited (**AFPL**) for financing **solar rooftop projects** for captive use by Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

- ASPL is an end-to-end platform that enables quality rooftop solar installations for MSMEs, while AFPL is a Non-Banking Financing Company (NBFC) registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Highlights:

i. Under the partnership, BoB will provide collateral free loans at affordable rates to MSME for the installation of captive solar rooftop projects.

ii. This will encourage MSME to install solar rooftop projects, thereby reducing power bills, increasing profitability and supporting the development of India's renewable energy sector.

BoB Opens First Mid-Corporate Branch in Kerala at Kochi

Bank of Baroda (**BoB**) has opened its **first dedicated mid-corporate branch** in Kochi, Kerala, inaugurated by Debadatta Chand, Executive Director in the presence of S. Rengarajan, GM (Head – Mid Corporate Cluster South) and Sreejith Kottarathil, Zonal Head-Ernakulam.

Key points:

i. The key focus of the mid corporate branch is to increase corporate book size and income to improve turnaround time (TAT) for corporate proposals and provide enhanced service to corporate customers.

ii. The branch will provide corporate loans, trade finance, forex, and cash management services that caters to mid-corporate, large corporate and PSU borrowers.

HDFC Bank & Flywire Partners to Offer Education Digital Payments

HDFC Bank Limited partnered with **Flywire Corporation**, a global payments enablement and software company, to enable Indian payers to pay international education fees to higher education institutions all over the world digitally.

Key highlights:

i. This collaboration will benefit both students and institutions with a smooth and digital payment experience.

- It also simplifies the compliance procedure for the Reserve Bank of India's (RBIs) Liberalised Remittance Scheme (**LRS**), which allows NRIs to transmit up to USD 2.5 lakh overseas per fiscal year.

ii. HDFC Bank works directly with Flywire's platform, giving Indian students a fully digital checkout experience, including application fees to tuition payments.

- Students can pay in **Indian rupees** and the institutions that are accepting payments through Flywire will receive payments in local currency.

iii. Both HDFC Bank and Flywire will have full transparency into the transaction history, which eases their reconciliation processes and also streamlines operational efficiencies.

Note – According to the **2022 Open Doors Report**, around **2 lakh** Indian students studied in the United States (US) during the academic year 2021-2022, which is a 19 percent increase compared to the previous year.

SEBI frames guidelines for AIFs for Declaring First Close of a Scheme

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued guidelines for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) for declaration of first close, calculation of tenure and change of sponsor/manager or change in control of sponsor/manager by amending the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.

- These guideline came into force w.e.f. November 17, 2022.

Key Points:

- i.As per it, first Close of a scheme should be declared not later than 12 months from the date of SEBI communication for taking the Private Placement Memorandum (PPM) of the scheme on record.
- ii.In the case of open-ended schemes of Category III AIFs, the first close would refer to the close of their Initial Offer Period
- iii.With respect to fee, it should be paid within 15 days of effecting the proposed change in manager/sponsor or change in control of manager/sponsor.
- iv.This information by SEBI is provided in exercise of its powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992

[Click Here for Official Notification](#)

OECD Economic Outlook, November 2022: World economy to grow just 2.2% in 2023

As per the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimations in its '**OECD Economic Outlook, November 2022- Confronting the Crisis**', the world economy will grow just 3.1% in 2022, down from a robust 5.9% in 2021.

- This growth will worsen in 2023 to just 2.2%.
- This is due to the high interest rates, inflation, and Russia-Ukraine War.

Key Points:

- i.The United States (US), the world's largest economy, to grow just 1.8% this year (down drastically from 5.9% in 2021, 0.5% in 2023 and 1% in 2024.
- ii.The region of Asia will account for three-quarters of world growth in 2023.
 - India's economy is expected to grow 6.6% in 2022 and 5.7% in 2023 and 6.9% in 2024.
- iii.The OECD's forecast for the 19 European countries is 0.5% growth in 2023 before accelerating to 1.4% in 2024.
- iv.Inflation will remain high in 2023 to 6.6%.
- v.Headquartered in Paris, France, OECD promotes international trade and prosperity and issues periodic reports and analyses.
 - Its Secretary-General is **Mathias Cormann**.

LIC increases Stake in Tech Mahindra to 6.874%

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has increased its stake in Tech Mahindra Limited, a part of Mahindra Group to **6.874%**. Previously LIC held 4.863% of the paid-up capital in Tech Mahindra.

Key Points:

- i. LIC has increased its shareholding in Tech Mahindra from 4,73,44,343 to 6,69,25,392 equity shares (4.864% to 6.874%)
- ii. Between November 30, 2021, and November 21, 2022, LIC purchased 1,95,81,049 shares (2.011% equity) at an average cost of Rs 1,042.24 through open market purchases.

About Tech Mahindra:

- i. Tech Mahindra Limited provides various IT services like IT-enabled service, application development and maintenance, consulting, and enterprise business solutions.
- ii. It is focused on strengthening next-generation technologies, such as 5G, blockchain, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence(AI), and more to provide an end-to-end digital transformation for international customers.

Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer- C P Gurnani

Headquarters- Pune, Maharashtra

Establishment- 1986

LIC trims its stake in major listed companies in Q2FY23:

LIC offloaded shares in major listed companies in Q2 FY23, including Maruti Suzuki India, Bajaj Auto Ltd, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M), and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.

i. LIC reduced its ownership of **Maruti Suzuki India** from 4.86% to 3.43% during the second quarter (Q2) of FY23 by selling 4.3 million shares.

ii. LIC decreased its ownership of **Bajaj Auto Ltd** from 7.203% (the company's paid-up capital) to 5.20% and decreased its ownership of this auto company by 2.003%.

iii. It offloaded a 1.11% stake in **Sun Pharmaceutical Industries** to 4.38%.

iv. LIC's holding in **Mahindra & Mahindra** was trimmed from 8.43% to 6.42%, and in **Power Grid Corporation** from 4.99% to 3.40%.

Note: With effect from 23rd November 2022, LIC India has withdrawn its term insurance plans, **Jeevan Amar** and **Tech Term**.

About Life Insurance Corporation (LIC):

Chairperson- Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Establishment- 1956

Note: LIC has been providing life insurance in India for more than 65 years and is the largest life insurer in the country.

IDFC FIRST Bank Launches FIRSTAP, India's 1st Sticker-based Debit Card

On 23rd November 2022, **IDFC FIRST Bank** in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) launched **FIRSTAP**, India's first sticker-based debit card, to facilitate transactions by tapping the sticker on a Near Field Communication (NFC) enabled point-of-sale (PoS) terminal.

- This sticker-based debit card is **one-third** smaller compared to the regular debit card and can also be affixed on any surface of customers choice including cell phones wallets, Identity cards, watches and rings.

Features:

i. The debit card has a complimentary personal accidental cover, round-the-clock concierge services, and a variety of RuPay offers.

ii. The card can be used to tap and pay in restaurants, stores and such other places.

- The tap and pay option in the card is applicable for transactions up to Rs. 5,000, whereas above Rs. 5,000 requires a tap and PIN to proceed on payments.

About IDFC FIRST Bank:

IDFC FIRST Bank was formed by the merger of erstwhile IDFC Bank and Capital First, a Non Banking financial Company (NBFC) on 18th December 2018.

MD & CEO – V. Vaidyanathan

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Canara Bank Partners with NeSL to Launch Electronic Bank Guarantee

Canara Bank in partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (**NeSL**) launched an Electronic Bank Guarantee (**e-BG**) on its **117th Founder's day**, celebrated on 19th November 2022.

Highlights:

i. The new e-BG platform offers several advantages including greater transparency, better monitoring triggers, secured transmission of BG to beneficiary which shall lead to a higher degree of compliance.

ii. With this launch, Canara Bank now offers an API based digital workflow of BG which will eliminate physical issuance, stamping, verification and paper-based record maintenance of BGs.

- This paves way to augment integration of the Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) framework into Business.

Note – As on 31st March 2022 (FY22), Canara Bank has **ranked No 1** under the Digital Payment performance by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and has recently, launched **Canara ai1**, mobile banking superapp with the vision of ‘One Bank, One App’.

About Canara Bank:

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO) – L V Prabhakar

Headquarters – Bengaluru, Karnataka

Establishment – 1906

GSTN included in FIP list under Account Aggregator framework

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has included **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)** in the list of Financial Information Providers (FIPs) under the Account Aggregator (AA) Framework. This decision has been taken to facilitate cash flow-based lending to MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises).

Key Points:

- i. For this purpose, GSTN will be regulated by the **Department of Revenue**, Ministry of Finance.
- ii. The financial information will be Goods and Services Tax (GST) Returns, viz. Form GSTR-1 and Form GSTR-3B,
- iii. GSTN has 1.40 crore registered taxpayers.
- iv. As per the latest data, around 2.47 million cumulative accounts have been linked to the AA network while 2.5 million cumulative counts of consent request have been successfully fulfilled.

What is AA?

Launched in September 2021, it is a type of RBI-regulated entity with an NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company)-AA license that enable instant exchange of financial data between FIP (Financial Information Provider) and FIUs (Financial Information User) with the customer’s consent. Their service is related to transfer but not storing of a customer’s data.

- So far, there are six AAs in India with operating licenses and nine AAs with in-principle approval from RBI. [Click Here for the List](#)
- FIPs include banks, non-banking financial companies, asset management companies, depository, depository participants, insurance companies, and pension funds.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Governor– Shaktikanta Das

Deputy Governors– Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T. Rabi Sankar

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Establishment– 1st April 1935

Federal Bank Ties Up with JCB India to Finance Heavy Equipment Buyers

Federal Bank, a private sector lender, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **JCB India**, a leading manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment, to finance prospective buyers of heavy construction equipment and expand its loan portfolio.

- According to the agreement, Federal Bank will be the preferred financial partner of JCB India, and customers of JCB India can obtain loans from the lender at competitive interest rates.

Note:

- Shyam Srinivasan is the Managing Director (MD) and CEO of Federal Bank.
- Deepak Shetty is the MD & CEO of JCB India.

FDI Equity Inflows declines by 14% during H1FY23 to USD26.9bn: DPIIT

As per the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India declined by 14% to USD 26.9 billion (bn) during the April-September FY23 (H1FY23) from USD 31.15 bn during H1FY22.

