

September - 05

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Google to set up the AI laboratories in the State.
- ❖ Nokia is signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu government to expand its Fixed Networks R&D operations in Chennai, at an outlay of ₹450 crore, and create 100 jobs.
- ❖ WHO has declared Dhulikhel Municipality of Kavrepalanchok district as Nepal's first 'healthy city' and second healthiest city in Asia.
- ❖ RailTel Corporation of India Ltd (RailTel) has been awarded the ISO 14001:2015 certification, a globally recognized standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS).
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports launched “Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training” (RESET) Programme to empower them with necessary knowledge and skills and making them more employable.
- ❖ The Skyscraper Day takes place on 3rd September each year.
  - It is celebrating the impressive feats of architecture and engineering that define modern skylines.

## NATIONAL

### SHe-Box Portal



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the SHe-Box portal.

- ❖ It aims to tackle the workplace sexual harassment and ensure safer work environments for women across India.
- ❖ It will streamline the process of reporting and addressing complaints of sexual harassment in both government and private sectors.
- ❖ This portal serves as a central hub to collect information about Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) that handle sexual harassment complaints.

### **Vehicle Scrappage Policy 2024**



- ❖ Commercial and passenger vehicle manufacturers have offer discounts for the purchase of new vehicles against the scrapping of older vehicles with a valid Certificate of Deposit.
- ❖ The program is valid from September 1, 2024, and will run for a period of two years or until further notice.
- ❖ The country needs 1,000 vehicle scrapping centres and 400 automated fitness test centres.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh currently leads the nation with the highest number of operational Registration and Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) centres.
- ❖ The Centre launched the National Vehicle Scrappage Policy in August 2021.
- ❖ It aims to phase out the unfit and polluting vehicles and also promote a circular economy.

- ❖ Under the new policy, the Centre had said the states and Union Territories (UTs) will provide up to 25 per cent tax rebate on road tax for vehicles that are purchased after scrapping old vehicles.
- ❖ The vehicle scrappage policy has come into effect from April 1, 2022.

### **Agricultural Infrastructure Fund 2024**



- ❖ The Union Cabinet has expanded the scope of the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF).
- ❖ The scheme, worth ₹1 lakh crore, would be redesigned to include the financial support for Farmers' Producers Organisations (FPOs) to enhance their financial security and creditworthiness.
- ❖ The Centre said the AIF would be more attractive now and strengthen the farm-related infrastructure facilities in the country.
- ❖ Rs.47,575 crore has been sanctioned for 74,508 projects under AIF till date.

### **NITI Aayog reports on edible oil**

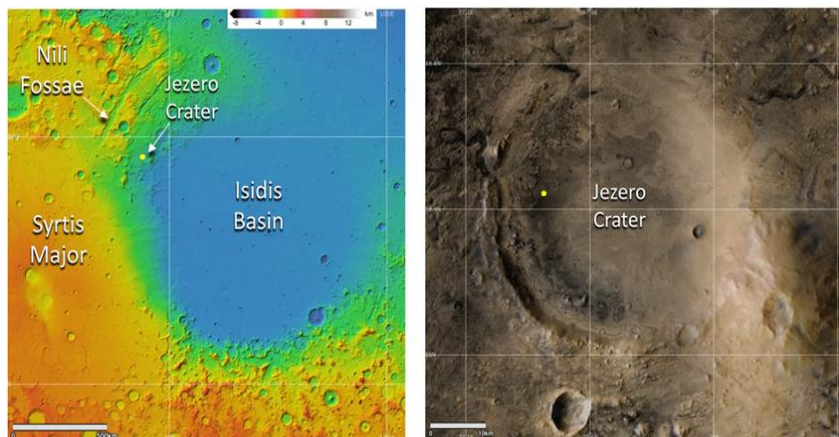
- ❖ The report is titled 'Pathways and Strategies for Accelerating Growth in Edible Oils Towards the Goal of Atmanirbharta'.
- ❖ Utilising one-third of the total rice fallow area across 10 States for oilseed cultivation can increase the production of edible oils by 1.03 million Tonnes (MT) and reduce India's import reliance by 7.1%.
- ❖ Estimates suggest a potential increase of up to 3.12 MT in oilseed output.
- ❖ It has also recommended increasing palm cultivation in the country for extracting palm oil to meet the cooking oil deficit.
- ❖ Cultivation of linseed, sesame and mustard in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh that could increase the edible oil production to 0.85 MT.
- ❖ Similarly, Bihar and Jharkhand hold the potential to reach 0.62 MT by introducing linseed, sunflower, safflower, and mustard.

