

Prelim Bits 15-03-2017

Prelim Bits 15-03-2017

\n\n

Shortest-Duration Cotton Variety

\n\n

\n

- One of the main reasons for repeated failure of dryland cotton crop is its long duration i.e around 170-240 days.

\n

- This extends well beyond the monsoon months.

\n

- These plants then go without water during the crucial time of flowering and fruiting and suffer weak uptake of nutrients.

\n

- Central Institute for Cotton Research has developed what is reported to be the shortest-duration cotton variety in the world, tentatively named Yugank.

\n

- It requires only 100-120 days for maturity.

\n

- This could emerge as the solution to the problems of dryland cotton farmers.

\n

- Another advantage of shorter-duration cotton is that the fibre quality is better. The longer the duration, the weaker will be the fibre.

\n

\n\n

National Security Council (NSC)

\n\n

\n

- NSC of India is an executive government agency tasked with advising the Prime Minister's office on matters of national security and strategic interest.

\n

- The members are the National Security Advisor (NSA), the Deputy National Security Advisor (DNSA), the Ministers of Defence, External Affairs, Home & Finance of the GOI.

- \n
- It is the apex body of the three-tiered structure of the national security management system in India. The other two are the Strategic Policy Group and the National Security Advisory Board.
- \n
- It was established in 1998.
- \n

\n\n

Credible Minimum Deterrence

\n\n

- \n
- Credible Minimum Deterrence is the principle on which India's nuclear doctrine is based.
- \n
- It underlines no first use (NFU) with a second strike capability.
- \n
- Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) is another doctrine of military strategy in which a full-scale use of nuclear weapons by two or more opposing sides would cause the complete annihilation of both the attacker and the defender.
- \n

\n\n

Oldest Plant Fossil

\n\n

- \n
- A pair of 1.6 billion-year-old fossils that appear to contain red algae was found in Chitrakoot in central India.
- \n
- This might be the oldest plant-like life discovered on Earth.
- \n
- The oldest known red algae until now was 1.2 billion years old.
- \n
- Scientists generally agree that large multicellular organisms became common about 600 million years ago.
- \n
- This discovery could lead experts to rewrite the tree of life.
- \n
- The fossils were embedded in fossil mats of cyanobacteria, called stromatolites.
- \n
- Stromatolites are layered mounds, columns, and sheet-like sedimentary

rocks originally formed by the growth of layer upon layer of cyanobacteria.

\n

\n\n

\n