- The total FDI inflows, which include equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital, also declined to USD 38.9bn in H1FY23 by 9.1% as against USD 42.86bn in H1FY22.
- DPIIT works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

Key Points:

i. In rupee terms, the FDI equity inflows dipped by 9% to Rs 2.1 trillion in H1FY23 from Rs 2.29 trillion in H1FY22.

- In the Q1FY23, FDI equity inflows into India contracted by 6 % to \$16.59 bn as compared to \$17.56 bn during Q1FY22.

ii. **Singapore** is the top investor in India with USD 10 bn FDI in H1FY23.

- It is followed by Mauritius (USD 3.32 bn), UAE (USD 2.95 bn), USA (USD 2.6 bn), the Netherlands (USD 1.76 bn), and Japan (USD 1.18 bn).

iii. The **computer software and hardware sector** attracted the highest inflows of USD 6.3 billion in H1FY23.

- It was followed by services (USD 4.16 bn), trading (USD 3.28 bn), chemicals (USD 1.3 bn), automobile industry (USD 932 mn) and construction (infrastructure) activities (USD 990 mn).

S&P Global Market Intelligence Report: India's GDP Growth May Average 6.3% Between 2021 And 2030

According to the Outlook for India's Economic Growth and Policy Platforms, a report by the **S&P Global Market Intelligence**, India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to average **6.3%** annually in FY 2021–30.

- As a result, India will surpass Japan and Germany to become the world's third-largest economy (in nominal USD terms).

Note: S&P Global Market Intelligence is a world-leading provider of financial information services.

Key Highlights from The Report:

i. Indian households are expected to spend the most among the G20 nations, with real income per capita projected to grow by a significant average of 5.3%.

ii. According to the report, the Government of India (GoI) is very likely reliant on **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** schemes to make the Indian economy more export-driven and interlinked in global supply chains.

iii. India's share of manufacturing in GDP has decreased from 17% in FY 2009 to 14% in FY 2021 and it has struggled to expand its manufacturing exports on the global market.

iv. The GoI is promoting "**National Champions**"—a few India-based conglomerates that the government wants to position as competitors to companies from mainland China, Europe, Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

About the S&P Global (Formerly McGraw Hill Financial):

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Douglas L. Peterson

Established – 2016

Headquarters – New York, United States

ICICI Bank, Axis Bank & SBI Life Insurance to Acquire 10% Stake Each in JV of IOCL, CPCL

ICICI Bank Limited, Axis Bank Limited and SBI Life Insurance Company Limited have signed an agreement for a Joint Venture (JV) Company of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) for implementing a 9 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum (MMPA) refinery at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu.

Note: The Refinery will produce petroleum products including Motor Spirit (MS) (Petrol), High-Speed Diesel(HSD), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), etc. and petrochemical products such as polypropylene.

About the acquisition:

i.ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and SBI Life Insurance have acquired 10% each, through the acquisition of 5000 equity shares of face value Rs 10 each, for a cash consideration of Rs 50000.

ii.The acquisition will be completed within 180 days from the date of the joint venture agreement.

Key Points:

i.IOCL and CPCL will hold a 50% equity stake (25% each) in the joint venture and the remaining stake will be held by the other JV partners.

ii.The JV is initially proposed to be incorporated through seed capital of Rs 5 lakhs, in which the Acquirers, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and SBI Life Insurance, will subscribe 10% each of the total paid-up capital of the Target entity.

- The Acquirers do not have any obligation to fund the future equity requirement of the Project, beyond the initial seed capital contribution of Rs. 50,000.

UR for Persons of 15 years and above in Urban Areas declined to 7.2% in July-September 2022: 16th PLFS by NSO

The **16th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** was released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). As per it, India's unemployment rate (UR) for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas declined to 7.2% during July-September 2022 from 9.8% July-September 2021.

- This decline is driven by improved labour force participation ratio.
- UR was high in 2021 due to the impact of Covid-19 related restrictions in India.

Key Figures representing Persons of 15 years and above in Urban Areas:

i.UR for persons in April-June 2022 was 7.6%.

ii.UR among females declined to 9.4% in July-September, 2022 from 11.6% in July-September, 2021.

- It was 9.5% in April-June, 2022.

iii.UR males dipped to 6.6% in July-September 2022 compared to 9.3% in July-September, 2021.

- It was 7.1% in April-June 2022.

iv.Labour force participation rate (LFPR) in CWS (Current Weekly Status) increased to 47.9% in the July-September 2022 from 46.9% in July-September, 2021.

- It was 47.5% in April-June 2022.

v.The Worker-to-Population Ratio (WPR) saw a marginal increase of 0.6 percentage points sequentially to 44.5% in Q2.

About Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):

It was launched in 2017 by NSO. On the basis of PLFS, a quarterly bulletin is brought out giving estimates of labour force indicators namely UR, WPR, LFPR, distribution of workers by broad status in employment, and industry of work in CWS.

Key Definitions:

UR: It is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons among the labour force.

LFPR: It is defined as the percentage of persons in labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.

WPR: It is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.

CWS: The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.

Interest subvention on KCC Crop Loan to continue in FY23, FY24: RBI

On November 23, 2022, Government of India approved the continuation of the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) with modification for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24.

What are the modifications for 2022-23 and 2023-24?

- i.**The applicable lending rate to farmers will be 7% and the rate of interest subvention to lending institutions will be 1.5%.
- ii.**The interest subvention will be calculated on the loan amount from the date of disbursement up to the date of actual repayment of the loan by the farmer or up to the due date of the loan fixed by the banks, whichever is earlier, subject to a maximum period of one year.
- iii.**An additional interest subvention of **3% per annum** will be provided to the farmers repaying in time, subject to a maximum period of one year from the date of disbursement.
- iv.**Also, farmers repaying promptly will get short-term crop loans and/or short-term loans for allied activities at 4% per annum.
- v.**To ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers, Aadhar linkage will continue to be mandatory for availing the short-term loans.

[Click Here for Official Notification](#)

What is Interest Subvention?

i.It is grant of money by the government for subsidizing the interest on a loan. The government offers interest subvention mostly on home, crop and education loans.

- It is provided to lending institutions, viz. public sector banks and private sector banks, small finance banks, and computerised primary agriculture cooperative societies.

ii.In August 2022, the Union Government approved the interest subvention for 2022-23 to 2024-25 for lending short-term agri-loans is up to **Rs 3 lakh** to the farmers.

What is Kisan Credit Card Scheme?

Initiated in 1998, KCC scheme issues KCC to farmers on the basis of their holdings. It aims at providing adequate and timely credit support to farmers from the banking system for their cultivation and other needs through a single window.

In A First, Eversource Capital-Backed Ecofy Gets NBFC Licence from RBI

In an industry first step, Eversource Capital – promoted Accretive Cleantech Finance Private Ltd., doing business as “Ecofy,” has obtained regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a non-deposit-taking **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**.

- This qualifies Ecofy as a one-of-a-kind green-only retail NBFC in India.

Ecofy

i.Ecofy, based in Mumbai (Maharashtra) works with people and businesses who wish to reduce their carbon footprint and restore the Earth’s equilibrium.

- It is promoted by Eversource Capital, an equal joint venture between LightsourceBP and Everstone Group.
- Rajashree Nambiar is the Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ecofy.
- Govind Sankaranarayanan is the Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Ecofy.

ii.Eversource manages India’s largest climate impact fund, the Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF).

Key Points:

i.Ecofy will provide loans to individuals and small enterprises in order to speed up the transition to a zero-carbon world.

- Offerings from Ecofy include all aspects of green needs, including loans, leases, insurance, warranties, and buybacks.

ii.The company will provide financial support for green asset classes such as electric vehicles (EVs) (2 and 3-wheelers), rooftop solar and energy-efficiency Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)

i. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), also known as Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFIs), are financial institutions that provide a range of banking services but lack a banking licence.

- These entities are not permitted to provide financial services and products similar to banks.

ii. An NBFC is a company registered under the Companies Act of 1956 or 2013. The RBI issues NBFC licenses to these companies with.

- To register as an NBFC with the RBI, a company must have a minimum of Rs. 200 lakh in net owned funds (NOF).

iii. It operates a variety of non-banking businesses, including hire-purchase, leasing, microfinance, chit funds, gold loans, etc.

Absolute Launches DIY crop insurance 'Digifasal'

Absolute, a plant biosciences company, has launched '**Digifasal**', a do-it-yourself (DIY) crop insurance product, in partnership with DigiSafe Insurance. The product will be introduced on Absolute's **Upaj**, World's First Universal AgCloud ecosystem.

- Upaj provides a **one-stop solution** to a million farmers at every stage of crop production with services including soil testing, advisory. With the launch of DigiFasal, Upaj will now offer crop insurance services.
- With this partnership, Absolute has leveraged DigiSafe's InsureTech capabilities to boost insurance penetration across India.

About 'Digifasal':

i. The product has been developed by over 100 Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) engineers with extensive research for almost 7 years.

ii. This will complement the existing insurance schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana (PMFBY) and provide solutions through affordable insurance options to farmers.

iii. The farmers can choose the insurance product according to their affordability from among several insurers available at their respective pincodes.

Fact - India has lost about 69 million hectares of crop area in the past six years due to adverse climatic conditions.

About Absolute:

Headquarters - Bengaluru, Karnataka

Establishment - 2015

Honda Cars India Signs MoU with IDBI Bank to Offer Finance Schemes

Honda Cars India Limited (**HCIL**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **IDBI Bank** to offer finance schemes, which aims to assist and provide customers with hassle-free affordable financing options and schemes for **purchasing Honda Car models**.

- The benefits under the partnership include attractive interest rates, minimum processing charges, maximum loan amount and maximum repayment period.

Sany India Signs MoU with Union Bank of India for Equipment Financing

Sany Heavy Industry India Pvt. Ltd. (Sany India) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **Union Bank of India** to make equipment financing an easy, efficient, and simple process.

- The MoU was signed by **Dheeraj Panda**, Chief Operating Officer of Sany India and C.M. Minocha, Chief General Manager, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Union Bank of India in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- According to the MoU, Union Bank's nationwide network will offer Sany Bharat customers equipment financing, which should improve and expand the Bank's equipment finance portfolio.

Note: Union Bank of India has opened funding for the retail and construction Equipment Sector from a Rs 10 lakhs loan to Rs. 50 Crores.

