

BANKING AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS DIGEST

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CONTENTS

Stellapps partnered with Airtel Payments Bank	2
RBI removed IOB from PCAF	2
New Auto-Debit Rules Set by RBI	3
World Bank to Support Chennai's Sustainable Urban Services.....	3
NAV-eCash Card	3
NARCL Received Approval from RBI to Register as an ARC.....	3
'Supreme'—A Current Account for NRIs	4
BharatPe enters into BNBL Segment with the Launch of Postpe.....	4
RBI's Monetary Policy Committee Decisions	4
NABARD sanctioned Rs 303 Crore to Odisha	4
Federal Bank partnered with CredAvenue.....	5
'I-Sprint'21'—IFSCA and GIFT City	5
'6S Campaign'-- Punjab National Bank (PNB)	5
India's GDP to be at 9.1% for FY 2021-22—FICCI	5
'Bharti AXA Life Unnati'	6
Ezetap partnered with Axis Bank.....	6
Indian Economy to Grow by 9.5% in FY 22—IMF.....	6
'ePLI bond'	6
PayPal Signed MoU with IIFT	6
U GRO Capital Partnered with Kinara Capital	7
Vested Finance partnered with SBM Bank.....	7
'UFill'—BPCL	7
RBI Imposed Penalty on SBI	8
Sri Lanka Seeks Loan from India	8
'NSE- Shine'.....	8
RBI Imposed Fine on Standard Chartered Bank.....	8
Rupifi partnered with Muthoot Finance	9
NABARD Sanctioned Rs 608 crore for Assam Infrastructure Projects.....	9
RBI imposed Penalty Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)	9
NPCI Launched NTS Platform.....	9
\$100 Million Credit Facility for MSMEs	10

Banking and Financial Awareness Digest: October 2021

Bharti AXA Life signed Bancassurance Partnership with Utkarsh SFB	10
ITILITE Partnered with ICICI Bank	10
RBI proposed Minimum 11.5% Capital for Four AIFIs.....	10
RBI Introduced Revised Scale-Based Regulatory Framework for NBFCs	11
FGII signed Bancassurance Pact with BoI	11
'Ka-ching' Credit Card--By KMBL and IndiGo Airlines	11
HDFC Bank partnered with IPPB	11
'BeFit' - A cashless OPD and Wellness Services	12
India and ADB signed a \$4.5 million PRF Loan	12
GOI and ADB signed Loan Agreement for MAGNET Project.....	12
KMB partnered with NPCI.....	12

BANKING AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS DIGEST: OCTOBER 2021

STELLAPPS PARTNERED WITH AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK

- Stellapps which is the dairy tech startup has partnered with Airtel Payments Bank.
- They have partnered to enable cashless transactions to the small dairy farmers in India.
- The partnership will reduce the work of farmers to travel to the ATM or bank branch to withdraw or deposit the cash.
- Under this partnership, the stellapps milk collection center will act as a banking point.

RBI REMOVED IOB FROM PCAF

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) from the Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF).
- The reason behind taking out of PCAF was that the bank has performed in compliance with PCA parameters and features.
- The performance overview of the IOB was made and hence the decision was taken by the central ban.
- The IOB also committed to follow and comply with the rules of Minimum Regulatory Capital, NET NPA, and leverage ratio on an ongoing basis.

NEW AUTO-DEBIT RULES SET BY RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set and mandated new auto-debit rules.
- The new auto-debit rules have commenced from 1st Oct 2021.
- The rules aim to strengthen the safety and security of card transactions and protect the customers from fraudulent transactions. This will enhance the customer experience.
- In case of recurring payments which are above Rs 5000, banks are supposed to send OTP to the customers.
- The customers will also get an option to opt-out from a particular transaction or mandate through a link provided in pre-debit notification.

WORLD BANK TO SUPPORT CHENNAI'S SUSTAINABLE URBAN SERVICES

- The World Bank has announced to support Chennai's Sustainable Urban Services.
- It will help to make Chennai a 'world-class city'.
- In this regard, the World Bank has approved about \$150 million programs for Chennai.
- It will help Tamil Nadu to transform Chennai into green, liveable, and resilient towards climate change.
- The program will help to strengthen institutions and the financial health of service agencies in Chennai.

