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DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD, ICAI

09.05.2022: Today's Banking / Financial News at a Glance (Mon to Sat)

- PNB hikes lending rate by 40 bps: State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Friday said it has hiked its external benchmark linked lending rate by 0.40 per cent to 6.90 per cent with effect from June 1. The move comes a day after several lenders, including ICICI Bank, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India, raised interest rates following the RBI's surprise repo rate hike on Wednesday. The Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) has been changed from 6.50 per cent to 6.90 per cent with effect from June 1, 2022 for existing customers, PNB said in a regulatory filing. For new customers, the revised RLLR will be effective from May 7, 2022, it said. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/pnb-hikes-lending-rate-by-40-bps/articleshow/91382674.cms
- Indian Bank revises repo linked lending rate. EMIs set to increase: Indian Bank on Saturday said it has revised the repo linked lending rate with effect from May 9. "The Asset Liability Management Committee (ALCO) of the bank has reviewed the lending rate for all loans/advances linked with policy repo rate and revised the lending rate linked with policy repo rate based on repo from 4 per cent to 4.40 per cent," Indian Bank said in a regulatory filing. The bank said revised lending rate of the bank shall be effective from 9th May 2022 for new customers and from 1st June 2022 for all the existing customers of the bank. https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/indian-bank-revises-repo-linked-lending-rate-emis-set-to-increase-11651982486941.html
- Canara Bank hikes lending rates by 10-40 bps: Public sector lender Canara Bank on Saturday said it has hiked its lending rates between 10-40 basis points (bps). While the bank has passed on the entire 40 bps hike in the repo rate to customers whose loans are linked to the benchmark, the hike is marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) has been restricted to 10 bps, across tenors. This comes a few days after the monetary policy committee (MPC), through its 40 basis point (bps) repo rate hike on 4 May, decided to reverse the cut effected during the pandemic in May 2020.

 $\frac{\text{https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/canara-bank-hikes-lending-rates-by-10-40-bps-11651929131345.html\#:}{\text{20comes}}{\text{20a}}{\text{20few}}{\text{20days,the}}{\text{20pandemic}}{\text{20in}}{\text{20May}}{\text{202020.}}$

Central Bank of India says not yet decided on branch closures: State-owned Central Bank of
India has not yet decided on a possible extensive branch closure plan this fiscal year, the
lender said on Saturday days after Reuters reported it planned to shut some branches to
improve its financial health. On Thursday, Reuters cited sources and a document saying the
bank was looking to reduce the number of branches by 600, or 13% of the total, by either
shutting or merging loss-making branches by the end of March 2023. In an exchange filing



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late on Saturday, Central Bank of India noted the reported branch closure plan but said: "We hereby inform that there is no decision as of now to close a large number of branches during FY 2022-23"

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/central-bank-of-india-says-not-yet-decided-on-branch-

<u>closures/articleshow/91411610.cms#:~:text=State%2Downed%20Central%20Bank%20of,to%</u> 20improve%20its%20financial%20health.

- Indian Bank unveils digital broking solution: Public sector Indian Bank has unveiled digital broking solution -- E-Broking -- allowing customers to open a demat and trading account facility, in line with the digitalisation mission of the bank, an official said on Saturday. The launch of digital broking solution 'E-Broking' was a strategic step towards complete digitalisation of its offerings to customers, a bank statement said. "E-Broking, an instant and paper-less demat and trading account opening is integrated in the bank's mobile banking application," it said. IndOASIS, the bank's mobile banking application, would offer customers, a seamless experience from demat and trading account opening to discounted broking services backed by research based investment in the secondary market starting from equity, futures, options, and initial public offerings in a single platform, it said. economic times https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/indian-bank-unveils-digital-broking-solution/articleshow/91397570.cms
- HDFC Ltd hikes retail prime lending rate by 30 bps: Following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) surprise move hiking the repo rate by 40 basis points earlier this week, mortgage financier HDFC Ltd has revised its prime lending rate for all customers. It has increased its retail prime lending rate (RPLR) on housing loans, on which its adjustable rate home loans (ARHL) are benchmarked, by 30 basis points (bps). This is in effect from May 9, 2022, HDFC said on Saturday. For borrowers with a credit score of more than 750, the new rate will be 7 per cent. Loans for other categories and customers will have rates in the range of 7.05 per cent to 7.45 per cent.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/hdfc-ltd-hikes-retail-prime-lending-rate-by-30-bps/article65390977.ece