Punjab National Bank gets Govt Approval to Dilute Stake in UTI Mutual Fund

Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's 2nd largest public sector bank, has received approval from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of India (GoI), to sell all or a portion of its stake in UTI Asset Management Company Limited (UTI AMC), India's oldest mutual fund company.

- PNB is set to divest its entire stake, 15.22%, in UTI AMC, in single or multiple tranches to gain on investment. Its current valuation is around Rs 1329 crore.

Key Highlights:

i. In addition to PNB, State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation, Bank of Baroda and US-based T Rowe Price are the other sponsors of UTI AMC.

- Together, the four sponsors own 45.16% of the asset management company.

ii. For the quarter from July to September, the private lender recorded a 62.8% decline in net profit to Rs 411.3 crore, which compares to a net profit of Rs 1,105.2 crore during the same period in 2021.

iii. PNB's net interest income (NII) grew by **30.2%** to Rs 8,271 crore in the quarter under review from Rs 6,352.8 crore a year ago.

iv. On 24th November 2022, shares of PNB settled at Rs 50.80 apiece, up 0.89% on the NSE (National Stock Exchange).

About the Punjab National Bank (PNB):

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Atul Kumar Goel

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Establishment- 1894

About the UTI Asset Management Company Limited (UTI AMC):

Director- Narasimhan Seshadri

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Incorporated in- 2002

PhonePe to Acquire ZestMoney, Pegged at USD 200 mn- USD 300 mn

PhonePe, a digital payments and financial services provider is in talks to acquire bangalore-based buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) fintech startup ZestMoney, for an amount pegged at **USD 200 million-USD 300 million**. After the acquisition, ZestMoney will continue to operate as a separate entity with the Zest brand.

Maharashtra Govt Signs MoU with Women's World Banking to Strengthen BC Sakhi Program

Government of Maharashtra signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States (US)-based Women's World Banking, to operationalise and strengthen 5,000 women of self help groups (SHGs) to become business correspondents (**BC Sakhis**) supporting banking services in rural areas.

- Women's World Banking is a global non-profit organisation with funding support from MetLife Foundation. It works for inclusive finance for low income women across the world.

ABout BC Sakhis:

In August 2021, Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) partnered to launch the BC Sakhi Initiative to promote digital banking through a banking correspondent.

Key highlights:

i. Under the arrangement, Women's World Banking will provide technical and policy advisory support to UMED- Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission to operationalise the BC sakhis.

ii. This will include identification, recruitment, training, mentoring, and supervision framework to make them

bank-ready as well as serve as a liaison between financial institutions and corporate BCs.

iii. In the **first phase**, UMED will scale this program to 15,000 BC Sakhis and by 2025-2026, a total of 25,000 will be scaled.

About Women's World Banking:

President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Mary Ellen Iskenderian

Headquarters – New York, United States (US)

VA Tech Wabag Signs Agreement with ADB to raise Rs 200 crore Investment

On 25th November 2022 **VA Tech Wabag Limited**, a water technology player, signed an agreement with Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) to raise Rs 200 crore through unlisted non-convertible debentures (**NCDs**) with a 5-year and 3-month tenor.

- This NCD will be subscribed by ADB over a **12-month period**.
- This investment is ADB's **first private sector financing** in India's water sector.

Key highlights:

i. The Rs. 200 crore will be used towards working capital requirements of Wabag and will be within the current borrowing limits, which does not increase the debt levels of the Wabag.

ii. ADB's investment helps to crowd in urgently needed international and domestic financing for the sector to ease water stress as demand increases,

About VA Tech Wabag Limited:

The VA Tech Wabag Limited offers a complete range of technologies and services for total water solutions in both municipal and industrial sectors.

Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) – Rajiv Mittal

Headquarters – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

SEBI Releases Uniform Format for OTC Trades in Non-Convertible Securities

The 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**).

- The new regulations will enter into force on January 1, 2023.

Backdrop

i. According to SEBI, stock exchanges are given inaccurate and incomplete information from investors regarding OTC trading in listed NCS.

- As a result, incorrect and distorted information is displayed on the websites of the exchanges.

ii. In order to address the issue, SEBI has mandated that all OTC trades must be reported in a uniform format.

Over-The-Counter (OTC)

i. OTC trades are usually performed between two market entities without others being aware of the price at which the transaction was completed.

ii. The format mandates the disclosure of deal type (brokered or direct), ISIN, listed or unlisted securities, issuer name, coupon rate, issue description, traded price, traded yield, trade date and time, settlement date, settlement status, and reported trade conducted on the RFQ (Request for Quote) platform.

iii. SEBI has ordered stock exchanges to check compliance with the guidelines and report any discrepancies in investor reporting of OTC trades on a regular basis.

[Click here for official circular in this regard.](#)

SEBI Amends Buying, Selling of Mutual Funds Under Insider Trading Rules

SEBI has amended the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading)**

Regulations, 2015, to include the buying and selling of mutual fund units within the scope of insider trading rules.

- The new regulations may be called the [Securities and Exchange Board of India \(Prohibition of Insider Trading\) \(Amendment\) Regulations, 2022](#).
- The new norms became effective on November 24, 2022.

Backdrop

i. SEBI's new ruling comes in the wake of the **Franklin Templeton incident**, in which the fund house's few executives were accused of redeeming their holdings in the schemes before the six debt schemes' redemption deadlines.

ii. Currently, insider trading rules apply to dealing in securities of publicly traded companies or those going to be listed when in possession of **Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI)**.

- Mutual fund units are specifically excluded from the definition of securities under the rules.

Key Points:

i. **Asset Management Companies (AMCs)** will be required to disclose information about holdings in the units of its mutual fund schemes held by the AMC, trustees, and their immediate families on the platforms of stock exchanges on an aggregate basis.

ii. According to the provisions of the existing insider trading rules, SEBI has also developed a minimum code of conduct for designated persons.

iii. The compliance officer of the AMC would decide the closure period, during which a designated person may not transact in mutual fund units.

SEBI Allows Issuers of Municipal Debt Securities to Issue Green Bonds

SEBI announced that **municipal debt securities issuers** can now **issue green bonds** in accordance with the guidelines for issuing and listing non-convertible debentures.

- The action aims to promote the development and regulation of the securities market while protecting the interests of investors in securities.

This circular is effective immediately under the **SEBI (Issue and Listing of Municipal Debt Securities) Regulations, 2015**.

Key Points:

i. The term "green debt security" is not defined under the Listing of Municipal Debt Securities Regulations (ILMDS) rules.

- However, green debt securities are defined by SEBI's (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) or Non-Convertible Securities (NCS) guidelines.

ii. As a result, an issuer under the ILMDS Regulations may issue a green debt security if it satisfies the definition of "green debt security", as per NCS Regulations.

- Such issuers must adhere to the green debt security provisions outlined in the NCS rules in addition to the criteria outlined in the ILMDS rules.

Green Bonds

Green bonds are similar to other types of bonds through which an issuer issues a debt instrument to raise funds from investors.

- The distinction between a green bond and regular bonds is that the proceeds of a green bond offering are "designated" for use in financing "**green**" projects.

[Click here for official circular in this regard.](#)

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

Chairperson- Madhabi Puri Buch

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Establishment- 1992

Indian Overseas Bank signs an Agreement with SMC Global

On 23rd November 2022, the Public sector Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) signed an agreement with broking partner SMC Global Securities Limited to open a 3-in-1 account (SB, demat account and trading account).

- According to the agreement, the savings bank (SB) and demat account of the clients will be with IOB while the trading account will be with SMC Global.
- SMC Global has provided a new brokerage plan for its clients through the bank as part of the expansion of services in addition to the current full-service brokerage plan.

After Paytm, Meesho joins ONDC to connect buyers with Hyperlocal Sellers

On 23rd November 2022, **Meesho**, an E-commerce platform, announced its integration with the government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) to help connect buyers with Hyperlocal Sellers.

- Small businesses can sell their products and services to customers all across India through the ONDC network, which is built on an open protocol and serves the mobility, groceries, food order and delivery, hotel booking, and travel sectors, among others.
- Meesho has become the **4th** unicorn to join the network after Paytm, Dunzo and Shiprocket.
- Meesho is set to launch its pilot on ONDC in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Note: Unicorns are privately held startups valued at USD 1 billion or more.

IRDAI approves Amendments, Simplifies Rules to set up Insurance Firms

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the amendments to rules registering insurance companies and investing in them.

- This decision has been taken to promote ease of doing business and to simplify the process of setting up an insurance company in India.
- It aims to enable policyholders, insurers and merchants to provide 'insurance for everyone by 2047'.

What are the amendments?

i.A Private equity (PE) funds can now directly put in money in insurance companies, and investment by them through special purpose vehicles (SPVs) has been made optional.

- Currently, to invest in insurance companies as promoter, a PE fund can do so only through an SPV. However, if the PE fund is investing in an insurance company as investor, it can do so directly or through an SPV.

ii.Now, corporate agents, including banks, will be allowed to tie up with **9 insurers** (up from three), and insurance marketing firms can distribute products of **6 insurers** (up from two) in each line of Life, General, and Health insurance.

iii.No prior approval is needed by Insurance companies to raise capital in the form of subordinated debt and preference shares.

iv.A single investor taking 25% in an insurance company will be classified as investor and any investment more than that will make it a promoter.

- Currently, the threshold for being promoter as a single investor is more than 10%.

v.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.

- Earlier, promoters were required to hold on to a 50% stake if it was more than that.

vi.The solvency ratio was reduced from 0.80% to 0.60% for unit-linked plans of life insurers and from 0.10% to 0.05% for Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY).

About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

Chairperson – Debasish Panda

Headquarters – Hyderabad, Telangana

Establishment – 1999 (Incorporated on 1st April 2000)

Indore Plans India's First Retail Municipal Bond for Solar Plant

The **Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC)** in Madhya Pradesh (MP) is planning to issue **India's first municipal green bond** (local government bond), aimed at retail investors, with the revenues going toward funding a solar power plant.

It plans to sell 10-year bond in December 2022 in order to raise up to Rs. 2.6 billion (USD 31.8 million).

Note: Indore in MP is a city in India with a strong environmental record.