- ❖ The per capita consumption of edible oil in the country has reached 19.7 kilogram per year.
- ❖ In 2022-23, India has imported 16.5 MT of edible oils, with domestic production fulfilling only 40-45% of the country's requirements.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

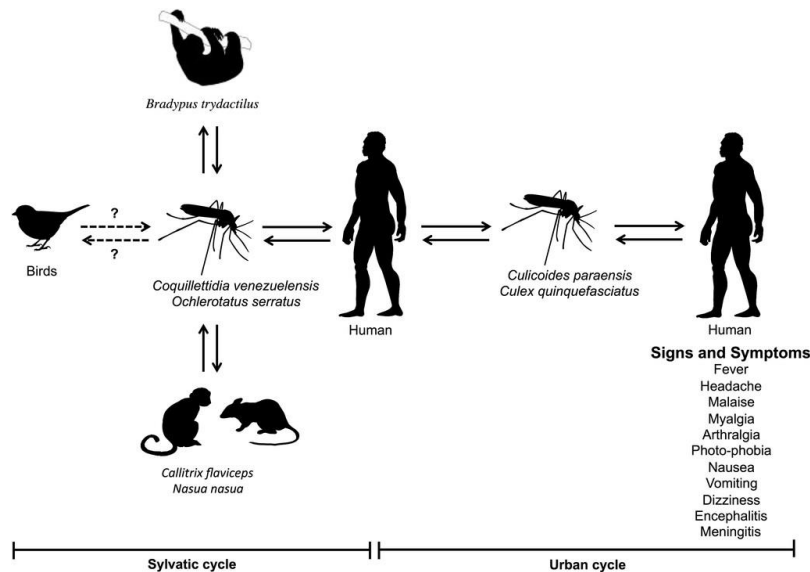
### Jezero Crater Rim



- ❖ NASA's Perseverance Mars rover has started off on its most ambitious ascent to the rim of Jezero Crater.

- ❖ The rover will go up 1,000 feet (305 metres) to the rim of Jezero Crater to dig up rock samples.
- ❖ Perseverance has collected 22 rock core samples from the floor of the crater, which was once filled with water.

## Oropouche Virus



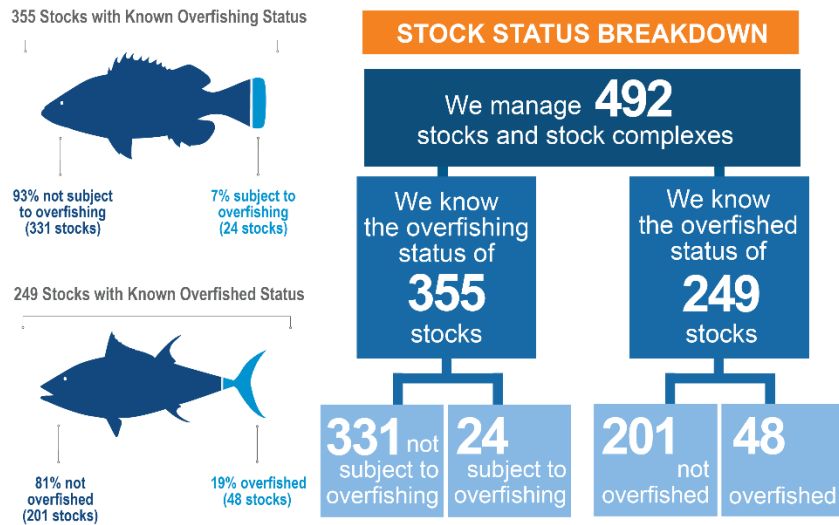
- ❖ South America reported more than 8,000 cases by an insect-borne virus since August 1.
- ❖ It is similar to dengue and is spread primarily by the bite of infected biting midges, a kind of fly.
- ❖ It was detected for the first time in 1955 and was found in Trinidad and Tobago.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Dire State of Global Fish Stocks 2024

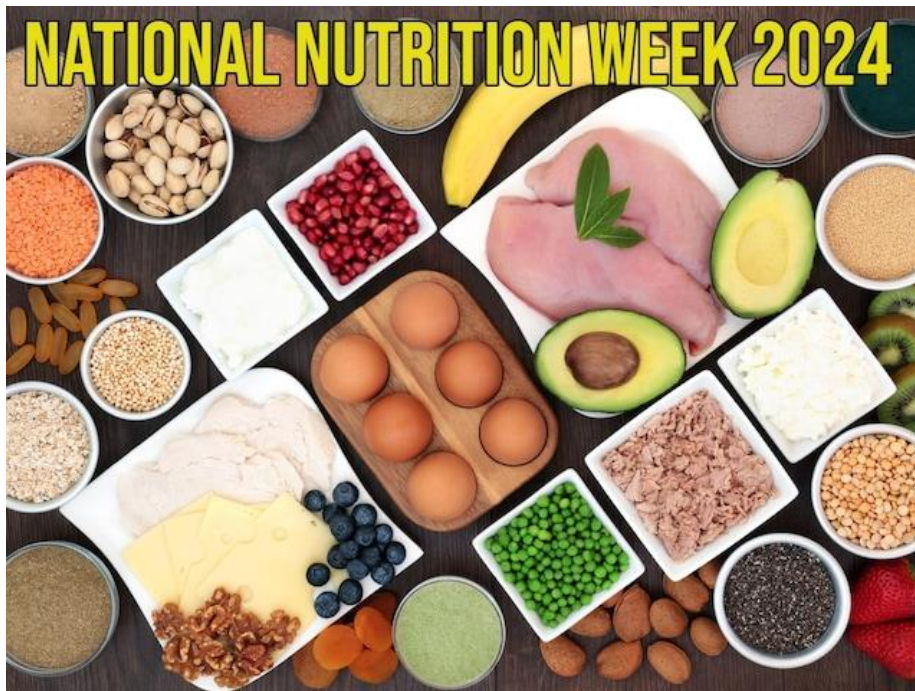
- ❖ Researchers have found that significantly more fish stocks are overfished or have already collapsed compared to previous estimates.
- ❖ Fishing pressure exceeds what fish populations can naturally replenish.
- ❖ When catches fall below 10 per cent of the original biomass, the stock is considered collapsed.
- ❖ Nearly a third of fish stocks classified by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as “maximally sustainably fished” are actually overfished.

