

1) President **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed Mumbai-based sculptor Uttam Pacharne the chairman of **Lalit Kala Akademi**.

The Lalit Kala Akademi or National Academy of Art is India's National Academy of Fine Arts.

2) The Supreme Court has ordered the Central government to implement its draft **Cauvery Management Scheme** after finding it in consonance with its February 16 judgment. The court also found the draft scheme in conformity with Section 6A of the Inter-State **River Water Disputes Act**.

The apex court, in its verdict delivered on February 16, had asked the Centre to frame the Cauvery management scheme, including creation of the Cauvery Management Board, for release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

The dispute began with Karnataka's demand of '**equitable sharing of the waters**' after it expanded farming activities in the Cauvery basin. It claimed that the previous agreements, which happened between erstwhile Madras Presidency and Kingdom of Mysore in 1924, were highly skewed to what is present-day Tamil Nadu. **Tamil Nadu** used to get about **602 TMC of the total water, leaving only about 138 TMC for Karnataka**.

3) The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has decided to adopt the word 'AYUSH' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.

The "**AYUSH**" became popular as the acronym for five traditional and complementary systems of medicine, namely **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy** and successfully adopted and used in all Government communications.

4) **15th** SCO Cultural Ministers' Meeting is being held in Sanya, China.

India is participating in the Cultural Ministers' Meet for first time as full time member.

**The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** is an eight-member multilateral organization, established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. **Pakistan** also became the full member of SCO along with India, taking its membership to **8**.

**5)** The construction of the much-awaited infrastructure project **Zoji La tunnel** has begun. It is a 14.2-km long tunnel project in Jammu and Kashmir to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh, which remains cut-off from the rest of India during winters due to heavy snowfall. "Zojila tunnel will be the **longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia**."

**6)** The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in collaboration with a private company has developed a new device- '**Arsenic Sensor and Removal Media**- which can be used to detect and remove arsenic content from water and make it safe and usable by households.

According to the WHO's guidelines for drinking water quality (2011), the permissible limit of Arsenic in groundwater is .01 mg per litre. However, in India the permissible limit in **drinking water** has recently been revised from **.05 mg per litre to .01 mg per litre**.

**7)** The BRICS Ministerial on Environment has agreed to include "**Green Good Deeds**" in its official agenda in the next Ministerial in Brazil and another meeting in **Russia**.

The campaign has been launched by the Environment Ministry to sensitise the people and students, in particular, about climate change and global warming. The **objective** of the campaign is to **restore and**

return the clean and green environment to the next generation.



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