



**THE INSTITUTE OF  
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## DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD, ICAI

December 16, 2021

- **SBI, Indian Army renew MoU to offer benefits to army personnel, their families :** State Bank of India Wednesday said it has renewed its memorandum of understanding with the Indian Army to offer specially crafted benefits to all serving and retired Army personnel and their families through its Defence Salary Package (DSP) Scheme. Under the MoU, the bank offers complimentary personal and air accidental insurance (death) covers, additional cover in case of on-duty death, permanent total disability / partial disability covers. It also supports the education of children and marriage of girl child of the deceased Army personnel, the bank said in a release. Going forward, veterans would also be eligible for complimentary personal accidental (death) insurance, irrespective of age. Family pensioners will also be eligible for a bouquet of benefits, it said.  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/sbi-indian-army-renew-mou-to-offer-benefits-to-army-personnel-their-families/articleshow/88303477.cms>
- **SBI to explore possibility of offloading 6% stake of the bank:** State Bank of India (SBI) is exploring the possibility to offload 6 per cent stake of the bank in SBI Funds Management Private Ltd through the initial public offer (IPO) route. The Executive Committee of Central Board of the bank has accorded approval for the same, India's largest bank said in a regulatory filing.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/sbi-to-explore-possibility-of-offloading-6-stake-of-the-bank/article37960089.ece>
- **Capital norms for operational risks of banks to be revised: RBI:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will introduce revised norms for banks for setting aside capital for operational risks from April 01, 2023, to ensure robustness in working of banking entities. The proposed rules termed the new standardised approach, which is Basel III-compliant, will replace existing approaches like basic Indicator Approach (BIA), and Advanced Measurement Approach (AMA) to measure minimum operational risk capital requirements. For the purpose of these revised directions operational risks means the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events. This definition includes legal risk, but excludes strategic and reputational risk.  
[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/capital-norms-for-operational-risks-of-banks-to-be-revised-rbi-121121600035\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/capital-norms-for-operational-risks-of-banks-to-be-revised-rbi-121121600035_1.html)
- **RBI imposes monetary penalty of Rs 30 lakh on ICICI Bank and Rs 1.8 crore on PNB:** Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday announced monetary penalty on ICICI Bank, Punjab National Bank. The Central Bank has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.8 crore on Punjab National Bank and Rs 30 lakh on ICICI Bank. The penalty on PNB has been imposed for contravention of sub-section (2) of section 19 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act). "This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers," read RBI's readout.



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<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rbi-imposes-monetary-penalty-of-rs-30-lakh-on-icici-bank-and-rs-1-8-crore-on-pnb/articleshow/88301221.cms>

- **RBI allows Payments Banks, SFBs to conduct Govt agency business:** Scheduled payments banks and scheduled small finance banks will be eligible to conduct Government agency business, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The central bank has decided in this regard in consultation with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF). Any payment bank or small finance bank that intends to undertake Government agency business may be appointed as an agent of RBI upon execution of an agreement with RBI, provided that the overarching regulatory framework prescribed for these banks is complied with.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-allows-payments-banks-sfbs-to-conduct-govt-agency-business/article37961413.ece>
- **Jury still out on giving bank licences to industrial houses: RBI official:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao on Wednesday defended the central bank's decision of not allowing industrial houses to float banks, and said more deliberations are needed before RBI changes its stance on this issue agreed back in 2001. An internal working group (IWG) of the RBI had recommended allowing industrial groups into banking, but late last month the RBI said it kept on hold the two recommendations of allowing industrial houses and large non-banks to float banks. However, RBI had accepted 21 of the 33 recommendations of the group that submitted its report a year ago.  
[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/jury-still-out-on-giving-bank-licences-to-industrial-houses-rbi-official-121121501437\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/jury-still-out-on-giving-bank-licences-to-industrial-houses-rbi-official-121121501437_1.html)
- **Cabinet approves incentive scheme to promote RuPay Debit Cards, low-value BHIM-UPI transactions:** The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an incentive scheme worth ₹ 1,300 crore to promote RuPay Debit Cards and low-value (up to ₹2,000) BHIM-UPI transactions (person to merchants-P2M) in the country. Under the scheme, the acquiring banks will be incentivised by the Government by paying a percentage of the value of transactions (P2M) done through RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI modes of payments, at an estimated financial outlay of ₹1,300 crore for one year w.e.f. April 01, 2021.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/cabinet-approves-incentive-scheme-to-promote-rupay-debit-cards-low-value-bhim-upi-transactions/article37961615.ece>
- **Yes Bank case: SC seeks CBI, ED response on Dheeraj Wadhawan bail plea on medical ground:** The Supreme Court Wednesday directed the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate apprise it of their stand on plea of Dheeraj Wadhawan, a promoter of Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL) and an accused in the Yes Bank fraud case, seeking interim bail on medical grounds. A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli asked the agencies as to why they want to keep the accused in jail and for what purpose when the charge sheet has been filed. We want to know as to for what purposes you want to keep him in jail. Do you want further investigation or what? Let him remain in jail or hospital. Tell us what you want to get out of him now...You are not denying that he has been in jail for 20 odd months," said the bench during the hearing.



