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Important Facts for Prelims (4th December 2018)

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- The bilateral air exercise between the **Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** and **Indian Air Force** is being held in Agra, India.
- The theme of the exercise is joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft.
- Recently, the **joint military exercise** between Indian Army and Japan Ground Self Defence Force, named **Dharma Guardian** 2018 was held in Mizoram, India.
- Japan-India **Maritime Exercise** known as **JIMEX** was also held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

“Chemputer” to Manufacture Drugs

- Scientists at University of Glasgow, UK have developed a new method to produce drug molecules, which uses downloadable blueprints to easily and reliably synthesise organic chemicals via a programmable ‘chemputer’.
- This is the first time synthesis of important drug molecules was achieved in an affordable and modular chemical-robot system called a chemputer.
- The chemputer is underpinned by a **new universal and interoperable standard for writing and sharing chemical recipes**.
- Those chemical recipes, run on a computer programme the team calls the ‘chempiler’, instruct the chemputer how to produce molecules on-demand, more affordably and safely than ever possible before.
- This is a **key step in the digitisation of chemistry** and will allow the universal assembly of complex molecules on demand, democratising the ability to discover and make new molecules using a simple software app and a modular chemputer.
- Chemputer system, could allow medical professionals in remote parts of the world to create life-saving drugs as and when required.

International Conference on Bears

- International conference on bears has been organised in **Agra (Uttar Pradesh)**.
- The conference is hosted by **Wildlife SOS (a conservation non-profit organisation)** in collaboration with **Bear Care Group from the US and Canada**.
- The conference is focused on **bear care, wildlife conservation** and **human-wildlife conflict mitigation**.

Acute Flaccid Myelitis

- Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM), a polio-like disease affecting children has come into public focus.
- **Enteroviruses** (a group of viruses such as poliovirus and enterovirus A71, and West Nile virus.) are the main cause of the disease in children.
- The concerns emanate from the US, more than 100 cases of AFM have been confirmed in 2018.
- AFM is characterised by muscle weakness — weak limbs, pain, absent reflexes.