NAV-ECASH CARD

- The Indian Navy and State Bank of India (SBI) collaborated to launch SBI's NAV-eCash Card onboard INS Vikramaditya, which is India's largest Naval Aircraft Carrier.
- It will prove a major contribution to digital payment solutions in India.
- The NAV-eCash Card is based on dual-chip technology which will enable it to be used in both online and offline transactions methods.
- It will also eradicate the difficulty faced by the officer to handle physical cash during deployment of the ship at high seas.

NARCL RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM RBI TO REGISTER AS AN ARC

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) with the licence to register as an asset reconstruction company (ARC).
- The NARCL is seeking to turn around bad loans of Rs 2 trillion.
- The central bank granted the license under Section 3 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002.
- The NARCL is set up under the Companies Act, and 51% of it will be held by public sector banks. The rest will be held by private banks and financial institutions.

'SUPREME'—A CURRENT ACCOUNT FOR NRIS

- The ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched 'Supreme' which is a Current account product for Non – Resident Indians (NRIs).
- Various features are linked with this account.
- Features like hassle-free banking enhanced ATM cash withdrawal limit of Rs 50,000 per day, POS transaction limit of Rs.80,000 per day, and e-commerce transaction limit of Rs 20,000 per day in India are provided by the 'Supreme'.
- The services will be available at 277 branches of ESAF in Kerala.
- The bank has 17940 nonresident saving bank account from 121 countries.

BHARATPE ENTERS INTO BNBL SEGMENT WITH THE LAUNCH OF POSTPE

- India's major fintech company, BharatPe announced its entry into the 'Buy Now Pay Later' (BNPL) segment, with the launch of 'postpe'.
- The new segment will allow customers with the credit to buy now but pay later from anywhere in an online or offline manner.
- The credit will be provided by postpe and the customers will have to download the app from the play store.
- They can avail interest-free credit limit of up to Rs 10 lakh.
- BharatPe will also provide a loan book of \$300 million on postpe in the first 12 months, for its lending partners.

RBI'S MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE DECISIONS

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) fourth bi-monthly policy meet for FY 2021-22 took place.
- It was headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and he has maintained the status quo.
- As per the MPC meeting, the repo rate was unchanged i.e. it is at 4%.
- The reverse repo rate was unchanged i.e. it is at 3.35%.
- The Marginal Standing Facility Rate is at 4.25%.
- The Bank rate is at 4.25%.
- The CRR is at 4% and the SLR is at 18%.

NABARD SANCTIONED RS 303 CRORE TO ODISHA

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 303 crore to the government of Odisha.
- The funds will be used by the state government to construct 24 bridges.
- This will help to improve connectivity for 24.13 lakh people in 823 villages across 13 districts.
- It will also improve the livelihood of the people in the state.
- Uptil now, under the RIDF 2020-21, NABARD has sanctioned Rs 1,796 crore.

FEDERAL BANK PARTNERED WITH CREDAVENUE

- The Federal Bank has partnered with CredAvenue.
- The partnership was made to have portfolio management of its securitization book.
- Due to this, the Federal Bank will be able to track digitally its ABS & MBS pool assets in a digital manner.
- These assets will be enabled with CredPool, which is CredAvenue's end-to-end securitization and portfolio buyouts and fulfillment solutions platform.
- Currently, the Post-transaction fulfillment services are performed manually. The evaluation of asset quality is conducted only at the end of each quarter.

'I-SPRINT'21' — IFSCA AND GIFT CITY

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City launched I-Sprint'21.
- The I-Sprint'21 is the global FinTech Hackathon Series S'print01: BankTech'.
- It focuses on fintech for the banking sector.
- The Banktech is hosted by IFSCA and GIFT city in partnership with NITI Aayog.
- The ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups, and Invest-India are the partnered entities of the hackathon.
- The hackathon will work to connect IFSCA and GIFT IFSC with fintech.

'6S CAMPAIGN'-- PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK (PNB)

- The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched the '6S Campaign'.
- The '6S Campaign' was launched under its customer outreach program.
- The bank aims to provide financial services at a concessional rate to its customers during the festival season.
- The moto of the campaign is to create awareness among the people about various financial services of India.
- It will help to boost credit, enhance penetration of social security schemes, and will give a major push to the digital banking structure.

INDIA'S GDP TO BE AT 9.1% FOR FY 2021-22 — FICCI

- The FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey was released recently.
- As per the survey, India's GDP is expected to grow at 9.1% in 2021-22.
- The organisation conducted the survey in Sep 2021.
- The organisation also mentioned that the upcoming festive season will support this momentum.