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<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/yes-bank-case-sc-seeks-cbi-ed-response-on-dheeraj-wadhawan-bail-plea-on-medical-ground/articleshow/88303993.cms>

- **PSU bank employees to go on two-day strike from Toda; services likely to be hit :** Close to nine lakh employees of various state-run banks will go on a two-day nation-wide strike beginning Thursday to protest against the government's move to privatise two public sector lenders, union leaders said. Most of the banks, including State Bank of India (SBI), have already cautioned their customers about the strike's possible impact on banking operations like cheque clearance and fund transfer.  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/psu-bank-employees-to-go-on-two-day-strike-from-thursday-services-likely-to-be-hit/articleshow/88302459.cms>
- **SVC Co-operative Bank launches loan festival; to offer credit at attractive rates:** SVC Co-operative Bank on Wednesday announced the launch of its loan festival, offering home loans from 6.45 per cent onwards, among other products such as vehicle, gold and doctors loans. The consumer loan festival 'SVC Maha Loan Utsav' offers a bouquet of consumer loan products at attractive rates, to be available across all the 198 branches of the bank in 11 states till December 31, 2021, SVC Bank said in a statement. The bank said it has revised the rate of interest on home loans to 6.45 per cent onwards during the offer period, while vehicle loans will be charged at seven per cent per annum onwards and gold loans at 8.50 per cent per annum onwards.  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/svc-co-operative-bank-launches-loan-festival-to-offer-credit-at-attractive-rates/articleshow/88301545.cms>
- **UBS says it remains committed to India as advisory services move:** UBS will retain a significant onshore presence in India, the Swiss bank said on Wednesday after Bloomberg reported that it planned to move investment banking advisory services out of the country. "We remain committed to our business in India and retain a significant presence onshore and in the region," UBS said in an emailed statement.  
[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ubs-says-it-remains-committed-to-india-as-advisory-services-move-121121500909\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ubs-says-it-remains-committed-to-india-as-advisory-services-move-121121500909_1.html)
- **CBDT issues refunds of Rs 1.37 lakh crore to 1.27 crore taxpayers:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued refunds of over Rs 1,36,779 crore to more than 1.27 crore taxpayers from April 1 to December 13, the Income Tax Department said on Wednesday. "CBDT issues refunds of over Rs 1,36,779 crore to more than 1.27 crore taxpayers from 1st Apr, 2021 to 13th December, 2021. Income tax refunds of Rs 46,438crore have been issued in 1,25,34,644 cases & corporate tax refunds of Rs 90,340 crore have been issued in 2,02,705 cases," the Income Tax department tweeted.  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/cbdt-issues-refunds-of-rs-1-37-lakh-crore-to-1-27-crore-taxpayers/articleshow/88303106.cms>
- **Paytm launches Paytm Wealth Academy:** Paytm, which got listed in bourses last month, has announced the launch of Paytm Wealth Academy, a tech-powered educational platform. The launch of the wealth academy is initially on the Paytm Money app, the wealth management app owned by



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Paytm's wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Money. Paytm Wealth Academy will initially be available to select users, followed by complete rollout.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/paytm-launches-paytm-wealth-academy/article37959511.ece>