• Lenders to get 10-15 bps margin gains from rate hike: Report: The unexpected interest rate hike by the RBI on Wednesday will have the banking system on average making a 10-15 bps gains on the yields, with private banks making larger gains as 57 per cent of their loans are linked to external benchmark rate and 40 per cent to the marginal cost of lending rates, as per a report. Stating that lenders and borrowers will face volatile times with the Reserve Bank raising the repo rate by 40 bps to 4.40 per cent and the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 bps on May 4 in an off-cycle policy move, India Ratings said the market rates had already been moving higher before the move.



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https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/lenders-to-get-10-15-bps-margin-gains-from-rate-hike-report/articleshow/91382431.cms

• Future Enterprises to raise Rs 3,000 crore from insurance biz sale; aims to pare debt, avoid insolvency: Debt-ridden Future Group firm Future Enterprises Ltd expects to raise around Rs 3,000 crore from selling its stake in the insurance business to pare debt, which may save the company from facing the rigour of the insolvency process, according to industry sources. Earlier on Thursday, Future Enterprises Ltd completed the sale of its 25 per cent equity in Future Generali India Insurance Company Ltd (FGIICL) to joint venture partner Generali for Rs 1,266.07 crore. After this transaction, FEL will directly and indirectly continue to hold 24.91 per cent shares in FGIICL. "Now in the next 30-40 days, they will sell the remaining 25 per cent stake of the General insurance business for another Rs 1,250 crores to another entity," a source said.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/future-enterprises-to-raise-rs-3000-cr-from-insurance-biz-sale-aims-to-pare-debt-avoid-insolvency/articleshow/91415753.cms

- FPIs withdraw Rs 6,400 cr from equity markets in May so far: Foreign investors have pulled over Rs 6,400 crore from the Indian equity market in the first four trading sessions of the ongoing month when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and US Federal Reserve raised interest rates. Given the headwinds in terms of elevated crude prices, inflation, tight monetary policy among others, FPIs' flows in India are expected to remain volatile in the near term, Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities, said.
 https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/fpis-withdraw-rs-6400-cr-from-equity-markets-in-may-so-far/articleshow/91414153.cms
- RBI may aim for forex reserves above \$600 billion: India's central bank would seek to keep its stash of foreign exchange in excess of \$600 billion to provide adequate cushion through the current commodities super-cycle, record inflation in the West and the Ukraine war, potentially halting sell-buy currency swap deals hitherto used to suck out excess rupee liquidity. "The central bank does not want forex reserves to fall below \$600 billion. This will show India's strength amid a war," said a top central bank observer. Robust foreign exchange reserves are expected to burnish India's relative appeal as an investment destination amid the ongoing global liquidity tightening. economic times

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rbi-may-aim-for-forex-reserves-above-600-

billion/articleshow/91388663.cms#:~:text=India's%20central%20bank%20would%20seek,suc k%20out%20excess%20rupee%20liquidity.



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• Unity SFB to roll out initiatives for erstwhile PMC Bank depositors: Unity Small Finance Bank is planning to roll out initiatives, including for senior citizens, to bring relief to erstwhile Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank's customers. While a majority of the PMC Bank customers, with deposits up to ₹5 lakh, are understood to have received deposit insurance payouts, there are still about 43,000 depositors, with balances over ₹5 lakh. Those with over ₹5 lakh deposits now need relief as the scheme of amalgamation of PMC Bank with Unity SFB envisages access to their funds over an extended period of 10 years. Unity SFB, in a communication, has told its customers that a special scheme for senior citizens will be rolled out shortly to give them access to immediate liquidity.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/unity-sfb-to-roll-out-initiatives-

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/unity-sfb-to-roll-out-initiatives-for-erstwhile-pmc-bank-depositors/article65394050.ece

• Public sector general insurers may get ₹3,000-5,000 cr capital infusion: The government may infuse ₹3,000-5,000 crore additional capital in the three public sector general insurance companies based on their performance and requirement during the year, sources said. The capital infusion would help improve the financial health of the general insurance firms — National Insurance Company Limited, Oriental Insurance Company Limited and United India Insurance Company. In the last financial year, the government made a capital infusion of ₹5,000 crore to these companies. During 2020-21, ₹9,950 crore was infused, out of which ₹3,605 crore to the United India Insurance, ₹3,175 crore for National Insurance and ₹3,170 crore in Oriental Insurance.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/public-sector-general-insurers-may-get-capital-infusion-of-3000-5000-

cr/article65393946.ece#:~:text=To%20improve%20operational%20efficiencies%20and,during%20the%20year%2C%20sources%20said.

