

## **Prelim Bits 05-02-2018**

### **National River Conservation Plan**

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- Under the National River Conservation Plan the river Sal project in Goa was sanctioned by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

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- The aim of the plan is to prevent pollution of rivers and improving water quality.

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- The activities under National River Conservation Plan include following

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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.

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### **Task force on artificial intelligence**

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- The Department of Defense Production constituted a task force headed by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran to study use of artificial intelligence.

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- It has potential to provide military superiority apart from driving technology-driven economic growth.

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- 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

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## **Maldives**

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- Maldives is facing a constitutional and political crisis with its government is against the judiciary, polity and a section bureaucracy.

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- It is a south Asian island country located in the Arabian sea part of Indian ocean.

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- The Maldives archipelago is located atop **the Chagos-Maldives-Laccadive Ridge**, a vast submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean.

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- Maldives is a founding member of the SAARC. It is also a part of the United Nations and Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

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## **Global Terrorism Index**

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- The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a report published annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)

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- Two third of the countries experienced a terrorist attack in 2016

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- India is one among the ten most impacted countries by terrorism

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- Five countries account for three quarters of all deaths from terrorism: Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Nigeria and Pakistan.

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- The major reason for terrorism in most impacted countries is internal conflict.

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**Source: The Hindu, BusinessLine, Business Standard**

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