

16 – 11 – 2021

News: RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

- Recently, RBI has unveiled Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.

RBI Retail Direct Scheme

- RBI Retail Direct Scheme amalgamates **three ombudsman schemes of RBI - banking ombudsman scheme of 2006, ombudsman scheme for NBFCs of 2018 and ombudsman scheme of digital transactions of 2019.**
- The unified ombudsman scheme will **provide redress of customer complaints involving deficiency in services rendered by RBI regulated entities viz. banks, NBFCs (Non banking Financial Companies) and pre-paid instrument players if the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the customers or not replied within a period of 30 days by the regulated entity.**
- It also includes **non-scheduled primary co-operative banks with a deposit size of Rs 50 crore and above.** The integrated scheme makes it a **"One Nation One Ombudsman"** approach and jurisdiction neutral.
- The Scheme defines **'deficiency in service'** as the ground for filing a complaint, **with a specified list of exclusions.**
- Therefore, the **complaints would no longer be rejected simply on account of "not covered under the grounds listed in the scheme".**

- The scheme is **jurisdiction neutral** and a **centralised receipt and processing centre has been set-up in Chandigarh** for initial handling of complaints in any language.
- RBI had created a **provision for the use of Artificial Intelligence tools so that banks and investigating agencies could coordinate in a better way** in the fastest time possible.
- The bank customers will be able to **file complaints, submit documents, track status, and give feedback through a single email address.**
- There will also be a **multilingual toll-free number** that will provide all relevant information on grievance redress.
- The **regulated entity will not have any right to appeal in cases where an award is issued by the ombudsman against it for not furnishing satisfactory and timely information.**

Appellate Authority

- **RBI's Executive Director-in charge of Consumer Education and Protection Department would be the Appellate Authority** under the integrated scheme.

News: Nationwide AHDF KCC campaign launched for providing Kisan Credit Card facility to all eligible Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fishery Farmers

- In order to expand the benefit of Kisan Credit Card to all eligible animal husbandry, dairy and fishery farmers in the country, in association with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS), is organizing a “Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign” from 15th November 2021 to 15th February 2022.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

- Kisan Credit Card scheme was **introduced in 1998** for providing adequate and timely **credit support from banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure for the farmers.**
- Objective of the scheme is to provide funds to farmers to meet **short term credit requirements for cultivation of crops.**
- The **loans are collateral free with minimum interest.**
- It was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers.
- It is **implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, and Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives.**
- **KCC card is designed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**

Expenses covered under KCC

- Meet the Short term credit requirements for cultivation of crops
- Post-harvest expenses
- Consumption requirements of farmer household
- Working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture
- Investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities.

News: Indian Navy participates in India, Singapore and Thailand trilateral maritime exercise 'SITMEX'.

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Karmuk**, an **indigenously built Missile Corvette** is **participating in the 3rd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX – 21**, from 15 to 16 Nov 21 in **Andaman Sea**.
- SITMEX is being **conducted annually since 2019 with an aim to enhance mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy (IN), RSN and RTN**.
- The maiden edition of SITMEX was hosted by IN off Port Blair in September 2019. RSN hosted the second edition of the exercise in November 2020. The 2021 edition of the exercise is being hosted by RTN in Andaman Sea.

- The exercise is being conducted as a ‘non-contact, at sea only’ exercise in view of COVID-19 restrictions and highlights growing synergy, coordination and cooperation in the maritime domain between the three friendly navies. The two days of maritime drills will witness the three navies engaged in a various tactical exercises including naval manoeuvres and surface warfare drills.
- SITMEX-21 will fortify the long-standing bond of friendship and further enhance the cooperation between the participating navies towards augmenting the overall maritime security in the region.

News: Govt. and ADB sign 61 M loan for development of Agartala

- Recently, the Union Government and Asian Development Bank, ADB signed a 61-million dollar loan to improve livability, harness technology and promote new developments to accommodate the expanding population in Agartala city while building the capacity of State agencies for improved service delivery.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank established in 19th December 1966 with 31 members.
- Headquarters of ADB is located in Ortigas Center, Manila, Philippines.

