

BFSI AND CAPITAL MARKET

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1. Public sector banks, ICAI to set up common platform for balance confirmations: Statutory auditors may have cause for cheer as a new mechanism in the form of a common balance confirmation portal is now being put in place to provide "external confirmation of balances" for aiding the audit of financial statements. Over the years, auditors have been using "external confirmations" to obtain balance confirmations in respect of accounts receivables, accounts payables, bank balances, loans, investments or inventories held by third parties, etc. from various parties, including banks. Put simply, external confirmations means audit evidence obtained as a direct written response to the auditor from a third party (the confirming party), in paper form, or by electronic or other medium.
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/public-sector-banks-icai-to-set-up-common-platform-for-balance-confirmations/article66938190.ece>
2. Regulator has suggested standardised approach to valuations of Investments Portfolio
https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/jun-2023/standardised-approach-to-valuation-of-investment-portfolio-of-alternative-investment-funds-aifs-_72924.html
3. Gift Nifty to be accessible for trading for 21 hours on NSE IX from Jul 3. The Gift Nifty derivative contracts, which will start trading on the NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) from July 3, will be accessible for almost 21 hours --- longer than the time the SGX Nifty contracts were available on the Singapore Exchange. The Nifty derivative contracts that were traded on the Singapore Exchange have been moved to NSE IX, and renamed Gift Nifty.
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/gift-nifty-to-be-accessible-for-trading-for-21-hours-on-nse-ix-from-jul-3/articleshow/101113688.cms>
4. EY calls off plan to split audit, consulting units: Accounting firm EY has called off a plan to break up its audit and consulting units, slamming the brakes on a proposed overhaul of its businesses that was meant to address regulatory concerns over potential conflicts of interest. The company, which is one of the Big Four accounting giants, announced its plans for a split in September after regulators voiced concerns that the audit arm would not do its job fairly for its client if it also employed EY as a consultant.
<https://www.reuters.com/business/ey-scraps-break-up-plan-ft-2023-04-11/>
5. Important changes w.r.t Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS): No change in rate of TCS for all purposes under LRS and for overseas travel tour packages, regardless of mode of payment, for amounts up to Rs. 7 lakh per individual per annum. Government gives more time for implementation of revised TCS rates and for inclusion of credit card payments in LRS. Increased TCS rates to apply from 1st October, 2023
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1936105>
6. Mutual Funds :
SEBI proposes Review of Total Expense Ratio for Mutual Fund Schemes
Based on feedback from industry and investors to Regulator on 15 Important points for changes , Review on Total Expense Ratio charged by Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to unitholders of schemes of Mutual Funds to facilitate greater transparency and accrual of benefits of economies of scale to investors
<https://taxguru.in/sebi/sebi-proposes-review-total-expense-ratio-mutual-fund-schemes.html>