

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **RBI proposes lenders identify 'wilful defaulters' within six months**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced lenders would have to examine all aspects relating to wilful default on accounts with outstanding dues of Rs 25 lakh or more and identify wilful defaulters within six months of a loan becoming a non-performing asset (NPA).
- The regulator released draft norms on wilful and large defaulters.
- It has allowed non-banking finance companies and cooperative banks to identify them.
- A wilful defaulter is a borrower or a guarantor who has defaulted without being constrained to do and the outstanding amount is Rs 25 lakh and above.
- A large defaulter is one whose amount in default is Rs 1 crore and above.
- For calculating the cut-off point of Rs 1 crore, the unapplied interest, if any, should be included.

## ❖ **ISO and UNDP announce partnership to enhance sustainability action**

- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a landmark Statement of Intent, signaling their commitment to the role of International Standards in addressing global development challenges.

**Aim:** To collaborate on initiatives geared towards enhancing international standards that advance sustainability actions by both the public and private sectors.

**Objective:** To provide a common basis for documentation and certification, making it easier for organizations.

➤ This partnership between ISO and UNDP brings forth an opportunity to build on the unique contributions of each organization for a more resilient and equitable future for all.

❖ **TCS and BankAxept AS partner to enhance Norway's payment system**

➤ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has entered into a partnership with BankID BankAxept AS, the provider of Norway's national payment and electronic identity systems.

➤ This alliance aims to establish and manage an operations command centre.

➤ BankAxept, the dominant national payment system in Norway, facilitates 80 per cent of card payments in the country.

➤ BankID serves as Norway's primary eID verification solution, relied upon by over 90 per cent of the population.

➤ New regulations mandate BankID to deliver users a compliant, trustworthy, and secure electronic identity solution, complemented by round the clock support.

❖ **Uttar Pradesh implements automatic birth registration for newborns in government health facilities**

➤ The Uttar Pradesh government has integrated its Maa Navjaat Tracking app (MaNTrA) with the birth registration system as part of its efforts to provide 'ease of living' to the citizens using digital technology.

➤ Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to implement suo motu birth registration for government health institutions (verifiable through the CRS portal).

- Birth certificates thus can be handed over to the parents of the newborn within hours of birth.
- The application programming interface (API) is now operational for all government health institutions which function as Registrars albeit with minor difficulties on the part of Registrars.
- Around 2,500 birth certificates have already been issued so far.
- ❖ **Union Minister Kailash Choudhary launches PM KISAN AI-Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra) in New Delhi**
- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Kailash Choudhary launches PM KISAN AI-Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra) in New Delhi.
- The initiative is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to bring positive change to the lives of farmers and improve governance through the use of technology.
- The AI Chatbot will help in accessing scheme information and resolving grievances.
- AI chatbot will also be implemented for other major schemes of the Ministry in the coming months.
- Additional Secretary Pramod Mehreda made a detailed presentation on the features of Chatbot and its benefits for farmers.
- The AI Chatbot acts as a comprehensive guide for the beneficiaries, providing them with timely and accurate responses to their queries related to the scheme.
- This is the first AI Chatbot integrated with a major flagship scheme of the Union government. It has been developed and improved with the support of the EKstep Foundation and Bhashini.

### ❖ Rajasthan tops the list in solar water pump installations

- Rajasthan tops the list in solar water pump installations, a state agriculture department official has claimed.
- More than 62,000 farmers have directly benefited from the scheme introduced by the Ashok Gehlot government four and a half years ago.
- According to the government initiative, farmers in Rajasthan are encouraged to install solar pumps for irrigation, instead of relying on electricity connections and diesel powered plants.
- Rajasthan tops the list in setting up solar water pumps.
- A large chunk of farmers are now no longer dependent on electricity to irrigate their fields as the state government is encouraging farmers by offering 60 per cent subsidy for installing solar pumps.
- Besides this, farmers of SC/ST in the state are getting an additional subsidy of Rs 45,000.
- The tribal sub plan areas, there is a provision of giving a 100 per cent subsidy on solar water pumps of 3hp and 5hp to farmers of scheduled tribes.

### ❖ National Medical Commission achieved the prestigious WFME accreditation status for 10 years

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) in India achieved a remarkable 10-year WFME accreditation status.
- This recognition reflects NMC's strong commitment to maintaining high standards in medical education and accreditation.
- All 706 existing medical colleges in India will get WFME recognition.
- New medical colleges established within the next 10 years will automatically receive WFME recognition.
- It aims to enhance the quality and standards of medical education in India by aligning it with global best practices.

## ❖ PM Modi to flag off 9 Vande Bharat trains

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off nine Vande Bharat trains on 24th September 2023 via video conferencing.
- These new Vande Bharat trains are a step towards realising the Prime Minister's vision of improving connectivity across the country and providing world-class facilities to rail passengers.
- These nine trains will boost connectivity across eleven states. These are Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat.
- The new trains that will be flagged off include Udaipur - Jaipur Vande Bharat Express, Tirunelveli-Madurai- Chennai Vande Bharat Express, Hyderabad - Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express and Jamnagar-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express.

## ❖ The Finance Ministry Predicts 6.5% Real GDP Growth For India In FY24

- The Union Ministry of Finance released the Monthly Economic Review for August 2023, stating to remain comfortable with a 6.5 percent real GDP growth estimate for FY24 with symmetric risks.
- The report mentioned the estimates of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) show real GDP growing at 7.8 percent in Q1 of FY24.
- The 7.8 percent growth recorded in the first quarter (April-June) was witnessed in various high frequency indicators.
- The review, while flagging certain risks like steadily climbing crude oil prices in the global market and, the impact of the monsoon deficit in August on Kharif and Rabi crop.
- Though the ministry noted the rains in September have erased a portion of the rainfall deficit at the end of August.

## ❖ Sports Minister Cancels Visit to Asian Games Due to China's Denial of Entry to Arunachal Players

- Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has cancelled his visit to China for the upcoming Asian Games amid an escalating row over entry to athletes.
- The MEA announcement came after Chinese authorities denied accreditation and entry to some sports people from Arunachal Pradesh for the Games.
- China's action violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct, which explicitly prohibits discrimination against competitors from member states.
- The MEA dubbed it a 'targeted and pre-meditated' decision and reiterated its stance on territorial boundaries.

## ❖ Zagorochoria of Epirus added to UNESCO World Heritage List

- A cluster of traditional, picturesque villages on Mount Pindos in Epirus, known as the Zagorochoria (or villages of Zagori), was recently inducted onto UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- This momentous decision was made during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking a significant milestone in Greece's cultural heritage preservation efforts.
- UNESCO "recognised the outstanding ecumenical value of the Zagori architecture as an excellent example of survival and mutual influence of the Byzantine and Ottoman architecture.
- It recognised the authenticity and integrity of the area as key ingredients to be included on the World Heritage List.