Key Points:

- i. The issuer, IMC, has designated A.K. Capital Services Ltd. and SBI Capital Markets Ltd. as lead managers for the offering.
- ii. The 60-megawatt (MW) solar power plant will be built near Indore for Rs. 3 billion.
 - It will help the city save up to Rs. 250 million each month on its electricity bill.
- iii. The green debt sale comes at a time when the World Bank (WB) estimates that India, Asia's third-largest economy, will need to invest USD 840 billion in urban infrastructure over the next 15 years to meet demand from a rapidly rising urban population.
- iv. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also urged local governments that rely significantly on bank loans or government grants to consider issuing municipal bonds to meet their funding needs.

About Madhya Pradesh (MP):

Chief Minister (CM) – Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor – Mangubhai Patel

National Parks – Dinosaur Fossil National Park; Van Vihar National Park

Wildlife Sanctuary – Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary; Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary

RBI holds onboarding of Online Merchants by Paytm Payments Services

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked Paytm Payments Services Ltd's (PPSL), the wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm, to reapply for the authorization to provide payment aggregator (PA) services to online merchants. This means, PPSL has to resubmit the application within 120 calendar days for the PA services.

- In this regard, PPSL will not onboard new online merchants till the time approvals remain pending.
- However, PPSL can continue to do business with existing online merchants.

PPSL will seek necessary approval for past downward investment from One97 Communication Ltd (OCL) into it, to comply with FDI guidelines. OCL is the parent company of Paytm.

Background:

OCL had proposed to transfer the PA services business undertaken by it to PPSL in December 2020 to comply with the PA guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) but the banking regulator had rejected its application.

- The company had re-submitted the required documents in September 2021.

S&P Cuts India's Growth Forecast to 7 % for FY23

S&P Global Ratings (S&P) lowered its projection for India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the current fiscal year 2022-2023 (**FY23**) downward to **7%**, in its quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific.

- In September 2022, S&P forecasted the Indian economy to grow 7.3% in 2022-23 and 6.5% in next fiscal year (2023-24).
- S&P has also decreased its growth projection for 2023 from 6.5% to 6%.

Key Points:

- i. According to S&P, domestic demand-driven economies like India, Indonesia, and the Philippines will be less affected by the global slowdown.
- ii. India's **output** will increase by 7% in FY23 (ending in March 2023) and 6% in FY24.
- iii. It forecasted that **inflation** would average 6.8% in FY23 and that the benchmark interest rate set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would increase to 6.25% by March 2023.
- iv. The RBI has already hiked interest rates by 1.9% points to a 3-year high of 5.9% in order to offset price

hikes.

v. While Wholesale or **WPI** (Wholesale Price Index) inflation was at a 19-month low of 8.39% in October 2022, retail or **CPI** (Consumer Price Index) inflation dropped to a 3-month low of 6.7%.

vi. S&P predicted that the **exchange rate** will be Rs 79.50 to a USD by the end of March 2023, down from the current Rs 81.77 to a USD.

Other Agencies That Have Cut India's Growth Forecast:

i. The World Bank (WB) has reduced India's growth forecast by 100 basis points to 6.5%.

ii. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reduced its growth forecast for India from 7.4% to 6.8%.

iii. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decreased its forecast from 7.5% to 7%.

iv. The RBI projects 7% GDP growth in FY23.

v. According to Goldman Sachs Group Inc., GDP may grow by 5.9% in calendar year 2023, up from a projected 6.9% in 2022.

vi. Moody's Investors Service, a global rating agency, reduced India's GDP growth projection for 2022 from 7.7% to 7%.

IRDAI Approves MFSL Acquisition on Residual 5.17% Stake held by MSI in Max Life

Max Financial Services Limited (**MFSL**), received approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) to purchase the remaining **5.17% stake** held by Mitsui Sumitomo Company Limited (**MSI**) in Max Life Insurance Company Limited (**Max Life**).

- After this acquisition, MFSL shareholding in Max Life will increase to **87%**.

Key highlights:

i. Background – Earlier, MFSL held a 72.52% stake in Max Life and MSI had 25.48% stake and in December 2020, MFSL swapped 20.57% of the paid-up equity share capital in Max Life held by MSI to MFSL in exchange for 21.87% of issued and paid-up share capital of MFSL, through Share Swap Transaction.

ii. This transaction entails the purchase of 9.91 crore shares of Max Life at Rs. 85 per share by MFSL, as per the Put/Call option approved by the MFSL Board on 3rd March 2020 and also by its shareholders on 27th May 2020.

About Max Financial Services Limited (MFSL):

Max Financial Services Limited (MFS), is the holding company for Max Life, India's largest non-bank, private life insurance company.

Managing Director (MD) – Mohit Talwar

Headquarters – Noida, Uttar Pradesh

SEBI revises Framework for Approving Changes in Control of Stock Brokers

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revises framework for approving changes in control of stock brokers which will be effective from **December 1, 2022**.

- This decision has been taken to streamline the process of providing approval to the proposed change in control of the entities.
- This information by SEBI is provided in exercise of its powers conferred under section 11(1) of the SEBI Act, 1992, to protect the interests of investors, and to promote the development of the securities market.

Applicability of Framework:

Stock broker/clearing member, depository participant, investment adviser, research analyst or research entity, registrar to an issue and share transfer agent and KYC (Know Your Client) Registration Agencies (KRAs).

What are the provisions?

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

- An online application to SEBI is submitted through the SEBI Intermediary Portal ([SI Portal](#)).

- ii. The prior approval granted by SEBI will be valid for **6 months** from the date of approval.
- iii. The application should be accompanied by information/declaration/undertaking about itself, the acquirer/person as well as the director/partner of the acquirer/person who will have the control.
- iv. Among other information, the entity has to provide declaration that there will not be any change in the board of directors till the time prior approval is granted.
- v. The '**fit and proper person**' criteria should also be followed.
- vi. In case the entity is a registered stock broker, clearing member or a depository participant, then NOC (No Objection Certificate) is required from all relevant stock exchanges/clearing corporations/depositories.
- vii. In case of scheme of arrangements that need NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) approval, the application for the same should be filed with SEBI prior to filing the application with NCLT.
 - An in-principle approval will be given for **3 months**.
 - Within 15 days from the date of the NCLT's order, the intermediary should submit an online application for SEBI's final approval.

[Click Here for Official Notification](#)

SEBI Reconstructs its Advisory Panels on FPIs, Social Stock Exchange & takeover code

Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**), capital markets regulator has restructured its **advisory committees** pertaining to foreign portfolio investors (**FPIs**) and **social stock exchange**.

FPI Advisory Committee panel:

- i. Former finance secretary **Hasmukh Adhia** will now chair the 16-member FPI Advisory Committee panel, which was earlier headed by K V Subramanian, former chief economic adviser to the government of India (GoI).
- ii. **New appointments** – **Chew Hai Jong**, Managing Director at GIC, and **Michael Drumgoole**, Managing Director – Direct Custody and Clearing at JPMorgan, are the new inductees to FPI advisory committee.
- iii. **Significance** – The committee will advise the capital markets regulator on measures to facilitate ease of doing business by FPIs in India and also encourage their participation in the bond market.
 - It also reviews investment avenues that are available for FPIs and advise on feasibility of new investment avenues.
 - The panel is required to recommend measures for simplification of FPI regulations and to advise on custodian-related matters pertaining to such foreign investors.

Social stock exchange panel:

- i. **R Balasubramaniam**, chairman of Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM) will now head the **18-member committee**, which was earlier chaired by Ishaat Hussain, Director at SBI Foundation and former Finance Director at Tata Sons.
- ii. **Other appointees** – SEBI has inducted **Anil Kumar SG**, Founder & CEO, Samunnati Financial Intermediation & Services; **Santosh Jayaraman** Global Head – 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.
- iii. **Significance** – The panel is responsible for advising SEBI on the issues pertaining to regulatory framework for social enterprises and suggests on the matters to be taken up for changes in legal framework for simplification and transparency in systems governing such social enterprises.
 - In July 2022, SEBI notified a framework for the social stock exchange to provide social enterprises with an additional avenue to raise funds.

Committee on Review of Takeover Regulations

Sebi also forms a 20-member committee on Review of Takeover Regulations headed by retired Justice **Shiavax Jal Vazifdar**. It will have representation from industry bodies CII, Ficci and AIBI, along with stock exchanges and law firms.

Need to add the above point

About Securities and Exchange of India (SEBI):

Chairperson – Madhabi Puri Buch

Establishment – 1992

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

TMBL Inks Bancassurance Pacts with Chola MS General & Max Life

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMBL) has entered into bancassurance partnerships with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited (**Chola MS General**) and Max Life Insurance Company (**Max Life**).

- TMBL has partnered with Chola MS for the purpose of marketing, distribution & selling general insurance products.
- TMBL has partnered with Max Life to offer life insurance offerings to TMB's customers.

Note:

i. With this partnership with Chola MS and Max Life, the total number of TMB's bancassurance partnerships has become 4.

ii. The other 2 bancassurance partners of TMBL are Life Insurance Corporation of India and United India Insurance Company Limited.

Key highlights:

i. Under the partnership, TMB's 500-plus branches will start retailing the insurance products of both Chola MS General and Max Life.

ii. TMB will also work with the insurance partners to offer tailor-made products for its customers in future.

About Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMBL):

TMBL, initially known as "The Nadar Bank limited", became the Scheduled Bank under the Reserve Bank of India Act in May 1935 and the name was changed to Tamilnad Mercantile Bank in 1962.

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – S Krishnan

Headquarters – Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu

Tagline – Be a step ahead of Life

Star Health Launches Policy for Outpatient Expenses with 1-Year Term

Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd, a stand-alone health insurance firm, has announced the launch of its "[Star Outpatient Care Insurance Policy](#)," which intends to provide clients with comprehensive health and wellness benefits at an affordable cost.

Aim: To bridge the gap between inpatient hospitalization expenses, which are covered by health insurance, and outpatient charges.

Key Features of Star Out Patient Care Insurance Policy

i. Star Out Patient Care Insurance Policy is a stand-alone policy that gives access to doctors, clinics, and diagnostic centres throughout India.