- **HDFC invokes Ansal Housing promoters' share pledge:** Housing Development Finance Ltd (HDFC) has invoked a pledge of 50,00,000 shares or 8.42 per cent of the share capital of New Delhi-based real estate company, Ansal Housing. Ansal Housing is in the business of construction and development of residential townships and commercial complexes. The company had a turnover of ₹139.03 crore in financial year 2020-21, and a net loss of ₹44 crore.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/hdfc-invokes-pledge-of-842-per-cent-share-capital-of-ansal-housing/article37962852.ece>
- **AutoPay continues to see robust growth in November:** AutoPay continues to see wide scale acceptance amongst customers even as a number of banks are still rolling out facilities for e-mandate for recurring transactions. Data with the National Payments Corporation of India reveals that as many as 45.54 lakh mandates were registered in November and 1.84 crore mandates executed last month on the AutoPay platform. State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Bank of Baroda were the three top lenders for registration of mandates in November with 14.56 lakh, 4.56 lakh and 3.63 lakh mandates registered respectively with them.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/autopay-continues-to-see-robust-growth-in-november/article37959868.ece>
- **FSS, CSB Bank launch hyperlocal banking services to boost financial inclusion:** FSS and CSB Bank have partnered to deliver hyperlocal banking services to financially underserved segments. “Under the aegis of this partnership, CSB Bank and FSS plan to open 1,000 Smart Cash franchisees in semi-urban and rural areas across India to expand financial services adoption among underserved segments,” they said in a statement on Wednesday. Modelled on a Branch-in-a-Box service concept, Smart Cash franchisees, equipped with a kiosk or micro-ATM device, would offer affordable banking, investment, credit, and insurance products to target segments, the statement further said.  
[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/fss-csb-bank-to-open-1-000-smart-cash-franchisees-for-financial-inclusion-121121500590\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/fss-csb-bank-to-open-1-000-smart-cash-franchisees-for-financial-inclusion-121121500590_1.html)
- **Microfin sector to be back on track by Mar 2022: MFIN chief:** The microfinance industry expects disbursements to bounce back to pre-Covid levels by the third quarter of this fiscal and growth to start coming in by Q4FY22 backed by a steady improvement in demand. The industry has already come back to nearly 90 per cent of pre-Covid levels in terms of disbursements in the second quarter of this fiscal. According to Alok Misra, CEO and Director, MFIN (Microfinance Institutions Network) there has been an improvement in collection efficiency and if there is no further lockdowns due to Covid-19, which looks unlikely at the moment, the industry should be back on track by March 2022.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/microfin-sector-to-be-back-on-track-by-mar-2022-mfin-chief/article37963220.ece>



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- **Reliance, TCS emerge the largest wealth creators in the last 5 years:** Reliance Industries, TCS and Adani group emerged as the consistent wealth creators in last five years. Reliance was the biggest wealth creator for the third successive year. It created wealth of ₹9.7-lakh crore between 2016-21, beating its own previous record of ₹5.6-lakh crore in 2014-19, according to Motilal Oswal 26th Annual Wealth Creation Study. In the last five years, the top 100 companies generated wealth of ₹71-lakh crore against ₹26-lakh crore in 2015-20. This is the highest-ever wealth created in the last 130 years.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/reliance-tcs-emerge-the-largest-wealth-creators-in-the-last-5-years/article37960837.ece>
- **Microfinance loan disbursements more than doubled in Q2 to ₹64,899 cr: MFIN report:** Microfinance loan disbursements in the second quarter of the fiscal shot up by 107.6 per cent to ₹64,899 crore as compared to ₹31,261 crore in the same quarter last fiscal. According to industry body MFIN's Micrometer report for July to September 2021 quarter, the number of loans disbursed during the quarter increased to 1.85 crore from 88 lakh a year ago. Alok Misra, CEO and Director, MFIN noted that microfinance operations seem to be returning to normalcy after the difficult phase of the second wave of the pandemic.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/microfinance-loan-disbursements-more-than-doubled-in-q2-to-64899-cr-mfin-report/article37960871.ece>
- **Tata Motors to sign a retail finance MoU with Bandhan Bank:** Tata Motors has partnered with Bandhan Bank to sign a retail finance MoU, offering finance options to all its passenger vehicle customers. As part of the tie-up, Bandhan Bank will provide loans to Tata Motors' customers at an interest rate starting from 7.50 per cent. This scheme will offer a maximum of 90 percent financing on the total on-road cost of the vehicle.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/tata-motors-to-sign-a-retail-finance-mou-with-bandhan-bank/article37960187.ece>
- **MODIFI announces \$145 million in debt financing:** Fintech MODIFI on Wednesday announced \$145 million in debt financing with existing bank partners Silicon Valley Bank and Solarisbank. "The funds will be used to address increasing demand and help more small and medium-sized enterprises trade internationally on MODIFI's digital platform," it said in a statement.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/modifi-announces-145-million-in-debt-financing/article37958267.ece>
- **Sensex drops over 200 points; Nifty slips below 17,300:** The 30-share index slumped 212.65 points or 0.37 per cent to 57,904.44 in the opening trade. Similarly, the Nifty fell 67.55 points or 0.39 per cent to 17,257.35. Tech Mahindra was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding over 1 per cent, followed by Infosys, TCS, Bajaj Finance and HCL Tech. On the other hand, NTPC, Kotak Bank, PowerGrid, M&M and Axis Bank were among the gainers.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/stock-markets/sensex-drops-over-200-points-nifty-slips-below-17300/article37958017.ece>



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- **Rupee breaches 76 ahead of Fed meet:** The rupee breached the 76 to the dollar for the first time since June 2020 due to mounting fears that the US Federal Open Market Committee may go in for faster wind-down of bond purchases and shift to higher interest rates to control rising inflation. India's rising trade deficit and the greenback gaining strength against most global currencies also led to traders squaring off their existing bets on the Indian currency.  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/forex/rupee-breaches-76-ahead-of-fed-meet/article37963576.ece>

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