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Banking and Finance

Parliamentary panel wants RBI to relax capital adequacy norms for PSBs

- A parliamentary committee has urged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to relax the capital-adequacy norms for at least nine out of 21 public sector banks (PSBs) that may free up capital up to Rs 5.34 trillion, helping the expansion of lenders.
- The standing committee on finance, in its latest report, has criticised the capital-adequacy requirements set by the RBI and termed them “stringent.”
- The committee noted that the Basel framework required the application of capital standards to “internationally active banks.” Nine PSBs — Central Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), Corporation Bank, Vijaya Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, United Bank of India, Dena Bank, and Punjab and Sind Bank — are not internationally active, it said, making a case of easing capital-adequacy norms for them.
- Banks are required to maintain a minimum capital, in terms of capital-to-risky asset ratio (CRAR) and common equity tier (CET)-1, to ensure they do not lend all the money they receive as deposits and keep a buffer to meet future risks. Capital adequacy ratio of banks is considered to be one of the key indicators of banks’ health.

Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan to head panel to select new Chief Economic Advisor

- The Union Government has appointed former Reserve Bank of India governor Bimal Jalan as the head of the panel that has been tasked with selecting India’s next chief economic advisor (CEA).
- The other members of the panel include secretary of the department of personnel and training C Chandramouli and economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg. The panel will screen the applications received and conduct interviews.
- The move comes two months after the government sought applications for the post after previous CEA Arvind Subramanian resigned from office.

Parliamentary panel for raising PSB chiefs' retirement age to 70

- As the ‘decade of retirement’ in public sector banks (PSBs) nears its end, a parliamentary committee has called for increasing the retirement age of their chief executive officers (CEOs) to 70 years from the current 60. This comes after PSBs raised with the panel the prospect of a leadership vacuum in the near future.
- “With a view to utilising the expertise of senior bankers, the retirement age of CEOs of PSBs can be raised to 70 years as in the case of their private sector counterparts,” the Standing Committee on Finance said in its latest report.
- In September 2014, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) capped the retirement age for CEOs and whole-time directors of private sector banks at 70 years, as there was no age limit for these

posts earlier. In PSBs, however, the retirement age for CEOs is capped at 60 years, even though the Union government can extend their tenures.

RBI imposes Rs 10 mn fine on Union Bank for delay in fraud detection

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a Rs 10 million penalty on Union Bank of India for failing to detect and report fraud on time.
- "This is to inform that Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 million on the bank for delay in detection and reporting of fraud. The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under ...Banking Regulation Act," Union Bank of India said in a regulatory filing Friday.
- RBI had issued a show cause notice to the bank on January 15, 2018 asking why a penalty not be imposed on Union Bank of India under the Act.
- Subsequently, the bank had replied to the regulator on February 1, followed by representations on oral submission during personal hearing on April 14 before the Committee of Executive Directors of the RBI.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana to be made open-ended scheme with more incentives

- The Union Government on August 5, 2018 decided to make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts.
- The flagship financial inclusion scheme was launched in August 2014 for a period of four years. Banking on its successful implementation, the government has decided to make the scheme open-ended with more incentives.
- Under the new incentives, the overdraft limit for account holders has now been doubled to Rs 10000.
- The free accident insurance cover for those opening Jan Dhan accounts after August 28 too has been doubled to Rs 2 lakh.
- Further, there will be no conditions attached for over-draft of up to Rs 2,000.
- The upper age limit for availing the facility has also been hiked to 65 from the earlier 60 years.
- Besides this, the pipeline of Jandhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) will continue to provide the necessary backbone for coverage of these activities and thereby accelerating the pace of digitised financially included and insured society.

Haier signs MoU with UP to set up Rs 30 bn plant at Greater Noida

- Chinese consumer durables maker Haier Friday signed an MoU with the Uttar Pradesh government for a 123-acre land parcel to set up its Rs 30.69 bn industrial park at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.
- The new facility would help the company expand its market share and reach in India, a top company official said.
- The company would invest the entire amount over the next four years in two phases and the production would start by mid of 2020 from this proposed unit.

