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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

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FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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Essay Paper

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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q. Why does India have to import edible oils? Elaborate.

Context: Edible oil prices are likely to reduce by December as international commodity futures show a declining trend and the production of domestic oilseed crops.

Recent Rise in the prices of Edible Oil:

- Last year, the retail prices of six edible oils — groundnut, mustard, vanaspati, soya, sunflower, and palm oil had risen to 48%. This was due to:
 - Surge in global prices, and lower domestic production of soybean which is India's largest oilseed crop.
 - Excessive buying of edible oil by China.
 - Many major oil producers are aggressively pursuing biofuel policies and diverting their edible oil crops for that purpose.
 - Governmental taxes and duties also make up a major chunk of the retail price of edible oils in India.

India's Dependence on Edible Oil:

- India is the world's biggest vegetable oil importer.
- India imports about 60% of its edible oil needs, leaving the country's retail prices vulnerable to international pressures.
- It imports palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, soy oil from Brazil and Argentina, and sunflower oil, mainly from Russia and Ukraine.

Facts about Edible Oils:

- Primary sources of Edible oil (Soybean, Rapeseed & Mustard, Groundnut, Sunflower, Safflower & Niger) and secondary sources of Edible Oil (Oil palm, Coconut, Rice Bran, Cotton seeds & Tree Borne Oilseeds).
- In India major challenges in oilseed production is:
 - Growing in largely rain-fed conditions (around 70% area).
 - High seed cost (Groundnut and Soybean).
 - Small holding with limited resources.
 - Low seed replacement rate and low productivity.

Recently the Government announced the National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) to boost domestic oilseed production and make the country self-sufficient in cooking oils.

GS 3

❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q. Discuss the Significance of the NASA's Perseverance rover.

Context: NASA's Perseverance rover has successfully collected its first rock sample for return to Earth. NASA has called it a perfect core sample. NASA plans to launch more spacecraft to retrieve the samples collected by Perseverance. Perseverance arrived in February 2021 at Mars' Jezero Crater, the site on an ancient lake— in search of rocks that might hold evidence of ancient life.

Why is this mission significant?

- It carried a unique instrument, MOXIE or Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment: which for the first time manufactured molecular oxygen on Mars using carbon dioxide from the carbon-dioxide-rich atmosphere (ISRU means In Situ Resource Utilization: or the use of local resources to meet human needs or requirements of the spacecraft).
- It carried Ingenuity, the first ever helicopter to fly on Mars.
- It is the planned first step to bring back rock samples from Mars for analysis in sophisticated laboratories on Earth: with the goal of looking for biosignatures: or signatures of present or past life.

These are some of the key mission objectives:

- Look for signs of ancient microbial life.
- Collect Martian rock and dust samples for later return to Earth.
- Deliver an experimental helicopter.
- Study the climate and geology of Mars.
- Demonstrate technology for future Mars missions.

What is the reason for the near-term interest in Mars?

- Mars is in the very near backyard (about 200 million km away).
- It is a planet that humans can aspire to visit or to stay for a longer duration.
- Mars has flowing water and an atmosphere in the distant past: and perhaps conditions to support life.
- It also has implications for commercial travel.

SNIPPETS**❖ ECONOMY****Q. What are the key issues discussed in Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)?**

Context: 24th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC). The 24th meeting deliberated on various mandates of the FSDC such as financial stability, financial sector development, inter-regulatory coordination, financial literacy, financial inclusion, and macro prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.

The council also discussed issues relating to:

- Management of stressed assets.
- Strengthening institutional mechanism for financial stability analysis.
- Framework for resolution of financial institutions and issues related to IBC.
- Data sharing mechanisms of government authorities.
- Internationalisation of the Indian rupee.
- Pension sector related issues.

About Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC):

- Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was set up by the Government as the apex level forum in December 2010.
- The Chairman of the Council is the Union Finance Minister, and its members include
 - The heads of financial sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC)
 - Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs,
 - Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and
 - Chief Economic Adviser.
- The Council can invite experts to its meeting if required.



Q) Which of the following is the international border between Afghanistan and Pakistan?

- a) Radcliff line
- b) Durand line
- c) McMahon line
- d) Maginot line



Q) Who won Behler Turtle Conservation Award 2021?

- A. James O. Juvik
- B. Shi Haitao
- C. Kalyar Patt
- D. Shailendra Singh

Ans: D

Explanation:

Indian biologist Shailendra Singh has been awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award for bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species back from the brink of extinction- Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (*Batagur kachuga*), Northern River Terrapin (*Batagur baska*), and Black Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia nigricans*).

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