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DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD

02 April 2024





Microfinance industry's loan portfolio grows by 21% to touch ₹3.93 lakh crore: The microfinance industry's loan portfolio grew robustly 21 per cent as December 2023 to touch ₹3.93 lakh crore, according to latest data compiled by Sa-Dhan. According to this RBI-approved Self Regulatory Organisation (SRO), Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) continued to occupy the largest share in the pie, with 40 per cent, followed by banks at 32 per cent, and SFBs at 18 per cent, NBFCs at 11 percent, and Non-Profit MFIs at 0.18 percent. "Microfinance sector is on a boom with overall improved performance in every parameter. This growth story has been continuing for last 2 quarters and expected to continue a few more years", Jiji Mammen, ED & CEO, Sa Dhan said.

(Business Line)

97.69% of ₹2,000 notes as of March 29 2024 returned, remaining legal tender: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that as of March 29, 2024, 97.69 per cent of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as of May 19, 2023, had been returned, with the remaining notes remaining legal tender. The central bank provided an update on the withdrawal of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes, highlighting that their total value in circulation decreased from ₹3.56 lakh crore on May 19, 2023, to ₹8202 crore on March 29, 2024. As per a statement from the central bank, exchange facilities for ₹2,000 banknotes have been available at RBI's 19 Issue Offices since May 19, 2023. Since October 9, 2023, RBI Issue Offices are also accepting ₹2,000 banknotes from individuals/entities for depositing into their bank accounts.

(Business Line)

UPI ends FY24 on a high note, transactions worth ₹199 lakh crore processed: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ended FY24 on a strong high, setting new records for both the volume and value of transactions undertaken during March 2024. This was despite transactions dipping slightly in February 2024 due to the fewer number of days in the month, and increased investment activity ahead of the financial year end. Transactions worth ₹19.78 lakh crore were processed during March





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2024, higher than the previous record of ₹18.41 lakh crore set in January 2024. The value of transactions was 40 per cent higher, compared to that in March 2023, according to data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

(Business Line)



ECONOMY

India's trade dependence on EU, China sees spike: UNCTAD report: India's dependence for trade on the European Union (EU) and China is rising as global trade has seen a restructuring along the geopolitical lines in the past two years, according to a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). According to the UNCTAD estimates, based on national statistics, India's reliance on the EU and China rose by 1.2 percent annually in 2023, while it declined in the case of Saudi Arabia by 0.6 percent. The increase in dependence comes at a time when the country is trying to reduce its imports from China and other countries by emphasising manufacturing goods locally, backed by schemes, such as production-linked schemes (PLI) and Quality Control Orders (QCOs). According to the report, this supply chain shift has happened following the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia war, which led to a record increase in prices of food and fuels.

(Moneycontrol)

India's GDP set to grow 8% or more in Jan-March quarter, finance minister says: India's gross domestic product (GDP) is on track to grow by 8% or more in the quarter ending March 31, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday. The economy is expected to show the same rate of year-on-year expansion for the 2023/24 financial year, Sitharaman added, citing the impact of improved inflation management and macroeconomic stability. "Hopefully the fourth quarter ... will also have (growth) of 8% or above 8% resulting in 2023/24 having an average growth in GDP of 8% or over 8%," Sitharaman said during an event in the financial hub of Mumbai. India's GDP data for the Jan-March quarter is due to be released on May 31.

(Moneycontrol)

GST collections hit Rs 1.78 trillion in March, the second highest ever: The financial 2023-24 (FY24) ended on a positive note for the Indian economy with goods and services tax (GST) collection, car sales, and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions hitting high spots. GST receipts net of refunds grew 18.4 per cent at Rs 1.65 trillion in March. Rs 1.51 trillion in February.



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With the March numbers, net collection stood at Rs 18.01 trillion in FY24, an increase of 13.4 per cent over that in the previous year. Gross GST collection (before refunds) grew 11.5 per cent to hit the second-highest figure at Rs 1.78 trillion in March FY24 despite being pulled down moderately by weaker integrated GST (IGST) on imports of goods.

