

11<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**GS : 3 - ECONOMY**

**Govt tells NGOs to open bank accounts in core banking format**

- Tightening the rules for NGOs, the Home Ministry has asked as many as 5,845 organisations to open their accounts in banks having core banking facilities and furnish details for real time access to security agencies in case of any discrepancy.

**KEY FACTS:**

- The move came after it was detected that many NGOs have their bank accounts in cooperative banks or state government- owned apex banks or banks which **do not have core banking facilities**.
- The home ministry wants that all NGOs registered under the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act mandatorily have their accounts in either nationalised banks or in a few private banks which have core banking facilities**.
- Under core banking system, all the branches of the networked banks are interconnected. This would allow the security agencies to access the accounts of the NGOs on real time basis.
- The government has already cancelled registration of more than 10,000 NGOs in the last three years for allegedly non-filing of annual returns as mandated in the FCRA.

**GS : 2 - GOVERNANCE**

**Rail regulator to define performance standards**

- India's first rail regulator, **Rail Development Authority (RDA)**, would not just look at tariff structures for passenger and freight operations but also set standards of performance and efficiency that would be enforceable under the Railways Act.

**Key facts:**

- RDA can define standards of performance and efficiency; such standards would be notified as rules under the Railway Act to give a binding force upon acceptance
- The regulator will set "standards for efficiency and performance for consumer satisfaction in both passenger and freight" and will also be "authorised to check for deviations and suggest remedial measures."
- "The regulator will provide guidance on quantity and quality of service provided to passengers. These may include setting standards including hours of service, frequency of trains, capacity per coach, cleanliness level, and quality of water, food, furnishing and linen," .
- The resolution states that the regulator will be mandated to "suggest measures for absorbing new technologies for achieving desired efficiency and performance standards."
- The Railway Board also defined the structure of the RDA with a Chairman along with three members each for tariff, public private partnership and efficiency, standards and benchmarking.
- The regulator will, however, **not involve itself in policy making** of the Indian Railways, **operations and maintenance of the rail system, financial management, setting technical standards and compliance of safety standards**.
- It clarified that the regulator would **only make recommendations on tariff** and **not impose a tariff on the Indian Railways**.

**Background:**

- The Union Cabinet had last month approved setting up the rail regulator responsible for recommending **passenger fares, setting performance standards for rail operations and creating a level playing policy for private sector participation**.

**GS : 2 - E-GOVERNANCE**

**PM launches integrated case management system of Supreme Court**

(Indian Express)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the integrated case management system of the Supreme Court in the presence of the Chief Justice of India.

**Key facts:**

- The new system, aimed at serving as a digital repository for case-related information, can be accessed at

[www.sci.gov.in](http://www.sci.gov.in).

- Its functions include the option of e-filing cases, checking listing dates, case status, online service of notice/summons, office reports and overall tracking of progress of a case filed with the apex court registry.
- It is also proposed that it will operate as an online gateway for payment of court fee and process fee.
- The system will help litigants access data and retrieve information online and will be a step towards a **paperless Supreme Court**.
- It will help usher transparency, reduce manipulation and help the litigant know about the progress of the case on a real time basis.
- Every central and state government department will know if they have been made party to the case and help them prepare accordingly. The court fee and process fee will be calculated online, which will help the litigant about the cost involved.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### PM to attend Vesak Day celebrations in Colombo

(Business Line)

- Prime Minister will travel to Sri Lanka to attend UN-recognised 14th International Vesak Day, which is celebrated to mark the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Lord Buddha.
- This is the first time that Sri Lanka will be hosting the International Vesak Day. The theme of the event is "Buddhist teachings for social justice and sustainable world peace".

##### In a first, transgenders get jobs at Kochi Metro

(The Hindu)

- Twenty-three of the 530 Kudumbasree workers to be posted at 11 stations in the Kochi Metro's Aluva-Palarivattom corridor will be from the transgender community.
- While better educated among the community will be posted at ticket counters, the rest will be deputed for housekeeping works at stations.
- This is the first time a government owned company has formally appointed members of the transgender community.

##### National Technology Day on May 11

- National Technology Day is a very special day for Indian Technology since 1999. It is so significant because India achieved a huge technological advancement on the day.
- The first, indigenous aircraft "**Hansa-3**" was test flown at Bangalore on this day.
- Not only this, India also performed successful test firing of the **Trishul missile** on the same day.
- India also executed three successful **nuclear tests**, carried out at **Pokhran, in Rajasthan May 11**.