

# Current Affairs (2023): Banking At a Glance

- \* **Utkarsh 2.0-**
- \* The Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework for the period 2023–2025 – 'Utkarsh 2.0' – was launched by Shri Shakti Kanta Das, Governor, RBI.
- \* Utkarsh 2.0 would allow the central bank to both react and **act proactively to confront socio-Economic challenges.**
- \* **eSvarna-** IndusInd Bank has launched a pathbreaking new corporate credit card – eSvarna – on the RuPay network. It is India's first corporate credit card that allows linking with UPI apps for payments.
- \* **PRAVAAH-** RBI is set to introduce a new secured web-based portal called "PRAVAAH" (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation and Authorization) aimed at simplifying and streamlining the application processes. It will provide transparent timelines for the decision-making process on the applications/approvals sought by the applicants.
- \* **e-BG-** Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has launched the facility of issuance of e-BG (Electronic Bank Guarantee) scheme in association with the National e-Governance Services Ltd. The e-BG is an instrument issued by the city-headquartered bank in which the bank undertakes to **guarantee a specific amount against the non-fulfillment of some action/performance of the applicant.**
- \* **Multilateral Development Banks-** A G20 expert panel dedicated to strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) has urged these institutions to pivot from financing individual projects to prioritizing sectoral programs aligned with long-term transformation plans proposed by national Governments.
- \* **Har Payment Digital-** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shakti Kanta Das launched a mission – "Har Payment Digital" – with the aim of making every citizen in the country a **user of digital payments** as part of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023.
- \* **Mudra loans show record growth-** Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) hits a record 3-Lakh Crore in loans in December 2023, marking a robust 16% year-on-year growth. Women entrepreneurs play a pivotal role, securing 70% of the loans.
- \* **RBI Unveils Forex Correspondent Scheme-** RBI Unveils Forex Correspondent Scheme to Enhance Foreign Exchange Services. The FxCs will operate under a principal-agency model, partnering with Category-I and Category-II Authorized Dealers (ADs) without the need for separate authorization from the RBI.
- \* **RBI Approves IDFC-IDFC First Bank Merger-** The RBI has granted approval for the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd with its banking arm, IDFC First Bank. This strategic move involves a composite scheme, subject to regulatory nods. The respective boards of IDFC First Bank and IDFC had previously greenlit the reverse merger in July 2023.
- \* **Indian Banks Achieve 12.2% Growth in FY23-** In 2022–23, Indian banks achieved a remarkable 12.2% consolidated balance sheet growth marking the highest in nine years, driven by robust factors. The report underscores the need for ongoing fortification through governance.
- \* **RBI raises UPI limit for Healthcare & Education-** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made a noteworthy move, revealing an elevation in UPI payment limits from Rs 1 Lakh to Rs 5 Lakh, specifically focusing on **healthcare and education sectors.**
- \* **RBI's Successful Withdrawal 97.26% of 2,000 notes-** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has achieved a significant milestone in its monetary policy as it successfully withdrew 97.26 % of the Rs2,000 banknotes from circulation as of May 19, 2023.
- \* **IRRA Platform-** Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has officially launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) to mitigate risks faced by investors.
- \* **Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR)-** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a plan to gradually discontinue the Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR) in response to evolving liquidity conditions. This strategic move **aims to ensure that the financial system remains stable and money markets operate smoothly.**
- \* **SBI branch in Sri Lanka-** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a new branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) in Trincomalee and engaged in crucial discussions with her Sri Lankan counterparts as part of the 12th round of the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA).
- \* **Mookkannoor Mission-** On the occasion of the 106th birth anniversary of its visionary founder, K.P Hormis yesterday, the Federal Bank recently inaugurated the 'Mookkannoor Mission,' a groundbreaking initiative designed to drive change and progress in the village of Mookkannoor, located in the Ernakulam district of Kerala.
- \* **iFinance-** ICICI Bank has recently launched 'iFinance,' that is set to change the way millions of customers, including retail clients and sole proprietors, manage their finances. It empowers customers to consolidate their savings and current accounts from **multiple banks into one convenient location.**
- \* **Nav-eCash' card-** To support the Indian Government's Digital India initiative, the State Bank of India (SBI) introduced a new card called NAV-eCash on the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya.
- \* **Mobile Handheld Device-** State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced the "Mobile Handheld Device" for its Financial Inclusion (FI) customers. It aimed **at enhancing accessibility and convenience in availing Banking Services.**
- \* **NEO For Business-** Axis Bank has recently introduced its Transaction Banking platform, 'NEO for Business,' with the aim of addressing the evolving requirements of Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- \* **IB SAATHI-** Indian Bank has introduced a new initiative called 'IB SAATHI' (Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion) to bolster its financial inclusion efforts. The primary goal of IB SAATHI is to provide essential banking services through the Business Correspondent (BC) channel.
- \* **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is gearing up to launch a pilot program for the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), commonly referred to as the Digital Rupee. This initiative is expected to facilitate **interbank transactions, specifically in the call Money Market.**
- \* **India's first UPI ATM-** India's first UPI-ATM, a White Label ATM (WLA) by Hitachi Payment Services in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), was introduced to enable **seamless cash withdrawals without the need for physical ATM cards.**
- \* **UDGAM Portal-** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a groundbreaking solution for individuals seeking their unclaimed deposits. The name of the portal is UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information).
- \* **One-Hour Trade Settlement-** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced plans to introduce one-hour trade settlement by March 2024 aim to enhance **operational efficiency and expedite fund remittances and share deliveries for market participants.**
- \* **Antardrishti Dashboard-** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das recently launched a financial inclusion dashboard called 'Antardrishti', marking a significant step towards promoting financial inclusion in India. It aims to provide valuable insights for **assessing and monitoring the progress of financial inclusion.**