- The policy is offered on an individual or floater basis, and all claims processing will be done digitally.

ii. On a cashless basis, the policyholder is entitled to unlimited virtual teleconsultations, unlimited in-clinic consultations, pharmacy expenses, and diagnostic tests up to the sum insured in any networked facility.

iii. Eligibility

- Adults between 18 years and 50 years
- Dependent children: 31 days to 25 years (who are economically dependent on their parents)
- Dependent children will be covered if any one of the parent is insured with the company
- Family Size up to 6 members

Policy Term: 1 year

Sum Insured (SI) Basis: Individual and Floater Basis

Plans Offered: Silver, Gold and Platinum

Sum Insured Options: Rs. 25,000; Rs. 50,000; Rs. 75,000; Rs. 1,00,000

iv. 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:

Chairman & CEO – Mr.V.Jagannathan

Headquarters – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Commencing Operations – 2006 (as India's first Standalone Health Insurance provider)

SBI board approves Infrastructure Bonds worth Rs 10,000 crore

State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, approved raising **Rs 10,000 crore** through infrastructure bonds during the financial year 2023 (FY23) including a greenshoe option of **Rs 5,000 crore**.

- According to Dinesh Kumar Khara, chairman of SBI, despite higher loan growth, the lender is expected to maintain its asset quality.
- Gross non-performing assets (NPA) for SBI decreased to 3.52% in the July-September quarter from 3.91% in Q1FY23 and 4.92% in Q2FY22.
- Similarly, net NPA has dropped to 0.8% in September 2022 quarter from 1% in June 2022 quarter and 1.52% in September 2021 quarter.
- Additionally, from July to September 2022, the bank saw a 19.93% year-over-year increase in credit.

Kotak Mahindra Bank & Actyv.ai Partners to Provide Dealer Finance

On 28th November 2022 Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (**KMBL**) partnered with **actyv.ai**, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered enterprise Software as a Service (**SaaS**) platform. KMBL will provide short-term finance under the '**Buy Now, Pay Later**' category for working capital needs of dealers. It would benefit business owners across the B2B (Business-to-Business) value chain with safe funding options on attractive interest rates, and supports cash flow requirements for their businesses.

SBI Ecowrap Report: GDP May Print at 5.8% In Q2 Due to Weak Manufacturing

The State Bank of India (SBI) Research Report, **Ecowrap**, has downgraded India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate for the second quarter (Q2: July-September) of financial year 2022-23 (FY23) to **5.8%** from 6.1%.

- The estimate is 30 basis points (bps) below average estimates due to a weak manufacturing sector and significant margin compression.

Key Points:

i. The operating profit of companies, excluding the banking and financial sectors, decreased by 14% in Q2 FY23 compared to 35% growth in Q2 FY22, although the top line grew at a rapid rate.

ii. When compared to Q2 FY22, net sales climbed by 28% but the bottom line declined by around 23%.

iii. Corporate margin is under pressure, as a result of rising input costs and declining operating margins, which fell from 17.7 % in Q1 FY22 to 10.9 % in Q2 FY23.

iv. It also forecasts full year growth (**FY23**) at **6.8%**, 20 bps lower than the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) forecast of 7%.

FY23 Real GDP Projections

FY23 Real GDP Projections		
	SBI	RBI
Q2	5.80%	6.30%
Q3	4.50%	4.60%
Q4	4.40%	4.60%
Annual	6.80%	7.00%

v. Based on monthly data, the SBI **Composite Leading Index (CLI)**, a basket of 41 leading indicators including features from almost all sectors, predicts declining economic activity from June 2022 to September 2022.

- With an upsurge in economic activity in October 2022, it forecasts turning points and uplifts the Q3 FY 23 GDP growth estimate.

[Click here for official report.](#)

LIC Decreases Stake in Bharat Bijlee to 4.54% of the Paid-up Capital

The shareholding of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 'Bharat Bijlee Limited' got diluted from around 3 lakh to 2 lakh Equity Shares, decreasing its shareholding from 6.695% to **4.54%** of the paid-up capital. Around 1.218 lakh shares were sold at an average price of Rs.1,693.96 between 19th November 2022 to 25th November 25, 2022.

Yes Bank Signs SPA to Acquire Additional 9.9% Stake in JC Flowers ARC

Yes Bank has acquired a **9.9% stake** representing 12,370,050 equity shares in JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) at Rs 11.43 per share.

- YES bank also plans to acquire an additional 10% shareholding in JC Flowers ARC, subject to requisite regulator approvals

Note: Prior Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval is required for the acquisition of 10% or more shareholding in ARC by a banking company. Prior approval should be obtained by ARC for including any entity as a sponsor of the ARC.

Key highlights:

i. Background – On 28th September 2022, Yes Bank signed a share subscription and purchase agreement with JCF ARC LLC and J.C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction along with a shareholders agreement with CF ARC LLC, JC Flowers ARC, and Emso Asset Management, to acquire a total of 19.9% of the equity share capital in JC Flowers ARC.

ii. Yes Bank intends to participate as a minority shareholder in JC Flowers ARC, in partnership with JC Flowers to participate in the business of asset reconstruction.

- As of 31 March, 2022, JC Flowers ARC had Rs 595 crore in assets under management with annual turnover of Rs 19.9 crore.

About YES Bank:

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Prashant Kumar

Establishment – 2004

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tagline – Experience Our Expertise

Banking, Finance & Economy Q&A: November 2022

1. What is the theme of World Savings Day 2022 that was observed across the globe on 31st October, 2022?

- 1) Saving prepares you for the Future
- 2) When you save a bit, big things follow
- 3) Understanding the importance of savings
- 4) Be Money Smart: Savings Give Life a Lift!
- 5) The spirit of saving

Answer- 1) Saving prepares you for the Future

Explanation:

World Savings Day, also known as World Thrift Day, 2022 was observed across the globe on **31st October 2022** with the theme of **“Saving prepares you for the Future”**.

i. WSD is being celebrated on 30th October in India. It was not observed on 31st of October in India, because the death anniversary of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is commemorated on same day.

2. Which of the following points are 'correct. with respect to the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), as of November 2022?

- A) RBI has commenced its first pilot project to implement CBDC or Digital Rupee (₹) in the Wholesale Segment (₹-W) for secondary trade in government securities (G-secs).**
- B) A CBDC is a digital version of currency notes issued by a central bank, classified as two types Retail (CBDC-R) & Wholesale (CBDC-W).**
- C) The RBI has designated 9 banks to participate in the digital rupee wholesale (₹-W) pilot project.**

- 1) Only A
- 2) Only B
- 3) Only A & B
- 4) Only B & C
- 5) All A, B & C

Answer- 5) All A, B & C

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has commenced its first pilot project to implement Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee (₹) in the Wholesale Segment (₹-W) for secondary trade in government securities (G-secs) beginning on November 1, 2022.

- The first pilot in the Digital Rupee – Retail segment (₹-R) is set to debut in a month
- i.** A Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee is a digital version of currency notes issued by a central bank. It is considered as a form of electronic money that may be used in contactless transactions.
- ii.** CBDC Can Be Classified into Two Types: Retail (CBDC-R): Retail CBDC would be potentially available for use by all & Wholesale (CBDC-W): Wholesale CBDC is designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.
- iii.** The RBI has designated 9 banks to participate in the digital rupee wholesale (₹-W) pilot project.
- The nine banks are State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Union Bank of India (UBI), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank, and HSBC.

3. Credit Card Base of major issuers has dropped during Q2FY23 (July-September 2022), over RBI's norm regarding deactivation of cards.

Which bank has the highest net reduction of 1.62 million credit cards in Q2FY23?

- 1) HDFC Bank
- 2) ICICI Bank
- 3) YES Bank
- 4) Axis Bank
- 5) State Bank of India

Answer- 1) HDFC Bank

Explanation:

On the lines of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) mandate of deactivation of cards that have been inactive for a year, there is a significant drop in the card base of credit card issuers during Q2FY23 (July-September 2022).

i. HDFC Bank saw the highest net reduction of 1.62 million credit cards in **Q2FY23**. Its cards-in-force dropped to 16.32 million from almost 18 million in July 2022, followed by Axis Bank

ii. ICICI Bank lost 409,147 cards. In September 2022 alone, it saw a net reduction of over 620,000 cards.

iii. On the other hand, SBI Cards gained during Q2FY23 with a net addition of 293,368 cards. It is because 95% of its portfolio is dominated by fee-based cards.

4. Name the bank that has recently (in Nov '22) partnered with Visa to launch two Premium Debit Cards for its High Networth Individual (HNI) customers.

- 1) Indian Bank
- 2) Canara Bank
- 3) Bank of Baroda
- 4) Union Bank of India
- 5) Bank of India

Answer- 3) Bank of Baroda

Explanation:

The Bank of Baroda (**BoB**) in collaboration with **Visa** launched the following **two new premium Debit Cards for BoB** customers:

- BoB World Opulence – a super-premium Visa Infinite Debit Card (Metal Edition)
- BoB World Sapphire – a Visa Signature Debit Card

i. These cards are designed for the Bank's High Networth Individual (HNI) customer segment along with the reward programs

ii. The debit cards were unveiled by Indian Badminton Player PV (Pusarla Venkata) Sindhu who is BoB's brand endorser.

5. In November 2022, India granted _____ to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to support the Palestine Refugees.

- 1) USD 1.2 million
- 2) USD 5.9 million
- 3) USD 3.4 million
- 4) USD 2.5 million
- 5) USD 4.9 million

Answer- 4) USD 2.5 million

Explanation:

India presented **USD 2.5 million**, the 2nd tranche of the total contribution of **USD 5 million** for the financial year 2022-2023, to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (**UNRWA**) to support the Palestine Refugees.

Note: Since 2018, India has contributed around USD 22.5 million to UNRWA.

6. Which insurance company has recently (in Nov '22) launched a first-of-its-kind Satellite Index-based Farm Yield Insurance Policy?

- 1) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- 2) Bharti AXA General Insurance
- 3) Edelweiss General Insurance
- 4) HDFC ERGO General Insurance
- 5) Future Generali India Insurance

Answer- 4) HDFC ERGO General Insurance

Explanation:

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company launched a farm Yield Insurance Policy which is first of its kind insurance solution, where a satellite-based index will be used to provide localized coverage at the farm level. This is completely technology based, meaning, no manual examination is required in the claim assessment of the crop.

i. Target Group: Farmers under Corporate/Farm Input Company (FIC)

7. Name the bank that has recently (in Nov '22) launched an app based foreign outward remittance service "Remit Money Abroad".

