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DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD, ICAI September 05, 2022

• INDIA'S MERCHANDISE EXPORT IN APRIL -AUGUST 2022-23 WAS USD 192.59 BILLION WITH AN YOY INCREASE OF 17.1%: India's merchandise export in April -August 2022-23 was USD 192.59 billion with an increase of 17.1% over USD 164.44 billion in April -August 2021-22. The export of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery in April -August 2022-23 was USD 135.49 billion, an increase of 8.4% over cumulative value of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 124.99 billion in April -July 2021-22. India has achieved merchandise export of USD 33.0 billion in August 2022, almost at similar levels of USD 33.38 billion in August 2021. The Services exports surged at 25% growth in four months upto July'22. India has achieved merchandise export of USD 33.0 billion in August 2022, almost at similar levels of USD 33.38 billion in August 2021.

• CYRUS MISTRY, FORMER TATA GROUP CHAIRMAN, DIES IN ROAD ACCIDENT: Former Tata Group chairman Cyrus Mistry died in a road accident on September 4. The accident occurred at Charoti in Palghar when his Mercedes was returning from Ahmedabad to Mumbai. "The accident took place around 3.15 pm when Mistry was traveling to Mumbai from Ahmedabad. The accident took place on a bridge over the Surya river. It seems an accident," PTI news agency quoted a police official as saying.

https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/former-tata-group-chairman-cyrus-mistry-dies-in-road-accident-9129101.html

 NO TAKERS FOR UNION BANK'S BAD DEBTS DESPITE LOWERING RESERVE PRICE: Union Bank of India has failed to attract any firm bids at the auction of its Rs 2,077-crore debt exposure to thermal power company KSK Mahanadi Power, despite lowering its reserve price, said two people aware of the development.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/no-takers-for-union-banks-bad-debts-despite-lowering-reserve-price/articleshow/93974708.cms



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INDUSIND BANK, ADB JOIN HANDS TO SUPPORT SUPPLY CHAIN FINANCING: signe

• INDUSIND BANK, ADB JOIN HANDS TO SUPPORT SUPPLY CHAIN FINANCING: signed a strategic partnership with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support and promote supply chain finance solutions in India, the bank said in a stock exchange filing on Friday. It has entered into a partial guarantee programme with ADB with an initial outlay of Rs 560 crore, exclusively towards promoting supply chain finance solutions in India. With supply chain finance (SCF) being a focus area, the Bank has initiated a host of strategic efforts including the launch of new product structures for SCF. In addition to this, the Bank recently launched a state-of-the-art digital portal for SCF - 'earlyCredit' enabling 24*7 seamless processing of SCF transactions for corporates, suppliers and dealers.

https://bfsi.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/banking/indusind-bank-adb-join-hands-to-support-supply-chain-financing/93947091

PSU BANKS TO OPEN 300 BRANCHES IN UNBANKED VILLAGES BY DEC 2022: As part of the financial inclusion drive, public sector banks will open about 300 brick-and-mortar branches in the unbanked areas of various states by December 2022. These branches will cover all remaining unbanked villages with a population of more than 3,000, according to sources. Bank of Baroda will open 76 branches, while State Bank of India will establish 60 branches. A maximum of 95 branches will be opened in Rajasthan.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/psu-banks-to-open-300-branches-in-unbanked-villages-by-dec-2022/article65848738.ece

WINDFALL PROFITS TAX PULLS JULY DIESEL EXPORTS TO 14-MONTH LOW: India's diesel exports
in July 2022 fell to its lowest levels in the last 14 months, since May 2021, to 2.18 million tonnes
(MT), largely on account of the government imposing windfall profit tax on outbound shipments of
high speed diesel (HSD). Diesel exports in July 2022 were down 11 per cent month-on-month and
4 per cent on an annual basis.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/windfall-profits-tax-pulls-july-diesel-exports-to-14-month-low/article65849239.ece



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• LIC MULLS DEPLOYING 'BIONIC AGENTS' TO BOOST DIGITAL SALES CAPABILITIES: LIC is considering deploying 'bionic agents' to support its agency workforce and boost digital sales capabilities. "A strategy of deploying 'bionic' agents by extending tech support in the form of digital tools and analytics to the agency force would surely go a long way in building the core digital sales capabilities and exploring a win-win model where there is a convergence of digital along with the best human qualities of advice and engagement," MR Kumar, Chairman, said in LIC's annual report for FY22. Over 95 per cent of LIC's individual business, in terms of premium, is sourced through the agency force and less than 3 per cent through the bancassurance channel.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/lic-mulls-deploying-bionic-agents-to-boost-digital-sales-capabilities/article65844957.ece

• INSURANCE OMBUDSMEN SETTLE 40,527 COMPLAINTS IN FY22: Insurance ombudsman offices across India settled 40,527 complaints related to grievances of policyholders in FY22, up 32% from a year before. As many as 3,830 cases were settled by the Bima Lokpal's (ombudsman's) Delhi office alone in the last fiscal.