- ❖ Within the overfished category, 85 per cent more stocks have likely collapsed (below 10 per cent original biomass) than previously estimated.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

**National Nutrition Week 2024 - September 01 to 07**



- ❖ It is dedicated to raising awareness among people about the significance of nutrition and cultivating healthy eating habits.

- ❖ It aims to improve dietary practices and support a healthier future among individuals of all ages.
- ❖ The theme for National Nutrition Week 2024 is 'Nutritious Diets for Everyone'.

### **World Coconut Day 2024 - September 02**



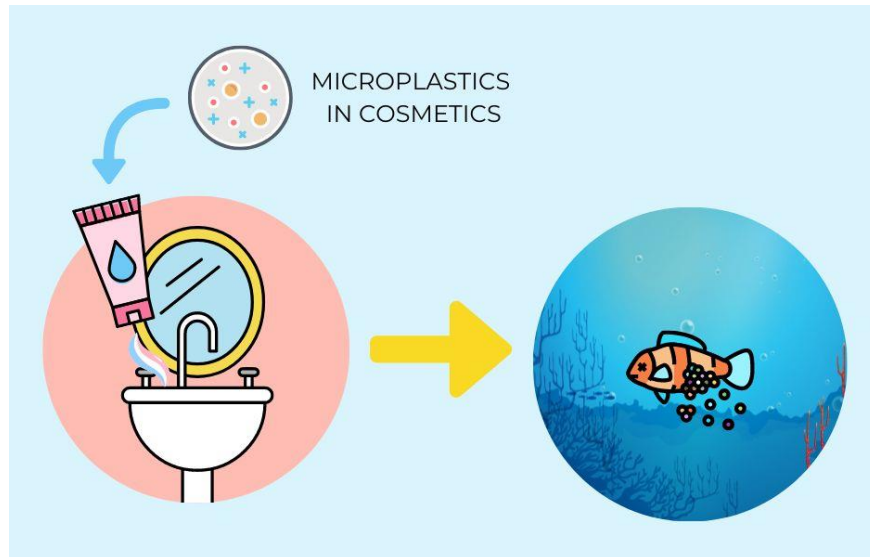
- ❖ It was first celebrated on September 2nd, 2009, by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC).
- ❖ This day highlights the many benefits of coconuts, from their use in cooking to their role in various industries.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the nutritional value and economic significance of coconuts.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnership for Maximum Value."

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Microplastics in Personal Care Products**

- ❖ Researchers found that the microplastics from 45 products, both national and international, bought online and offline.
- ❖ It found that 49.12% of all selected products analysed in India contained plastic microbeads.
- ❖ 45% of the products contained irregular or smooth microplastics, with polyethylene being the dominant polymer, and followed by the polypropylene, polystyrene, polyurethane, and polycaprolactone.
- ❖ A significant number of products (23.33%) contained cellulose microbeads.

- ❖ Approximately, 1.34% of the total product contained plastic microbeads, with the highest at 5.04% and some as low as 0.04%.



## Ban on FDC drugs

### Loose Drugs



### First-line Anti-TB drugs

From left to right:

- Isoniazid,
- Rifampicin,
- Pyrazinamide and
- Ethambutol

form the core of initial treatment regimens.

### Fixed Dose Combination (FDC)



FDCs are improved formulations of currently used medicines, recommended for the first line treatment of TB.

- ❖ The Indian government has banned 156 fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs, including popular medicines such as Cheston Cold and Foracet.
- ❖ FDCs are combinations of two or more known drugs in single-dosage form.
- ❖ Since 2018, 328 such drugs were banned.
- ❖ FDCs are meant for patients with conditions such as tuberculosis and diabetes for which they need to take multiple medicines regularly.
- ❖ They reduce the number of pills the patient needs to take each day, and help improve adherence to the treatment.





- ❖ The government set up a committee in 2014 to examine 3,450 FDCs approved for manufacture and sale in the country after 1988.
- ❖ The committee found 963 drugs to be irrational, and suggested an immediate ban.
- ❖ It also identified a set of FDCs which needed to be studied further.
- ❖ Of these, 499 have been banned so far.