India and states

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate India's first Global Mobility Summit

- India's first-ever Global Mobility Summit – 'MOVE' will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on September 7, 2018. The two-day summit, organised by Niti Aayog, will deliberate on steps to promote electric vehicles and shared mobility.
- The main focus of the summit is to make Indian cities pollution free. It will be attended by Union Ministers including Arun Jaitley, Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal and Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The summit will deliberate on five themes including electrification and alternative fuels, reinventing public transport, goods transport and logistics and data analytics and mobility.
- The summit is expected to witness participation from more than 2,200 people from across the world including leaders from the government, industry, research organisations, academia, think tanks and civil society.
- The representatives of major companies including Mahindra Electric, Hero Cycles, Tata Motors, Tata Power, Ola, Maruti Suzuki, Honda, Toyota, Bosch and Sun Mobility are also expected to participate in the summit.
- International representation from embassies and the private sector will include United States of America, Japan, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, New Zealand, Austria, Germany, Brazil and more.
- The key components of the summit include the core conclave, digital exhibition, mobility week with featured events and a variety of stakeholder consultations.

ISRO unveils space suit, crew model for Gaganyaan Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on September 6, 2017 unveiled the space suit and crew model for Gaganyaan Mission, providing the first sneak peek into its upcoming manned mission to space at the 6th Bengaluru Space Expo.
- The Gaganyaan mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 72nd Independence Day speech. PM Modi announced that this manned space mission will take Indian astronauts to space on board 'Gaganyaan' by 2022.
- The orange-coloured prototype space suit was developed by the ISRO over the past two years at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.
- The suit can hold one oxygen cylinder, allowing an astronaut to breathe in space for 60 minutes.

India, France sign MoU to form working group for Gaganyaan Mission

- India and France on September 6, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to constitute a working group for Gaganyaan Mission, India's first manned space mission.
- The announcement regarding the same was made at the 6th Bengaluru Space Expo by French space agency CNES President, Jean-Yves Le Gall.
- The French space agency CNES and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be combining their expertise in fields of space medicine, astronaut health monitoring, life support, radiation protection, space debris protection and personal hygiene systems.

- The ambit of the cooperation includes ISRO's access to space hospital facilities in France.
- Both the sides have decided that infrastructure such as CADMOS centre for development of microgravity applications and space operations or the MEDES space clinic will be used for training of future Indian astronauts.

India, France sign implementation agreement on 'Mobilise Your City'

- India and France on September 6, 2018 signed an implementation agreement on 'Mobilise Your City' (MYC) in New Delhi to support three Indian cities in their efforts to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.
- The MYC agreement was signed by Mukund Kumar Sinha, OSD & Ex-Officio Joint Secretary in the Urban Affairs Ministry and the Regional Director of Agence Française de Développement (AfD), Nicolas Fornage. It was signed in the presence of Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri and Alexander Ziegler, Ambassador of France in India.
- The MYC aims at supporting three Indian cities on a pilot basis - Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad - in their efforts to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at the local level and to help India at the national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.

Ayushman Bharat-Jan Arogya Yojana launched in Jammu

- The Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), which provides poor and vulnerable families coverage for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation was launched in Jammu on September 6, 2018.
- The state's Deputy Commissioner Ramesh Kumar inaugurated the pilot launch of the scheme at a programme organised by the Directorate of Family Welfare.
- Speaking on the occasion, Kumar said that the yojana is aimed at providing portable coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family annually and a beneficiary covered under the scheme would be allowed to avail cashless benefits from any public and private empanelled hospitals across the country.
- The scheme will be launched across the country on September 25 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Uttarakhand to get India's first integrated cooperative development project

- To check forced migration from the hills of Uttarakhand the state government will soon launch the country's first Integrated Co-operative Development Project (ICDP). The scheme aims to drastically improve the rural economy by giving a boost to the co-operative, farm and allied sectors, chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced on Thursday.
- "We will be the first state in the country to launch the project (ICDP), for which the technical and financial support will be provided by a key central government agency," Rawat said referring to the National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC). "The project worth ~3,632 crore aims to strengthen the rural economy by giving a boost to the cooperative, farm and allied sectors that will help us check forced migration from the hills," he said.