https://www.financialexpress.com/money/insurance/insurance-ombudsmen-settle-40527-complaints-in-fy22/2653781/

PAYTM SAYS NO LINK WITH CHINESE LOAN MERCHANTS UNDER ED SCANNER: Digital financial services firm One97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand, on Sunday denied any link with the merchants that are under the Enforcement Directorate scanner in the Chinese loan app case.Paytm said that none of the funds frozen by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) belongs to it or any of its group firms. "As a part of ongoing investigations on a specific set of merchants, the ED has sought information regarding such merchants to whom we provide payment processing solutions." Paytm said in a regulatory filing.

https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/paytm-says-no-link-with-chinese-loan-merchants-under-ed-scanner/2654900/



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• INDIA IS LIKELY TO BECOME THIRD LARGEST ECONOMY BY 2029: SBI REPORT: India is likely to become the third largest economy by 2029 -- up seven places since 2014 when the country was ranked 10th -- a State Bank of India report stated on Saturday. India is currently ranked fifth largest economy. "The path taken by India since 2014 reveals the country is likely to get the tag of third largest economy by 2029," the report said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-is-likely-to-become-third-largest-economy-by-2029-sbi-report-122090300846 1.html

CBDT ISSUES REFUNDS OF OVER RS 1.14 TRILLION BETWEEN APRIL TO AUGUST: The Central Board
of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Saturday that it has issued refunds of over Rs 1.14 trillion to more
than 19.7 million taxpayers between April 1 to August 31. It also said that income tax refunds of Rs
61,252 crore have been issued in 19,600,998 cases and corporate tax refunds of Rs 53,158 crore
have been issued in 1,46,871 cases.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/cbdt-issues-tax-refunds-of-more-than-rs-1-14-trn-during-april-august-122090300410 1.html

CENTRE SPENT RS 5 TRILLION ON MGNREGA SCHEME IN 8 YEARS: The Centre has spent Rs 5 trillion on MGNREGA scheme during the past eight years, out of which 20 per cent was spent during the COVID-19 pandemic, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said. Speaking to reports in Kamareddy district of Telangana on Thursday, she said the state was given Rs 20,000 crore under the the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme in the past eight years.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/centre-spent-rs-5-lakh-crore-on-mgnrega-scheme-in-8-years-nirmala-sitharaman-122090200292 1.html#:~:text=The%20Centre%20has%20spent%20Rs,Minister%20Nirmala%20Sitharaman%20has%20said.



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• INDIAN EXPORTS TO CHINA DIP BY A THIRD IN APRIL-AUGUST TO \$6.8 BILLION: Amid a slowdown in economic activity in China, India's exports to its northern neighbour dropped 35 per cent to \$6.8 billion during April-August period at a time the country's overall exports rose 17.1 per cent. China became India's fourth largest export destination during the period, slipping from the second position during the same period a year ago. While exports of petroleum products such as naptha to China rose 81 per cent to \$1.2 billion during April-July due to elevated crude oil prices, shipments of organic chemicals (-38.3 per cent), iron ore (-78.5 per cent) and aluminium products (-84.2) saw sharp decline, disaggregated data available on Commerce Ministry website showed.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/indian-exports-to-china-dip-by-athird-in-april-july-to-5-9-billion-

<u>122090400628</u> 1.html#:~:text=Amid%20a%20slowdown%20in%20economic,exports%20rose%2 <u>017.1%20per%20cent</u>.

FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY/CONCEPTS CURRENCY SWAP

- ❖ A currency swap is an agreement between two cross-border entities where one of them agrees to provide a loan to another in a foreign currency. The repayment takes place in a different currency at a fixed date and an exchange rate. The interest rate charged on such loans is usually lesser than that available in the foreign market.
- Let us understand it with an example. Suppose India signs a currency swap agreement worth \$5 million with say, Nepal. India will then provide a loan to Nepal in a foreign currency which may be US Dollar. In return, Nepal will have to return the money in Indian Rupees at a fixed interest rate.
- ❖ This comes as a saviour for the countries going through a foreign reserve crisis as it allows them to get a loan in USD, at a lower rate of interest.
- ❖ Sri Lanka has been going through severe economic and political turmoil for the last several months now. High inflation and depletion of foreign reserves to an unsustainable level led the country to utter chaos. To help the neighbour, India signed a currency swap agreement of \$400 million with Sri Lanka. And in April, extended its term for repayment after the country said that it cannot meet its debt obligations. Since 2018, India has agreed to sign currency swaps with 23 countries.



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RBI KEY RATES

Repo Rate: 5.40%

SDF: 5.15%

MSF & Bank Rate: 5.65%

CRR: 4.50% SLR: 18.00%

Fixed Reverse Repo: 3.35\$

FOREX (FBIL 1.30 PM)

INR / 1 USD : 79.7888 INR / 1 GBP : 92.0720 INR / 1 EUR : 79.5292 INR /100 JPY : 56.8500

EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 58803.33 (+36.74) NIFTY: 17539.50 (-3.30)

Bank NIFTY: 39421.00 (+119.75)

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