- 1) HDFC Bank
- 2) South Indian Bank
- 3) RBL Bank
- 4) Karnataka Bank
- 5) ICICI Bank

Answer- 2) South Indian Bank

Explanation:

South Indian Bank has launched a **foreign outward remittance** service "Remit Money Abroad" via its mobile banking application, '**SIB Mirror+**'.

i. The "SIB Mirror+" application allows Non-Resident External (NRE) and Resident savings bank account holders to perform foreign outward remittances.

ii. The service is also offered on its "SIBERNET" Internet banking platform.

8. Which company has recently (in Oct '22) partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to issue contactless credit cards on the RuPay network?

- 1) Jumio
- 2) Zagggle
- 3) Tracxn
- 4) AlphaSense
- 5) Riskified

Answer- 2) Zagggle

Explanation:

Zaggle and the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) have teamed up to issue contactless credit cards on the RuPay network.

- i. Zaggle is a Software as a Service (**SaaS**) **FinTech company** and a pioneer in digitising business spending.
- ii. Zaggle and NPCI, along with partner banks, intend to leverage this platform to offer a variety of credit cards to meet the ever-increasing demands of corporates, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and consumers.

9. For how many crores did the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) raise its stake by 2% in Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL), as of October 2022?

- 1) Rs 529.67 crore
- 2) Rs 189.24 crore
- 3) Rs 420.56 crore
- 4) Rs 257.37 crore
- 5) Rs 329.18 crore

Answer- **4) Rs 257.37 crore**

Explanation:

Between 10th June 2022 to 28th October 2022, Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) acquired around **2%** of stake in Capri Global Capital Limited (**CGCL**), a non-banking financial company (NBFC), at an investment of **Rs 257.37 crore**.

- i. The new shares were acquired at an average cost of Rs 724.74 apiece.
- ii. Therefore, LIC increased its stake in the company from 7.052% of its paid-up capital to 9.072%.

10. In October 2022, RBI imposed a penalty of ___ on LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the "The Housing Finance Companies (NHB) Directions, 2010".

- 1) Rs 2 lakh
- 2) Rs 5 lakh
- 3) Rs 3 lakh
- 4) Rs 6 lakh
- 5) Rs 1 lakh

Answer- **2) Rs 5 lakh**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) imposed a penalty of **Rs 5 lakh** on LIC Housing Finance Limited (**LIC HFL**) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the "The Housing Finance Companies (NHB) Directions, 2010" issued by the National Housing Bank (NHB) in on 2nd July 2018.

- i. It was imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 52A read with clause (aa) of sub-section (3) of section 49 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 (NHB Act).

11. Which of the following points are 'correct' with respect to the "Reinvigorating India's Economic Engagements with Southern Africa" report released in November 2022?

- A) The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), released the report with the key finding that India has emerged as a leading defence exporter in recent years.**
- B) India could be able to fulfill Africa's maritime, aerospace, and defence needs, with Mauritius, Mozambique, and the Seychelles becoming major buyers of Indian armaments during 2017 - 2021.**
- C) India was the 23rd largest exporter of defence supplies from 2017 to 2021, citing the SIPRI International Arms Transfer Database.**

- 1) Only A
- 2) Only A & B
- 3) Only B & C
- 4) Only A & C
- 5) All A, B & C

Answer- 5) All A, B & C

Explanation:

The Export-Import Bank of India (**India Exim Bank**), also known as EXIM Bank, released a research report titled "Reinvigorating India's Economic Engagements with Southern Africa" during the commencement of the CII-Exim Bank Regional Conclave on India-Southern Africa Growth Partnership in Johannesburg, South Africa.

- i.** According to the report, India has emerged as a leading defence exporter in recent years and could be able to fulfil Africa's maritime, aerospace, and defence needs, with Mauritius, Mozambique, and the Seychelles becoming major buyers of Indian armaments during 2017 - 2021.
- ii.** India was the 23rd largest exporter of defence supplies from 2017 to 2021, citing the SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) International Arms Transfer Database.
- iii.** The Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) and FirstRand Bank (FRB) Limited of South Africa have signed a "Master Risk Participation Agreement" to promote trade transactions.

12. Name the bank that has recently (in Nov '22) launched a special fixed deposit (FD) scheme 'Star Super Triple Seven Fixed Deposit'.

- 1) Union Bank of India
- 2) Bank of Baroda
- 3) Canara Bank
- 4) Bank of India
- 5) State Bank of India

Answer- 4) Bank of India

Explanation:

The **Bank of India** (BoI) launched a special fixed deposit (**FD**) scheme namely '**Star Super Triple Seven Fixed Deposit**' which will offer a 7.25% rate of interest on a deposit for 777 days.

- i.** The interest rate for senior citizens on this scheme is 7.75% for 777 days. This is a limited period offer by the bank.

13. Which bank has recently (in Nov '22) signed a bancassurance agreement with Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited (NBHIC) to provide health insurance solutions to customers?

- 1) YES Bank
- 2) HDFC Bank
- 3) IDFC FIRST Bank
- 4) Axis Bank
- 5) ICICI Bank

Answer- 3) IDFC FIRST Bank

Explanation:

A Corporate Agency partnership has been inked between the Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited (**NBHIC**), and **IDFC FIRST Bank** to provide health insurance solutions to the bank's customers.

- i. It is NBHIC's first bancassurance partnership of FY23.
- ii. Through this partnership NBHIC will utilize the bank's reach to expand their services, and address the healthcare related concerns of the bank's customers.

14. Name the initiative that has been recently (in Nov '22) launched by the Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited for empowering support staff and their families.

- 1) Surakshit
- 2) Jeevan Rakshak
- 3) Pratiyogita
- 4) Sahyog
- 5) Kandha

Answer- 4) Sahyog

Explanation:

Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited, a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited and an investment manager to Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund, has launched **Sahyog**, an initiative for empowering support staff and their families.

- i. Sahyog is a first-of-its-kind initiative targeted on improving the financial health of support staff through steady, long-term investments.
- ii. Sahyog helps an employer to start a systematic investment plan in mutual funds (MFs) on behalf of the domestic help to achieve their basic investment goals.

15. Which insurance has recently (in Nov '22) partnered with Karza Technologies Private Limited to offer insurance on WhatsApp Platform?

- 1) Exide Life Insurance
- 2) Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance
- 3) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance
- 4) Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- 5) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance

Answer- 3) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance

Explanation:

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI) partnered with **Karza Technologies Private Limited**, a part of Perfios Software Solutions Private Limited and a few other technology vendors to launch end-to-end onboarding solutions to purchase insurance products on WhatsApp platform.

i. This initiative will allow customers to select premium amount, term, illustration generation and premium payment via WhatsApp itself.

16. In November 2022, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued norms regarding the standardization of rating scales used by Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) with effect from _____.

- 1) 1st April 2023
- 2) 1st March 2023
- 3) 1st February 2023
- 4) 1st January 2023
- 5) 1st December 2022

Answer- **4) 1st January 2023**

Explanation:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) issued norms regarding the standardization of rating scales used by Credit Rating Agencies (**CRAs**) which will be applicable from **January 1, 2023**.

i. The notification for the same is issued by SEBI in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11 (1) of SEBI Act, 1992 read with the provisions of Regulation 20 of SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies-CRA) Regulations, 1999, to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of the securities market.

17. Which bank has recently (in Nov '22) launched the limited-time fixed deposit (FD) scheme to offer higher interest rates up to 7.50% per annum (p.a) for 399 days?

- 1) Union Bank of India
- 2) Bank of Baroda
- 3) Canara Bank
- 4) Bank of India
- 5) Central Bank of India

Answer- **2) Bank of Baroda**

Explanation:

Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched the limited-time fixed deposit (**FD**) scheme, Baroda Tiranga Plus Deposit Scheme, offering higher interest rates up to 7.50% per annum (p.a.) for 399 days with effect from 1st November 2022, which includes 0.50% p.a. for senior citizens and 0.25% for non-callable deposits.

- The scheme is applicable on retail term deposits from 15 Lakh to Rs 2 crore.

18. Which insurance company has recently (in Nov '22) launched the iGuarantee Max Savings Plan to offer dual benefits of high returns and life cover?

- 1) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance
- 2) Exide Life Insurance
- 3) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- 4) Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance

5) Aegon Life Insurance

Answer- **5) Aegon Life Insurance**

Explanation:

Aegon Life Insurance Company launched the **iGuarantee Max Savings Plan**, that offers dual benefit of high returns and life cover for the policyholders to meet their medium-to-long-term savings goals affordably while protecting them against financial shocks.

- i. The policyholder can choose a policy term between 5 and 20 years, depending on their savings goal.
- ii. The minimum monthly contribution for the plan is Rs.500, which can be done via online and the policyholders can gain higher tax-free returns on their savings.

19. Name the insurance company that has recently (in Nov '22) launched 'Protection Plus policy to offer attractive features with Maturity Benefit of return of premiums.

- 1) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- 2) Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- 3) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance
- 4) Tata AIA Life Insurance
- 5) Aviva Life Insurance

Answer- **5) Aviva Life Insurance**

Explanation:

Aviva Life Insurance Company has launched the 'Aviva Protection Plus policy' for offering attractive features along with the maturity benefit of premium return, enriched protection and savings booster options.

- i. It also ensures financial security for the policyholder's family with a high sum assured, payable upon death or any unfortunate event.

20. Which company has recently (in Nov '22) Partnered with Bayer & Rabo Partnerships to enhance the digitization of India's agricultural finance (Agri-Finance) sector?

- 1) Discover Financial Services
- 2) American Express
- 3) MasterCard
- 4) Capital One
- 5) Visa Inc

Answer- **3) MasterCard**

Explanation:

Bayer, Rabo Partnerships, and **Mastercard** have joined forces to establish a scalable programme to enhance the digitization of India's agricultural finance (**Agri-Finance**) sector.

- i. The aim of this partnership is to increase access to agronomic knowledge, products, services, and partnerships.
- ii. It brings together the expertise of three organisations in digital, agri-finance, and payments technology.

21. In November 2022, Bain Capital(BC) Sold 16.7 million, equal to 0.54% stake, in _____ for Rs. 1,497 crore.

- 1) IndusInd Bank
- 2) Axis Bank

- 3) YES Bank
- 4) ICICI Bank
- 5) HDFC Bank

Answer- **2) Axis Bank**

Explanation:

US-based private equity, Bain Capital **(BC)** Sold **0.54%** stake in **Axis Bank** for **Rs. 1,497 crore**.