- ADB is also serves as the secretariat of South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC).
- ADB aims to reduce poverty in Asia and the Pacific through Inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional cooperation
- It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia.
- Although the name implies Asian Development, membership is not confined to Asian countries.
- Currently, there are 68 members in ADB.
- ADB was modeled closely on World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscription.
- 80% of ADB loans are concentrated on 5 areas: Education; Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management; Finance Sector Development; Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation and Integration.
- As of December 2016, Japan holds the largest proportion of shares, followed by US, China, India and Australia.
- The bank admits the members of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), a regional arm of ECOSOC and non-regional developed countries. It is an official observer of United Nations.

- India is the second largest borrower from ADB after China.
- **Global Wildlife Programme (GWP)** is an initiative led by World Bank and funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Asian Development bank (ADB) that promotes wildlife conservation and sustainable development by combating illicit trafficking in wildlife.
- **Securing Livelihoods, Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of High Range Himalayan Ecosystems project (SECURE Himalayas)**, launched by MoEFCC and UNDP, is a project under Global Wildlife Programme (GWP).
- ADB releases the Annual report **Asian Development Outlook**.
- Recently, Asian Development Bank (ADB) released a report titled as the "**Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021**".
- Asian Development Bank publishes the **Social Protection Index (SPI)**, which summarizes the extent of social protection in Asia and Pacific countries.

The Asian Development Bank's development assistance is financed via 4 main channels:

- **Ordinary Capital Resources (OCR)**: Loans offered at near-market terms to better-off borrowing countries.
- The **Asian Development Fund (ADF)**: Offering Loans at very low interest rates and grants to ADB's poorest countries.
- **Technical Assistance** (mostly grants), and;

- **Innovation and Efficiency Initiative (IEI)** which are new financing instruments intended to provide ADB clients and operational teams with additional alternatives to help finance development projects.

News: WPI inflation quickens to 12.5%

- Inflation in wholesale prices hit a five month high of 12.5% in October, quickening from September's 10.7% following a broad based surge in prices of most commodities including fuel and power, vegetable and animal oils and fats, as well as chemicals.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

- Wholesale price Index (WPI) calculates the **average change in prices of commodities at the Wholesale level.**
- WPI is released by **Office of Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.**
- It **considers goods only** and **no services are considered.**
- The **taxes are also not included in the WPI** in order to remove the impact of fiscal policy.
- The index basket of the WPI covers commodities falling under the three major groups namely **Primary Articles, Fuel and Power and Manufactured products.**

- WPI measures the price paid by Manufacturers and Wholesalers and calculate the **inflation at the 1st stage of transaction.**
- Base Year of calculation of WPI is **2011-12.**
- While the **direction of the Consumer Price Index is often in sync with the direction of WPI,** there may be a divergence as well.
- The reasons for the divergence between the two indices can also be partly **attributed to the difference in the weight of the food group in the two baskets.**

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Consumer Price Index **indicates the average change in prices of commodities at the retail level.**
- It is released by **Central Statistics Office** at 5:30 pm of 12th of every month. If 12th of a particular month is holiday, CPI is released on the next working day.
- **CPI considers both Goods and Services.**
- It measures the **prices paid by consumers** and calculates **inflation at the last stage of transaction.**
- Base year of calculation of CPI is **2012.**
- CPI is used as the **measure of inflation by RBI.**

- In India, there are four consumer price index numbers, which are calculated, and these are: CPI for Industrial Workers (IW), CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL) CPI for Rural Labourers (RL) and CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (UNME).
- While the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation collects CPI (UNME) data and compiles it, the remaining three are collected by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour.
- While the direction of the Consumer Price Index is often in sync with the direction of WPI, there may be a divergence as well.
- The reasons for the divergence between the two indices can also be partly attributed to the difference in the weight of the food group in the two baskets.
-