'BHARTI AXA LIFE UNNATI'

- The Bharti AXA Life Insurance has launched 'Bharti AXA Life Unnati'.
- The 'Bharti AXA Life Unnati' is a new savings product by the organisation.
- It will offer long-term financial stability to individuals.
- It provides dual benefits of savings and protection in one single plan to the individuals.
- It provides four plan options and the individual can select flexible premium payment terms.
- The four plan options are: (a) Whole Life Income option (b) Endowment option (c) Moneyback Option (d) Immediate Income Option.

EZETAP PARTNERED WITH AXIS BANK

- The Ezetap has entered into a partnership with Axis Bank.
- They have partnered to provide a new service app named 'My Vyappar'.
- The app will serve the retail segment in India.
- It will motivate the merchants to avail digital payment services.
- Under the partnership, Axis Bank will provide a digital payment management function to the merchants.
- Around 50,000 PoS devices are deployed with 'My Vyappar' in more than 1600 Indian cities.

INDIAN ECONOMY TO GROW BY 9.5% IN FY 22—IMF

- As per International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's economy to grow by 9.5% in FY 2021-22 i.e. FY22.
- It has also been projected that India's economy will grow by 8.5% in FY23.
- The global GDP to grow by 5.9% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022.
- The estimation data was released in its latest World Economic Outlook report.

'EPLI BOND'

- The Department of Posts has launched the digital version of 'ePLI bond' The 'ePLI bond' was launched in partnership with Digilocker.
- The user will be able to download a digital copy of policy bond from Digilocker.
- The Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) and the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) policy bonds can be accessed 'electronically'.
- That electronic generated form will be considered as the valid policy document.
- The 'ePLI bond' was developed by National eGovernance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT and is made available digitally by Digilocker.

PAYPAL SIGNED MOU WITH IIFT

Banking and Financial Awareness Digest: October 2021

- PayPal has signed MoU with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). They have signed the MoU to increase the knowledge base of Indian MSME.
- Through the MoU, they will be launching India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum (IDTFF) for the MSME sector.
- The IDTFF will provide schooling, coaching, and capability construction to the MSMEs.
- It will guide the MSMEs to market, scale, and digitize their products at national and international levels.
- The webinars will be conducted to train the MSME. These webinars will be conducted by industry experts, traders, and policymakers.

U GRO CAPITAL PARTNERED WITH KINARA CAPITAL

- The U GRO Capital has entered into a strategic partnership with Kinara Capital. They have collaborated to provide collateral-free business loans to the small businesses in the country.
- They will jointly provide Rs 100 crore loans to the MSMEs by the end of FY22.
- The loans will be provided to the MSMEs dealing in manufacturing, trading, services domains.
- The loan amount in between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 30 lakh with a tenure of 12-60 months will be provided to the MSME.
- The process of loan application to loan disbursement will be made by Kinara Capital.

VESTED FINANCE PARTNERED WITH SBM BANK

- Vested Finance has entered into a partnership with SBM Bank.
- Vested Finance is the entity that enables Indians to invest in foreign stocks and SBM Bank is the Indian subsidiary of the State Bank of Mauritius.
- They have partnered to launch 'Vested Direct' which is a solution to provide forex transfers at affordable prices.
- Using 'Vested Direct' the investors will be able to open free of cost, no minimum balance saving account with SBM Bank funds.

'UFILL' — BPCL

- The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched 'UFill'.
- The 'UFill' is an automated fueling technology.
- The technology will ensure that the customers avail better experience at outlets.
- The technology provides customers with control of fueling at outlets, which grants them a swift, secure and smart experience.
- The technology can be used with payment apps like GPay, PayTM, PhonePe, etc.
- It provides real-time QR and voucher codes via the SMS platform.

RBI IMPOSED PENALTY ON SBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty on the State Bank of India (SBI).
- A penalty of Rs 1 crore was imposed on SBI.
- The penalty was imposed because SBI was found non-compliance with the rules mentioned in 'RBI in terms of Frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs directions 2016'.
- The penalty was imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47A (1) (c) read with sections 46(4) (i) and 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

SRI LANKA SEEKS LOAN FROM INDIA

- The Government of Sri Lanka has sought a credit line from India in order to pay its purchases of crude oil.
- In this regard, Sri Lanka has sought a USD 500 million loan from India.
- Currently, Sri Lanka is facing a severe foreign exchange crisis because the pandemic has badly hit the economy of the island nation.
- The credit line of USD 500 million is a part of the India-Sri Lanka economic partnership.
- The island nation will use the loan amount to procure petrol and diesel requirements.