- i. The private equity firm sold 0.54 percent, shares of 1,66,80,000 stake in the company.
- ii. The shares were sold at Rs 891.38 apiece for a total of Rs 1,487 crore by BC Asia Investments.

22. Which bank has recently (in Nov '22) entered into a bancassurance partnership with Aditya Birla Health Insurance for the distribution of health insurance products?

- 1) YES Bank
- 2) HDFC Bank
- 3) IDFC FIRST Bank
- 4) Axis Bank
- 5) ICICI Bank

Answer- **3) IDFC FIRST Bank**

Explanation:

Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Limited **(ABHICL)** has entered into a bancassurance partnership with **IDFC FIRST Bank** for distribution of health insurance products through the bank's digital platform and its network.

- i. This partnership with IDFC First Bank will strengthen ABHI's distribution and create growth opportunities through the bank's network.
- ii. This will support ABHI to reach the extended market base with its Health First insurance solutions and increase the insurance penetration in India.

23. Name the payment bank that has recently (in Nov '22) partnered with 'Niveshak Didi' initiative to conduct India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

- 1) India Post Payments Bank
- 2) Jio Payments Bank
- 3) Airtel Payments Bank
- 4) FINO Payments Bank
- 5) Paytm Payments Bank

Answer- **1) India Post Payments Bank**

Explanation:

India Post Payments Bank **(IPPB)** along with **'Niveshak Didi'** an initiative to promote financial literacy "By the women, for the women", conducted India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

- i. Niveshak Didi was launched by IPPB in collaboration with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to promote Financial Literacy.

24. Which organisation has recently (in Nov' 22) announced to fund the farm efficiency initiative of Smartchem Technologies Limited (STL) through a USD 30 million (Blue Loan) loan facility for a tenure of 5 years?

- 1) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- 2) International Monetary Fund
- 3) World Bank
- 4) United Nations Development Programme
- 5) Asian Development Bank

Answer- 5) Asian Development Bank

Explanation:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is set to fund the farm efficiency initiative of Smartchem Technologies Limited (STL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals Corporation (DFPCL) through a **USD 30 million** (Blue loan) loan facility for a tenure of 5 years.

- i.** This is ADB's first agribusiness 'Blue Loan' and it is India's first such blue loan in this sector.
- ii.** In addition, ADB has also given approval for a technical assistance grant of USD 5,00,000 for building capacity for Soil Nutrition Management among Smallholder Farmers and Climate Resilience in India.

25. Name the payment bank that has recently (in Nov '22) partnered with the Chqbook to launch a zero-balance digital current account.

- 1) India Post Payments Bank
- 2) NSDL Payments Bank
- 3) Airtel Payments Bank
- 4) FINO Payments Bank
- 5) Paytm Payments Bank

Answer- 2) NSDL Payments Bank

Explanation:

Chqbook, a neobank for small business owners partnered with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) Payments Bank to launch a **zero-balance digital current account** for small business owners.

- i.** The Chqbook's current account for business will allow small businesses to make deposits, withdrawals and also accepts Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions.
- ii.** Small business owners like kiranas, chemists and among others, can open a current account instantly on the Chqbook App from their smartphone, which are available in 8 different languages.

26. According to the vision document of the Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) released in November 2022, _____ topped the chart in terms of the EPFO coverage.

- 1) Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Karnataka
- 3) Haryana
- 4) Uttarakhand
- 5) Delhi

Answer- 5) Delhi

Explanation:

According to the vision document of the Employee Provident Fund Organisation (**EPFO**) released in November 2022, **Delhi** topped the chart in terms of the EPFO coverage with 61.5% of their working population under the social security ambit of the organisation.

- i. EPFO coverage is at its lowest in Tripura(2.1%), Assam(2.8%), and Meghalaya(2.8%).
- ii. Delhi is followed by Goa at 2nd spot with 51.4% and Haryana at 3rd spot with 35.3%.

27. In November 2022, a special off-cycle meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was held to discuss and draft the report to be sent to the Government by the RBI for missing the inflation target.

The report will be sent under the provisions of Section ____ of the RBI Act, 1934 & Regulation 7 of RBI MPC & Monetary Policy Process Regulations, 2016.

- 1) Section 56RA
- 2) Section 35
- 3) Section 27
- 4) Section 32A
- 5) Section 45ZN

Answer- **5) Section 45ZN**

Explanation:

A special off-cycle meeting was held by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (**MPC**) to discuss and draft the content of the report which the apex bank has to send to the Central Government for missing the inflation target. It was chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and attended by all MPC members.

- i. This report will be sent to the government under the provisions of **Section 45ZN** of the RBI Act, 1934 and Regulation 7 of RBI MPC and Monetary Policy Process Regulations, 2016.
- ii. Reason: For three quarters, RBI has been lacking in meeting the inflation target. The consumer price based inflation (CPI), or retail inflation, has been above the target range of 2-6% for three consecutive quarters, or nine straight months (January to September 2022). It rose to 7.41% in September 2022.

28. Name the Small Finance Bank (SFB) that launched (in Nov '22) Shagun 366 fixed deposit (FD).

- 1) Unity Small Finance Bank
- 2) AU Small Finance Bank
- 3) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- 4) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- 5) Jana Small Finance Bank

Answer- **1) Unity Small Finance Bank**

Explanation:

Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank) has launched **Shagun 366**, a 1 year, 1 day fixed deposit (**FD**), which offers 7.8 % p.a. returns for retail customers and 8.30 % p.a. for senior citizens for a tenure of 366 days.

- i. This offer is valid for deposits made before 30th November 2022.
- ii. Unity Bank has also raised its interest rates on both callable and non-callable bulk deposits, that are higher than Rs. 2 crores.

29. Name the organisation that has recently (in Nov '22) approved a USD 350 million loan to improve road connectivity in Maharashtra.

- 1) United Nations Development Programme
- 2) International Monetary Fund
- 3) World Bank
- 4) Asian Development Bank
- 5) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Answer- 4) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Explanation:

Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral funding agency, approved a USD 350 million (around Rs 2,900 crore) loan to improve the road connectivity of key economic areas in Maharashtra.

i. The roads will be built under the Maharashtra State Road Improvement Project approved by ADB in April 2020 to upgrade state highways and major district roads of Maharashtra.

ii. Under the project, around 319 kilometres (km) of state highways and 149 km of district roads, will be upgraded, incorporating climate and disaster-resilient features.

30. Which bank has recently (in Nov' 22) partnered with the M1xchange to digitise corporate trade finance?

- 1) Sber Bank
- 2) Woori Bank
- 3) MUFG Bank
- 4) Mizuho Bank
- 5) SMBC Bank

Answer- 3) MUFG Bank

Explanation:

MUFG Bank has partnered with **M1xchange** to facilitate digital invoice financing for its customers. The bank also leverages the digital ecosystem established by M1xchange and hence enhances the efficiency of its client services.

i. Through this partnership, the MUFG bank would offer digital trade solutions to its customers while adding value to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) enterprises, who will be the end users of the supply chain.

31. Name the organisation that has recently (in Nov' 22) provided in-principle approval to C2FO Factoring Solutions Private Limited to set up and operate the Trade Receivable Discounting Systems (TReDS) platform in India.

- 1) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- 2) Reserve Bank of India
- 3) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 4) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- 5) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

Answer- 2) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has provided in-principle approval to C2FO Factoring Solutions Private Limited, India arm of **C2FO**, a global on-demand working capital platform, to set up and operate Trade Receivable Discounting Systems (**TReDS**) platform in India.

i. The C2FO is the largest Early Pay platform that provides working capital to more than 10 lakh businesses across the 160 countries of the world, out of which, 2 lakh businesses are in India, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

32. In November 2022, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed Non-Executive Chairman on the Boards of four Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

Which of the following points is/are 'Incorrect' with respect to the appointment by ACC?

A) Charan Singh has been appointed as part-time Non Official Director and Non-Executive Chairman of Canara Bank for Two years.

B) K G Ananthakrishnan has been appointed as part-time Non Official Director and Non-Executive Chairman of PNB for three years.

C) Srinivasan Varadarajan has been appointed as part-time Non-Official Director and Non-Executive Chairman of Union Bank of India for three years.

1) Only A

2) Only B

3) Only C

4) Only A & B

5) Only B & C

Answer-1) Only A

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi has appointed Non-Executive Chairman on the Boards of four Public Sector Banks (PSBs):

- Vijay Srirangam has been appointed as part-time Non Official Director and Non-Executive Chairman of Canara Bank for three years.
- K G Ananthakrishnan has been appointed as part-time Non Official Director and Non-Executive Chairman of PNB for three years.
- Srinivasan Varadarajan has been appointed as part-time Non-Official Director and Non-Executive Chairman of Union Bank of India for three years.
- Charan Singh has been appointed as Non-Official Director and Non- Executive Chairman of Punjab & Sind Bank for two years.

33. Who has been appointed (in Nov '22) as the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS)?

1) Anil Yadav

2) Vivek Joshi

3) Sanjay Malhotra

4) Tarun Bajaj

5) Debasish Panda

Answer- 2) Vivek Joshi

Explanation:

Vivek Joshi was appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance. He was replaced by Sanjay Malhotra.

i. Sanjay malhotra will be appointed as new revenue secretary, he will replace Tarun Bajaj.

34. Which state has emerged as the largest state in State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) collections in the first six months (April-September 2022) of the current fiscal (H1FY23)?

- 1) Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Gujarat
- 3) Maharashtra
- 4) Karnataka
- 5) Tamil Nadu

Answer- 3) Maharashtra

Explanation:

Maharashtra emerged as the **largest state** in State's Own Tax Revenue (**SOTR**) collections between April-September 2022 i.e. first six months of the current fiscal (**H1FY23**) with **Rs 1,15,211 crore**. The provisional data for the SOTR collections was released by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

i. Maharashtra is followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP) as 2nd largest state with Rs 1,02,687 crore, and Tamil Nadu (TN) at 3rd with Rs 68,638 crore.

ii. Notably, TN has displaced Karnataka's SOTR to emerge as the third largest state in terms of own tax revenue collections in H1FY23. Karnataka's tax collection was Rs 66,158 crore.

