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Department of Commerce, LSR

presents

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SWISS CENTRAL BANK LIFTS INTEREST RATES BY 50 BASIS POINTS TO COUNTER ‘FURTHER SPREAD OF INFLATION’

The Swiss National Bank increased its benchmark interest rate for the third time this year, taking it to 1%. The central bank said it was looking to counter “increased inflationary pressure and a further spread of inflation” with the move. Bank Chairman Thomas Jordan said: “All in all the inflationary pressure is higher so further tightening was necessary”. “We are using a risk management approach and we are looking at what policy is appropriate in order to achieve our [inflation] goal,” he added.

INDIA TO CONTINUE TO ATTRACT EYES OF FOREIGN INVESTORS, THOUGH GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES POSE CHALLENGES

Steps to promote ease of doing business, skilled manpower, presence of natural resources, liberal FDI policies, huge domestic market and prospects of healthy GDP growth are the reasons for optimism on the foreign inflows front for India in 2023 but issues such as delay in enforcement of contracts, cumbersome procedures and high interest rates are still sore points. India is the preferred investment destination due to series of measures such as liberalisation in the FDI policy, reducing compliance burden for industry, rollout of the PLI schemes and the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for integrated infrastructure development.

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INDIAN SMARTWATCH PLAYERS GEAR UP TO BEAT CHINESE, GLOBAL RIVALS IN 2023

The Indian smartwatch market has not only grown exponentially on the home turf, but also performed exceptionally well at the global level. And the domestic players expect to repeat the feat in 2023, with the expectation to overtake both Chinese and global rivals. In Q2 2022, India overtook China to become the second-largest smartwatch market globally for the first time, growing 347 per cent (year-on-year), according to Counterpoint Research. Indian brands such as Fire-Boltt and Noise took top spots in the global market share in the June quarter (Q2) amid macro uncertainties such as inflation and geopolitical tensions.

MARUTI SUZUKI BLAMES HIGH TAXES FOR LOW CAR OWNERSHIP IN THE COUNTRY

India's biggest carmaker, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., said government levies put vehicles beyond the reach of much of the population, adding to criticism of the country's tax regime from Tesla Inc. and Toyota Motor Corp. "Government policies are such that they treat cars as luxury products that need to be heavily taxed," Maruti Chairman R.C. Bhargava said at an event in New Delhi Monday. "Car affordability is not at all related to income." Car-industry growth in India has slowed to 3% from 12% in the past twelve years, partly due to poor government policies, Bhargava said.

ON TRACK TO MEET FISCAL DEFICIT TARGET OF 6.4%, SAYS FINANCE MINISTER SITHARAMAN

Replying to the debate on the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants 2022–23 in Lok Sabha, the finance minister said the government is committed to the path of fiscal consolidation and asserted that there is no fear of stagflation. The Supplementary Demands for Grants, authorising the government to spend an additional ₹3.25 lakh crore in FY23, was later passed in the house. India is the fastest growing economy and has lower inflation with a forbearance limit, she added.

WELLS FARGO AGREES TO \$3.7 BILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CFPB OVER CONSUMER ABUSES

Wells Fargo agreed to a \$3.7 billion settlement with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau over customer abuses tied to mortgages, auto loans and overdraft fees, the regulator said Tuesday. The bank was ordered to pay a \$1.7 billion civil penalty and “more than \$2 billion in redress to consumers,” the CFPB said in a statement. The bank said fourth-quarter expenses would include a \$3.5 billion operating loss, or \$2.8 billion after taxes, from the incremental costs of the CFPB civil penalty and customer remediation efforts, as well as other legal matters. In its own statement, Wells Fargo said that many of the “required actions” tied to the settlement were already done.

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VENTURE CAPITAL

<https://www.cnbc.com/video/2022/12/21/manhattan-venture-partners-names-3-categories-of-ipo-to-watch-in-2023.html>

BANKS

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/12/22/how-the-federal-reserve-affected-2022s-stock-market.html>

ASIA ECONOMY

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/12/21/investments-could-flow-back-into-china-as-companies-avoid-us-delisting.html>

MARKETS

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/12/20/bill-gross-says-markets-are-headed-for-potential-chaos-if-interest-rates-keep-going-up.html>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/12/21/stocks-making-the-biggest-moves-premarket-rite-aid-nike-fedex-and-others.html>

INVESTING

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CRYPTO & WEB 3

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/12/16/binances-native-bnb-token-plunges-to-lowest-since-july.html>

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