- DCB Bank Q4 net profit up 46 per cent to ₹113 crore: DCB Bank reported a 46 per cent increase in its net profit to ₹113 crore in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal as against ₹78 crore in the same period in 2020-21. However, its net profit for the full fiscal 2021-22 fell 21.3 per cent to ₹288 crore from ₹366 crore in 2020-21. For the quarter ended March 31, 2022, the private sector lender reported a 22.2 per cent jump in its net interest income to ₹380 crore from ₹311 crore a year ago.Net Interest Margin was at 3.93 per cent in the January to March 2022 quarter as against 3.46 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2020-21. https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/dcb-bank-q4-net-profit-up-46-per-cent-to-113-crore/article65391842.ece
- LIC IPO: Non-institutional investor quota gets fully subscribed: The non-institutional investor quota of Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) IPO was fully subscribed on Saturday, the fourth day of bidding. According to data with the exchanges, the portion reserved for non-institutional investors was subscribed 1.08 times by 7 pm on Saturday. The



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overall issue was subscribed 1.66 times. The offer received bids for 26.83 crore shares against the offered 16.20 crore equity shares on offer.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/lic-ipo-non-institutional-investor-quota-gets-fully-subscribed/article65391341.ece

• Health insurance premium on the rise: Health insurance premium is set to rise this fiscal on the back of rising medical costs and high Covid-19 claims. While a number of insurers have already announced hikes in their retail health insurance products, others are expected to raise in the coming months. "High Covid-19 claims have impacted many insurers in the last year. A few are looking at increasing the premium by 15 per cent to 20 per cent on retail health covers," said an executive with a private sector non-life insurer. Insurers also point out that the rising medical inflation along with new protocol post the Covid 19 pandemic has added to costs.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/health-insurance-premium-on-the-rise/article65391142.ece

• Generali completes acquisition of 25 per cent stake in Future Generali India Insurance: Generali has completed the acquisition of 25 per cent of the shares of Future Generali India Insurance (FGII) from Future Enterprises Limited and will now hold a stake of around 74 per cent in the insurer. "Generali received the approval from the relevant regulatory and competition authorities," it said in a statement on Saturday. Jaime Anchústegui Melgarejo, CEO International of Generali, said: "This acquisition is in line with Generali's strategy to reinforce its position in a high potential market and we look forward to deepening our presence in India, becoming lifetime partners to an increasing share of Indian customers in both Life and P&C businesses."

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/generali-completes-acquisition-of-25-stake-in-future-generali-india-insurance-from-future-group/articleshow/91401274.cms

• Shriram City to focus on gold, personal, small business loans in FY23; targets 18% AUM growth: Shriram City Union Finance will focus on personal, gold and small business loans to achieve its 18 per cent growth in AUM in the current fiscal year amid a slowdown in demand for two-wheelers due to shortage of components and other factors, a top company executive said. Noting that the demand in the economy has not yet fully recovered, while rural and semi-urban areas have been doing better now, Y S Chakravarti, MD & CEO, said majority of the company's business comes from semi-urban and rural markets and anything good for the rural economy will help the company's business.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/shriram-city-to-focus-on-gold-personal-small-business-loans-in-fy23-aims-18-growth-in-aum/articleshow/91418717.cms



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DCB Bank Q4 net profit jumps to Rs 113 crore: Private sector lender DCB Bank on Saturday posted a 44.87 per cent rise in its net profit at Rs 113 crore for the quarter ended March 2022. The bank had registered a net profit of Rs 78 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Total income in the March quarter of the fiscal year 2021-22 increased to Rs 1,035 crore, as against Rs 967 crore in the same quarter of 2020-21, DCB Bank said in a regulatory filing. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/earnings/dcb-bank-q4-net-profit-jumps-to-rs-113-cr/articleshow/91419374.cms

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