35. Name the Mutual Fund company that has recently (in Nov '22) launched two new exchange-traded funds to offer solutions to gain exposure to the growing Information Technology (IT) and Private Bank space.

- 1) HDFC Mutual Fund
- 2) Edelweiss Mutual Fund
- 3) Axis Mutual Funds
- 4) SBI Mutual Funds
- 5) ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund

Answer- 1) HDFC Mutual Fund

Explanation:

HDFC Mutual Fund has launched two new exchange-traded funds, HDFC Nifty IT ETF and HDFC Nifty Private Bank ETF to expand the 'HDFC MF Index Solutions', that offers solutions to gain exposure to the growing Information Technology (IT) and Private Bank space.

i. These new funds opened on 28th October 2022, and will close on 9th November 2022.

ii. Objective – To provide investment returns that correspond to the total returns of the securities before expenses, as represented by the Nifty IT Index and Nifty Private Bank Index.

36. Which state has recently (in Nov' 22) become the first Indian state to introduce a uniform gold price based on bank rate?

- 1) Kerala
- 2) Karnataka
- 3) Tamil Nadu
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Andhra Pradesh

Answer- 1) Kerala

Explanation:

Kerala became the **first Indian state** to launch a uniform price on 916 purity 22-carat gold based on the bank rate. This means the jewellers in Kerala now charge the same price as the bank rate for gold.
i. The decision for the same was taken during a meeting between officials of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, and key members of All Kerala Gold and Silver Merchants Association.

37. As per the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) data released in November 2022, which state has the maximum mutual fund (MF) penetration in India?

- 1) Kerala
- 2) Jharkhand
- 3) Haryana
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Gujarat

Answer- **4) Maharashtra**

Explanation:

According to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (**AMFI**), **Maharashtra** has the **maximum** mutual fund (**MF**) penetration in India followed by New Delhi, and Goa, due to high income levels, higher literacy rates, and substantial inflows from corporations and high-net-worth individuals (HNIs).

- i.** While Jharkhand is one of the top 10 states with a depth of 13%, MF penetration is barely 5-6% in Telangana and Kerala.
- ii.** Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Bihar have the lowest penetration rates among large states.

38. Which organisation has recently (in Nov '22) signed an MoU with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to Promote Energy Efficiency Finance for MSMEs?

- 1) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- 2) Reserve Bank of India
- 3) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 4) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- 5) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

Answer- **1) Small Industries Development Bank of India**

Explanation:

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (**BEE**), under the Ministry of Power signed an **MoU** with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- i.** The MoU aims to promote energy efficiency financing for MSMEs and to explore Internet of Things (IoT) based solutions, Greening MSMEs, capacity building of various stakeholders and such others.

39. The United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based bank Emirates NBD has recently (in Nov '22) announced an additional _____ investment in its India operations, and added two more branches in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Gurugram, Haryana.

- 1) USD 100 million
- 2) USD 600 million
- 3) USD 400 million
- 4) USD 200 million
- 5) USD 500 million

Answer- 1) USD 100 million

Explanation:

The United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based bank **Emirates NBD** launched two new full service branches in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Gurugram, Haryana in addition to its Mumbai branch to expand its presence as Asia's 3rd largest economy.

- i.** The bank has also invested **USD 100 million** in its India operations, in addition to USD 300 million investment in the last 5 years of its operation in India.
- ii.** Earlier in 2022, the both the countries signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to remove trade barriers and boost non-oil trade to USD 100 billion in 5 years from the current USD 60 billion.

40. Which organisation has recently (in Nov '22) started accepting electronic bank guarantee (E-GB) issued by the National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)?

- 1) Rural Electrification Corporation
- 2) National Highways Authority of India
- 3) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited
- 4) Border Roads Organisation
- 5) National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited

Answer- 2) National Highways Authority of India

Explanation:

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has started accepting electronic bank guarantee (E-GB) issued by the National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) and also digitised all its existing E-GBs with an aim to improve the efficiency and transparency of internal processes and to adopt digital technology.

41. Which organisation has recently (in Nov '22) partnered with the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) to Accelerate Green Energy Transition at USD 1 billion?

- 1) United Nations Development Programme
- 2) International Monetary Fund
- 3) World Bank
- 4) Asian Development Bank
- 5) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Answer- 5) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Explanation:

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) collaborated on a strategic investment partnership for mobilising up to USD 1 billion for the financing of green energy transition and renewable energy projects, in both the public and private sectors.

- i.** A Letters of Intent (LoI) was signed by AIIB's Vice-President of Policy and Strategy, Sir Danny Alexander, and GEAPP's CEO, Simon Harford at a signing ceremony in Sharm El-Sheik.

42. Name the insurance company that has recently (in Nov '22) partnered with Tacterial Consulting Private Limited (Ditto) for Online life insurance distribution.

- 1) Max Life Insurance
- 2) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

- 3) Exide Life Insurance
- 4) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- 5) HDFC Life Insurance

Answer- **1) Max Life Insurance**

Explanation:

Max Life Insurance Company Limited (Max Life) has partnered with Tacterial Consulting Private Limited (**Ditto**) for a life insurance product distribution.

i. This partnership aims to leverage Ditto's insurance advisory platform to offer Max Life's plans to customers through online.

43. In November 2022, RBI has issued a licence for Ftcash to set up a non-banking financial company (NBFC) & aims to disburse loans worth _____ in FY23.

- 1) Rs. 100 crore
- 2) Rs. 300 crore
- 3) Rs. 400 crore
- 4) Rs. 200 crore
- 5) Rs. 500 crore

Answer- **1) Rs. 100 crore**

Explanation:

Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) issued a licence for **Ftcash**, a Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) lending startup to set up a non-banking financial company (**NBFC**) and it aims to disburse loans worth **Rs. 100 crore** in **FY23**.

i. The NBFC licence to Ftcash will ensure in bridging the credit gap where about 80 % of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) lack access to lending.

ii. Till now, the company said it has raised USD 10.2 million (about Rs 83 crore) and is backed by several investors including Accion, FMO and IvyCap Ventures.

44. Which of the following points are 'correct' with respect to India's First Sovereign Green Bonds Framework?

A) The Union Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman approved the final and first Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrB) Framework of India.

B) GoI aims to issue 160 billion rupees of such bonds between October and March 2023.

C) As per the framework, the Ministry has formed a Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC) to validate key decisions on the issuance of SGrB, chaired by Venkatramanan Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, GoI.

- 1) All A, B & C
- 2) Only A & B
- 3) Only B & C
- 4) Only A & C
- 5) Only A

Answer- **1) All A, B & C**

Explanation:

The Union Finance Minister of India, **Nirmala Sitharaman** approved the final and first Sovereign Green Bonds (**SGrB**) Framework of India.

i. GoI aims to issue **160 billion** rupees (\$1.93 billion) of such bonds between October and March 2023.

ii. As per the provision of the framework, the Ministry has formed a Green Finance Working Committee (**GFWC**) to validate key decisions on the issuance of SGrB. It will be chaired by the Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India (Currently- Dr Venkatramanan Anantha Nageswaran).

45. Which organisation has recently (in Nov '22) introduced the BHIM app open-source licence model, with an aim of achieving 'Digital Payments for All'?

- 1) Reserve Bank of India
- 2) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- 3) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 4) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- 5) National Payments Corporation of India

Answer- **5) National Payments Corporation of India**

Explanation:

National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) introduced the **BHIM app** open-source licence model, with an aim of achieving 'Digital Payments for All'.

i. Under NPCI's new model, the source code of the BHIM will be licensed to the regulated entities that do not use Unified Payment Interface (UPI) app of their own and empowers them to launch their own UPI app.

46. According to the data shared by SCORES, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) received an average of _____ complaints every month so far in FY23.

- 1) 5,786
- 2) 3,011
- 3) 4,189
- 4) 2,901
- 5) 1,568

Answer- **2) 3,011**

Explanation:

According to data shared by SCORES, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) received an average of **3,011** complaints every month so far in FY23. At the beginning of October 2022, 3,001 complaints were pending and 2,886 fresh complaints were received during the month.

i. This states a 15.4% decline over the 3,558 average monthly complaints in FY21-22.

ii. SCORES is an acronym for SEBI Complaints Redress System launched in 2011.

47. Which organisation has recently (in Nov '22) signed an MoU with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to promote and enhance Japanese investments into India?

- 1) Franklin Build India Fund
- 2) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited
- 3) HDFC Infrastructure Fund
- 4) ICICI Prudential Infrastructure Fund
- 5) IDFC Infrastructure Fund

Answer- **2) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited**

Explanation:

The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL)** signed an **MoU** with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (**JBIC**) to promote and enhance Japanese investments into India.

i. Under the MoU, NIIFL and JBIC will establish a bilateral India-Japan Fund (IJF), for making equity investments in environmental preservation and low carbon emission strategies.

48. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has recently (in Nov '22) acquired Additional Stake (2%) in Voltas for _____ crores.

- 1) Rs 520.23 crore
- 2) Rs 634.50 crore
- 3) Rs 329.67 crore
- 4) Rs 250.45 crore
- 5) Rs 198.23 crore

Answer- **2) Rs 634.50 crore**

Explanation:

Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) has raised its investment in **Voltas** by acquiring a **2%** stake. It acquired Voltas shares worth **Rs 634.50 crore** through open market transactions between August 10 and November 4, 2022.

i. LIC has increased its shareholding from 2,27,04,306 shares (equivalent to 6.862%) to 2,93,95,224 (8.884%) in Voltas.

49. Which insurance company recently (in Nov' 22) launched 14 new insurance solutions products?

- 1) Bharti AXA General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- 2) ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- 3) Cholamandalam General Insurance Co. Ltd
- 4) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- 5) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Co. Ltd.

Answer- **2) ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd.**

Explanation:

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Private Limited has launched **14 new products** for Insurance solutions across Health, Motor and Corporate segments.

i. The new offerings come under the recently launched 'Use and File' framework from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and new types of risks emerging in all circumstances including pandemic, climate change or data privacy.

50. As per the Moody's Investors Service India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for 2022 was reduced to _____ from 7.7% in September 2022.

- 1) 7.4%
- 2) 7%
- 3) 7.5%
- 4) 7.2%
- 5) 7.1%

Answer- **2) 7%**