- Announcing the scheme at a joint press conference with cooperatives and animal husbandry secretary R Meenakshi Sundaram, the chief minister said about 50,000 small and marginal farmers would be directly benefited by the scheme.

Home Minister inaugurates Defence and Homeland Security Expo and Conference

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day Defence and Homeland Security Expo and Conference in New Delhi on September 6, 2018.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that India has been facing security and terrorism-related challenges for years and there are multiple vulnerable areas that are prone to various risks.
- He said that the government will soon implement the new drone policy, which was announced recently, containing comprehensive regulations on the use of drones.
- He further called upon the law enforcement agencies to adopt new technologies enhancing their capacities to contain terror and counter the emerging challenges to homeland security.

Odisha Assembly passes resolution to set up Council

- The Odisha Assembly on September 6, 2018 passed a resolution for setting up a Legislative Council in the state.
- The state assembly speaker P K Amat announced that the resolution was passed as it got support of 104 of the 147 members of the Assembly while opposition Congress and BJP stayed away from the House.
- Prior to the vote, the Speaker sent two ministers - Prafulla Samal and Ananta Das - to request the opposition members, who had staged a walkout earlier, to return to the House and participate in the voting.

Government decides to exempt electrical vehicles & automobiles run on alternative fuel from permit requirements

- Government has decided to exempt electric vehicles and automobiles run on alternative fuel from permit requirements. The move is in a bid to boost such vehicles in the country to bring down pollution.
- The information was shared by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari while addressing the annual convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) in New Delhi on September 6, 2018.
- The Minister, while urging the automakers to focus in this direction, said that the demand for electric vehicles could also be created by mandating cab aggregators to induct a certain percentage of such vehicles in their fleet.

Appointments

Dilbagh Singh appointed as DGP of Jammu & Kashmir; replaces SP Vaid

- Jammu and Kashmir Government on September 6, 2018 appointed Dilbagh Singh as the Director General of Police (DGP) of the state.
- As per the government order, Director General (Prisons), Dilbagh Singh has been given additional charge of Director General of Police, till a regular arrangement is made. He will have a regular appointment only after his name is cleared by the UPSC.

World

Gold becomes first Bollywood film ever to release in Saudi Arabia

- Indian movie 'Gold' has become the first Bollywood film ever to release in Saudi Arabia. The film is a fictional re-telling of India's iconic win at the 1948 London Olympics.
- This film is the only second movie after Rajnikanth's social drama "Kala" to hit the theatres in the Gulf country.
- Saudi Arabia had held a private screening of international cultural phenomenon, "Black Panther" in May this year to herald the launch of movie theatres in the kingdom and opening them to the public.

Sports

Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore rewards Govindan Lakshamanan with Rs 10 lakh

- Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore on September 6, 2018 rewarded Indian athlete Govindan Lakshamanan with Rs 10 lakh to acknowledge his performance in the 10,000 metres race in which he was dramatically disqualified after finishing third.
- Lakshamanan had stepped off the track momentarily, as he was hit by the spike of another athlete. The Indian team protested against the disqualification at two levels but it was turned down.
- A statement from the Sports Ministry said, to encourage the athlete to keep doing the hard work and strive for the medals, the Minister rewarded him 10 lakh rupees.

Days

25th Raising Day of Delta Force celebrated

- The Delta Force, a counter insurgency force of the Indian Army, celebrated its 25th Raising Day on September 6, 2018.
- On the occasion, a wreath laying ceremony was organised at the Delta Force headquarters in the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.
- Raised on September 6, 1994, the force was instrumental in eliminating terrorism from the Chenab Valley and ushering peace in the region.