

## **October 9<sup>th</sup> news;**

### **National issues:**

#### **- New norms in Railways to end VIP culture**

The railway ministry has asked its senior staff to slug it out – at home and at work – as part of steps to end the VIP culture in India's national transporter. In an unprecedented move, the ministry has brought to an end a 36-year-old protocol where it was mandatory for general managers to present themselves on arrival and departure of the Railway Board chairman and other board members during zonal visits.

- As part of a massive overhaul of the culture of privilege prevalent in the ministry, the Railway Board has decided to do away with the instructions of a 1981 circular that mandated such protocol.
- In an order on September 28, the ministry said that the instructions and guidelines issued to the railways regarding the protocol to be observed at airports and railway stations during the visit of the Railway Board chairman and other board members stand withdrawn with immediate effect.

#### **- Haj Committee recommends abolishing of subsidy**

The government appointed Committee on Haj Policy has recommended phasing out of subsidy for Haj pilgrims and allowing women devotees above 45 years of age to travel in a group of at least four without a male.

The Committee presented its report on New Haj policy 2018-22 to Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in Mumbai on 7<sup>th</sup> October. The main points are.....

- In view of the Supreme Court direction, the Ministry had set up the Panel under the Chairmanship of former Secretary Afzal Amanullah to review the existing Haj Policy and to suggest a framework for new Haj policy 2018-22.
- According to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the proposed new Haj Policy also recommended bringing down the number of embarkation points from 21 to 9.
- The embarkation points are Delhi, Lucknow, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Cochin.
- The proposed policy also aims at rationalising distribution of the Haj quota between the Haj Committee of India and private tour operators in the ratio of 70:30 for the next five years.

### **Economy issues:**

#### **- RBI to soon launch financial literacy drive in 9 states**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is to launch a financial literacy drive in 80 blocks in nine states on pilot basis to educate people on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchases.

The pilot project, according to RBI will be commissioned in the 9 states of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh by the 6 NGOs in collaboration with the sponsor banks.

The aim of the CFL is to inculcate the habit of making a household budget and recording financial transactions, encourage transactions in savings accounts, and active saving by depositing in banks through fixed deposits and recurring deposits.

**Sport issues:**

- **Anupama victory**

India's Anupama Ramachandran has won the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship title at St. Petersburg in Russia. In the girls category, she defeated Keerthana Pandian to become World Open Under-16 champion.