(Business Standard)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



NTPC clocks 50% growth in mine output in FY24, records all-time high power generation: India's largest power generating company, NTPC or National Thermal Power Corporation has clocked 55 per cent growth in coal despatches along with 50 per cent expansion in output across all mines in FY24, as compared to last year. The company also recorded an all-time high annual electricity generation of 422 billion units in the fiscal gone by. As per the company statement, the company despatched 24.15 million metric tonne (MMT) coal meanwhile the coal production stood at 34.88 MMT with a growth of around 50 percent by March 31, 2024.

(Financial Express)

IOCL, Panasonic to form JV to manufacture lithium ion cells: State-owned Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and Panasonic Group Company Panasonic Energy announced that the two companies will form a joint venture for manufacturing cylindrical lithium-ion cells in the country. "The JV was formed in anticipation of expanding demand for batteries for two-and three-wheel vehicles and energy storage systems in the Indian market," IOCL said in a statement. The two companies signed a binding term sheet to draw a framework for the formation of the joint venture which follows the signing of a Heads of Agreement on January 21, 2024 at New Delhi by IOCL and Panasonic Energy.

(Financial Express)



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REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

PM asks RBI to consider innovative credit policies for youth in new sectors: With several new sectors coming up and creating newer opportunities for the country's youth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) must explore out-of-the-box policies to ensure credit availability for these emerging fields, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday. He was speaking at a ceremony to mark the 90th year of the Indian central bank. He highlighted the growth of the green energy sector, specifically the advances in solar energy, green hydrogen and ethanolblending. He mentioned the 5G technology and rising defence sector exports, and emphasised the importance of setting clear targets for the next decade. The PM pointed out the need to monitor the changes brought about by the cashless economy while promoting digital transactions.

(Business Standard)

RBI reverts to multiple price auctions for govt securities after 3 years: RBI will conduct auctions for all central government securities through multiple price-based method from this financial year, nearly three years after it changed its methodology, the central bank said on Monday. Barring the ultra-long duration which consists of bonds maturing in 30 years and above, the RBI conducted auctions for bonds through uniform-based pricing since July 2021. Under the multiple price auctions, buyers are allotted bonds at the price they bid at, while uniform pricing means bonds are sold at the cutoff level. India aims to borrow 7.50 trillion rupees (\$90 billion) via bonds in April-September, 53% of its annual borrowing target of 14.13 trillion rupees.

(Business Standard)







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DINANCIAL **TERMINOLOGY**

UNIFORM BILL OF LADING

- ❖The uniform bill of lading provides a boilerplate language for the basic information about a shipment such as the shipper and recipient's names and the shipment's origin and destination. In addition, the document establishes the terms of the carrier's liability, transport time frame, how to file a claim for a lost or damaged shipment, how insurance will be applied in the event of a claim, and how the shipment may be stored or disposed of if the shipment is refused or is not deliverable.
- ❖The uniform bill of lading also specifies the carrier's liability with regard to specific types of shipments including documents, coin money, items of extraordinary value, and explosives. Additional shipment charges may be assessed if the shipper misrepresents the type of goods being transported.
- ❖ If the bill of lading notes the defective condition of the goods or their packaging, it is considered "claused" or "fouled." If no defects are noted, it is considered a "clean" bill of lading.





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RBI KEY RATES

Repo Rate: 6.50% SDF: 6.25% MSF & Bank Rate: 6.75% CRR: 4.50%

SLR: 18.00% Fixed Reverse Repo: 3.35%

FOREX (FBIL 1.30 PM)

INR / 1 USD : 83.3739 INR / 1 GBP : 105.2935 INR / 1 EUR : 90.2178 INR /100 JPY: 55.0900

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 74014.55 (+363.20) NIFTY: 22462.00 (+135.10) Bnk NIFTY: 47578.25 (+453.65)

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