

## National River Conservation Plan

- ❖ Under the National River Conservation Plan the river Sal project in Goa was sanctioned by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
  - ❖ The aim of the plan is to prevent pollution of rivers and improving water quality.
  - ❖ The activities under National River Conservation Plan include following
1. Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
  2. Low cost sanitation works to prevent the open defecation on riverbanks.
  3. Public awareness and public participation.
  4. Electric crematoria to ensure proper cremation of the bodies brought to burning Ghats.

## Task force on artificial intelligence

- The Department of Defense Production constituted a task force headed by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran to study use of artificial intelligence.
- It has potential to provide military superiority apart from driving technology-driven economic growth.
- Similarly, in 2017, the then Commerce and Industry minister constituted the 'Task force on AI for India's Economic Transformation' chaired by V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras

## Maldives

- Maldives is facing a constitutional and political crisis with its government is against the judiciary, polity and a section bureaucracy.
- It is a south Asian island country located in the Arabian sea part of Indian ocean.
- The Maldives archipelago is located atop **the Chagos-Maldives-Laccadive** Ridge, a vast submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean.
- Maldives is a founding member of the SAARC. It is also a part of the United Nations and Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

## Global Terrorism Index

- The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a report published annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
- Two third of the countries experienced a terrorist attack in 2016
- India is one among the ten most impacted countries by terrorism
- Five countries account for three quarters of all deaths from terrorism: Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Nigeria and Pakistan.
- The major reason for terrorism in most impacted countries is internal conflict.

### **Pelican festival**

‘Pelican Bird Festival-2018’ was recently organized at Kolleru lake. It was jointly organised by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority (APTA) and Krishna district administration.

### **Background:**

Thousands of pelicans, painted storks and other birds will visit the lake during winter season, roost, breed and fly with their off springs. Recently, officials identified that Atapaka is one of the largest pelicanry in the world.

### **About Kolleru lake:**

Kolleru lake is one of the largest fresh water lakes in the country. It is located between Krishna and Godavari delta. It was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1999. It is a Ramsar site and is also listed as an Important Bird Area.

- The lake is known to amateur birdwatchers and professional ornithologists as a Pelicanery — a location where the Grey Pelicans, a large magnificent bird, nest and breed. Grey pelicans had vanished from the lake in 1973 for nearly 35 years and returned to it to nest again in December 2006.

### **Facts**

The Grey Pelican also called the **Spot Billed Pelican** is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act and in **the Red Data Book**. It is also considered a “globally threatened species” under the “**vulnerable**” category.

### **International Kala Mela**

The First ever International Kala Mela **is being in New Delhi**. The International Kala Mela has been organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi in partnership with IGNCA of the Ministry of Culture.

### **About the festival:**

The central objective of Kala Mela is to focus on **direct interaction between the artist and the connoisseur and also educating and raising awareness about art**, which has been the mandate of Lalit Kala Akademi. This comprehensive outreach shall include the participation of National, International level Artists/ Art Critics of repute from all over the Globe. **More than 800 artists** from across the world are taking part in the Festival. The festival serves as a platform for artists to showcase their art works.

## **Lalit Kala Akademi**

The Lalit Kala Akademi or National Academy of Art is India's National Academy of Fine Arts. It is an autonomous organization, established at New Delhi in 1954 to promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, both within and outside the country. It does so through providing scholarships, a fellow program, and sponsoring and organizing numerous exhibitions in India and overseas.

## **E-way bill**

With the E-way bill generation platform facing technical glitches, the Government has extended the trial period for e-way bill. However, the government has not clarified how long the trial will run.

### **What is E-way Bill?**

E-way is an electronic billing system for traders who are moving their goods for sale beyond **10 km radius**. Under the system, transporters carrying goods worth Rs 50,000 will be required to get goods pre-registered before transporting them from one location to another. While the mandatory compliance of inter-state E-way bill may roll-out soon once again, however, the for intra-state, the date **is June 1**. States such as Kerala, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Karnataka have already implemented the e-way bill system.

### **How E-way bill works?**

- ❖ E-way is valid for all-India movement and transporters can generate the bill electronically and in self-service mode. Under the system, there is no need to visit any tax office and check post.
- ❖ Transporters can generate e-way bill on the official website through the Mobile App, SMS and offline as well.
- ❖ Transporters can visit the portal 'ewaybill.nic.in' and generate the e-way bill by registering themselves by giving the GSTIN.
- ❖ Those who are not registered can get themselves registered on the website using Aadhaar or PAN card.
- ❖ E-way bill can be generated by entering vehicle number.
- ❖ In case of breakdown or transshipment, the traders can update the vehicle number using the same E-way bill.
- ❖ Once generated E-way bill, however, cannot be cancelled for 24 hours.

Some traders are not happy with the move. Traders are demanding simplification of the process for generation of these electronic receipts. Explaining that it will be more of a hindrance than compliance, traders say the move will force them to shut shops.