'NSE- SHINE'

- The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has partnered with Chainflux.
- They have partnered to launch 'NSE –Shine'.
- The 'NSE –Shine' is a blockchain platform for gold bullion.
- The platform was inaugurated by the Executive Director of SEBI, VS Sundaresan.
- The 'NSE –Shine' will offer a data framework for bullion bar integrity for the purpose of settlement of gold derivatives contracts.
- The platform is developed with the support of the Indian Bullion and Jewelers Association (IBJA) and the India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) at IIM Ahmedabad.

RBI IMPOSED FINE ON STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine on Standard Chartered Bank.
- A fine of Rs 1.95 crore was imposed on the bank.
- The reasons behind the imposition of a fine are that the Standard Chartered Bank has failed to report a cyber security incident within the prescribed time period to the central bank, and has failed to credit the amount involved in unauthorized electronic transactions.
- As the Standard Chartered Bank was observed non-compliance with RBI's directions on customer protection, it was thus penalized by the RBI.

RUPIFI PARTNERED WITH MUTHOOT FINANCE

- The Rupifi has entered into a partnership with Muthoot Finance.
- They have partnered to provide instant credit support to 15 million SMEs.
- The Rupifi is the Digital business-to-business payment startup for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- The partnership will be executed for the period of next few years.
- Both entities will develop an SME portfolio over the coming years.
- The Rupifi allows SMEs to repay their dues flexibly as and when required with per day interest price without any monthly EMIs.

NABARD SANCTIONED RS 608 CRORE FOR ASSAM INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- The NABARD has sanctioned funds to the GOI to conduct infrastructure projects in Assam rural areas.
- The NABARD has sanctioned Rs 608 crore for the same.
- The infrastructure projects include constructing 52 rural roads, 21 rural bridges, developing 19 flood protection projects, and 32 soil conservation projects.
- The funds are granted under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) XXVII.
- The projects will prove beneficial to the 17 lakh rural population of the state.

RBI IMPOSED PENALTY PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK LIMITED (PPBL)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL).
- A penalty of Rs 1 crore was imposed on PPBL.
- The penalty was imposed due to violations of certain rules under Section 26 (2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- As per the central bank, the information submitted during PPBL's application for the issue of the final Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) did not reflect the factual position.

NPCI LAUNCHED NTS PLATFORM

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) platform.
- It will be an alternative to storing card details with merchants.
- It will support the tokenization of RuPay cards in order to grant safety and security to the users during shopping.
- Under this platform, NPCI will offer Token Reference On File (TROF) service. This service will maintain the security of financial data. The card details will remain safe at the RuPay Network Secure vault.
- The merchants are supposed to meet the tokenization by 1st Jan 2022.

\$100 MILLION CREDIT FACILITY FOR MSMES

- The HDFC Bank, Mastercard, United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and US Agency for International Development (USAID) have launched a \$100 million credit facility for MSMEs in India.
- It is part of USAID's global Women Economic Empowerment Fund.
- The credit facility aims to support small business sectors in India so that they can avail digital needs of their business.
- The credit facility will also help the MSMEs to recover from the negative impacts of COVID-19.

BHARTI AXA LIFE SIGNED BANCASSURANCE PARTNERSHIP WITH UTKARSH SFB

- The Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Limited (Bharti AXA Life) has signed a bancassurance pact with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.
- The bancassurance pact was signed to distribute insurance products via the bank's network in India.
- Due to this collaboration, Bharti AXA life will be able to reach Tier II and Tier III markets in India and sell their insurance products.
- This will enhance insurance reach in India.
- The insurance products like protection, health, savings, and investment plans will be made available to the customers of the bank in entire India.

ITILITE PARTNERED WITH ICICI BANK

- They have partnered to issue commercial credit cards to businesses in India.
- Due to this partnership, the companies can avail 'ICICI Bank Central Travel Account Card (CTA card)'.
- Under the partnership, the ICICI bank will issue the CTA card to businesses and will provide them a credit period of upto 50 days.
- The digital, automated, cost-effective travel and expense management platform will be provided by ITILITE.
- Businesses can recharge their ITILITE wallet using a CTA card.

