

## **Prelim Bits 08-09-2017**

### **Exercise Yudh Abhyas - 2017**

\n\n

\n

- It is a joint military training, being conducted at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, USA between India and USA, as part of the ongoing defence cooperation.

\n

- It is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavors between India and USA.

\n

- It will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.

\n

- Multiple scenarios will be rehearsed with a view to understand each-other's organisational structure and battle procedures.

\n

- Experts from both sides will also hold expert academic and military discussions to share each other's experiences on varied topics for mutual benefit.

\n

\n\n

### **Microbes in Bio-fuel**

\n\n

\n

- Indian scientists have found a way to convert carbon-rich waste materials into bio-fuel using microbes.

\n

- They discovered two distinctly different species of bacteria from Aravalli marble mines near Alwar and from the high-altitude Pangong Lake in Ladakh.

\n

- They also found that they can combine forces to produce bio-diesel from carbon-containing waste materials.

\n

- The bacterium identified and isolated from the marble rocks in Rajasthan, called *Serratia* sp. ISTD04, is capable of sequestering atmospheric carbon dioxide into organic compounds such as lipids. Meanwhile, lipase, which the team isolated from cold-loving bacterium *Pseudomonas* sp. ISTPL3, can convert these lipids into bio-diesel.

\n

\n\n

## **Bullet Train**

\n\n

\n

- Indian Prime Minister and his Japanese counterpart will lay the foundation stone of the proposed High Speed Rail Network between Ahmedabad and Mumbai.
- The bullet train project is expected to cost nearly Rs.1.10 lakh crore and will be completed by 2022.
- The train will cover the 508-km-long distance between Ahmedabad and Mumbai in less than three hours at a speed of 350 km per hour.
- Japan will extend 81% of the cost as debt for 50 years at an interest of 0.1% and its repayment will start after 15 years of the commencement of operations.

\n

\n\n

## Central Information Commission

\n\n

\n

- The Central Information Commission has been constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.
- The Commission includes 1 Chief Information Commissioner and not more than 10 Information Commissioners who are appointed by the President of India.
- The Commission has certain powers and functions related to adjudication in

\n

second appeal for giving information; direction for record keeping, suo motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI etc.

\n

- The decisions of the Commission are final and binding.
- \n
- According to the recent data on CIC website, there were 24,302 cases related to information appeals pending with the Central Information Commission.
- \n
- This backlog is in spite of the fact that the Commission is returning a majority of appeals coming to it.
- \n
- Lack of sufficient staff strength as among the reasons why their backlog is increasing.

\n

\n\n

## **Pulikkali**

\n\n

\n

- It is a recreational folk art from the state of Kerala.
- \n
- Literal meaning of Pulikkali is the 'play of the tigers' hence the performance revolves around the theme of tiger hunting.
- \n
- On the fourth day of Onam celebrations, performers painted like tigers and hunters in bright yellow, red, and black dance to the beats of instruments like Udukku and Thakil.
- \n
- The folk art is mainly practiced in Thrissur district of Kerala.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu, PIB**

\n



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*