RBI PROPOSED MINIMUM 11.5% CAPITAL FOR FOUR AIFIS

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a minimum of 11.5% capital for four All India Financial Institutions (AIFI).
- The 4 AIFIs are: National Housing Bank, Exim Bank, Small Industries Development Bank of India, and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development.
- This minimum capital is in accordance with the Basel III framework to raise the resilience of AIFI in periods of stress.
- These 4 AIFIs should have a minimum total capital of 9% from 1st April 2022 and a minimum capital buffer should be at 2.5%.

Banking and Financial Awareness Digest: October 2021

- The minimum common equity tier 1 (CET1) capital of these institutions should be 5.5% and the minimum tier 1 capital requirement should be at 7%.
- These AIFs should adopt standardized approaches to measure capital charge for market risk and credit risk.

RBI INTRODUCED REVISED SCALE-BASED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a revised scale-based regulatory (SBR) framework for NBFCs in India.
- The revised SBR will be effective from 1st Oct 2022.
- The NBFCs who are in the top 10 with respect to asset size will be accommodated in the upper layer. In that case, no other factors will be considered.
- The base layer includes non-deposit-taking NBFCs having below the asset size of Rs 1000 crore.
- In the new framework, RBI has twisted the NPA classification to more than 90 days for all categories of NBFCs.
- There will be a ceiling of Rs 1 crore per borrower for financing a subscription to Initial Public Offer (IPO).

FGII SIGNED BANCASSURANCE PACT WITH BOI

- The Future Generali India Insurance (FGII) has signed a bancassurance pact with the Bank of India (BoI).
- The FGII aims to further penetrate its general insurance products through this partnership.
- Under this pact, FGII will offer its wide array of insurance solutions to 5,084 BoI branches in India.
- Until now, the FGII has partnered with 15 public and private banks to sell its insurance products in various parts of India.

'KA-CHING' CREDIT CARD--BY KMBL AND INDIGO AIRLINES

- The Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) and IndiGo airlines have launched 'Ka-ching' which is a co-branded credit card.
- It was launched under IndiGo's 6E rewards program.
- It will be launched in November 2021.
- The 'Ka-ching' co-branded credit card will be available in two variants, namely 6E Rewards, and 6E Rewards XL.
- They can earn additional 6E rewards on dining, shopping, transport, medical bills, utilities, and fuel.
- They can redeem these points for airline tickets anytime with no blackout dates on redemptions.

HDFC BANK PARTNERED WITH IPPB

- The HDFC bank entered into a strategic partnership with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
- They have partnered to offer housing loans to around 47 million customers.

Banking and Financial Awareness Digest: October 2021

- Due to this partnership, personal finance facilities like home loans will be available through post offices in villages of India.
- Hence due to this rural areas can also avail of home loan facilities.
- The IPPB's 650 branches and over 1.36 lakh banking access points i.e. post offices will provide HDFC home loan facilities on a vast scale.

'BEFIT' - A CASHLESS OPD AND WELLNESS SERVICES

- The ICICI Lombard General Insurance launched the 'BeFit' solution.
- The 'BeFit' solution will provide customers coverage for their complete OPD requirements in a cashless manner.
- Using this solution, the customers can avail themselves of an array of coverage across physical and virtual consultation which is available 24x7.
- It covers pharmacy, diagnostics services-related expenses, and those services which do not need hospitalization.
- The solution thus offers a digitally enabled health ecosystem. It is integrated with 11,000+ doctors across cities in India.

INDIA AND ADB SIGNED A \$4.5 MILLION PRF LOAN

- The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have entered to sign a \$4.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan.
- The loan will support developing projects to enhance urban mobility in Aizawl in Mizoram.
- The Aizawl's urban mobility is severely constrained because of rapid and unplanned urbanization.
- This impacts traffic issues because narrow road widths result in adverse impacts on road safety and inefficiency to the people.
- So the \$4.5 million PRF loan will help to solve the city's mobility problems.

GOI AND ADB SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT FOR MAGNET PROJECT

- The GOI and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan agreement for the Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MAGNET) Project.
- The loan agreement of \$100 million was signed.
- The loan will help to promote agribusiness in the state.
- It will eventually help to enhance the income of farmers and will reduce food losses in Maharashtra.

KMB PARTNERED WITH NPCI

- The Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch credit cards on the RuPay network for Indian armed forces personnel.
- The credit card will be named 'Veer'.

- It will be the KMB's 1st credit card under the RuPay network.
- The Veer credit card is available in two variants namely, Kotak RuPay Veer Platinum and Kotak RuPay Veer Select.
- It will have a zero joining fee and will grant benefits on fuel, railway surcharge waivers, safe shopping experience to the armed forces personnel and their families.

