



## Popular Spice Brands Adulterated with Insecticides | Rajasthan | 11 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, **Indian spice** labels are deemed **inappropriate for human consumption** in Rajasthan due to the suspected presence of the **cancer-causing chemical ethylene oxide**.

- Singapore, Hong Kong, and Nepal have prohibited the distribution of these Indian spice labels.

### Key Points

- As per latest reports, Spice brands **failed quality tests** conducted by the **Rajasthan health departments** as part of the state's campaign against food adulteration.
  - During the sample test, it was found that the spices have **thiamethoxam and acetamiprid, ethion, and azoxystrobin**.
- The investigation team discovered that the **levels of pesticides and insecticides** in these spices **exceeded permissible limits**, which **could pose significant health hazards**.

### Ethylene Oxide (ETO)

- **ETO** is a chemical used as a **sterilizing agent** in spices, but it is considered **carcinogenic** when used beyond certain limits.
  - While efforts are being made to prevent **ETO contamination**, the sample failure rate for Indian spice exports is **less than 1%** in major markets.
- The Spices Board released guidelines for exporters to prevent ETO contamination and ensure the safety of all markets.
  - It advises against using ETO as a sterilising agent for spices and suggests alternatives like **steam sterilisation and irradiation**.

### Thiamethoxam

- Thiamethoxam is moderately hazardous to humans because it is **harmful if swallowed**. It found it to be **no skin or eye irritant**, and not mutagenic in any in vitro and in vivo toxicology tests.

### Acetamiprid

- It is an **organic compound**. It is an **odorless neonicotinoid** (neuro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine) insecticide.

### Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- FSSAI is an **autonomous statutory body** established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, of 2006**.
- FSSAI is responsible for **protecting and promoting public health** by regulating and supervising food safety and quality in India, operating under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
- FSSAI has a **headquarters in New Delhi** and regional offices in eight zones across the country.
- The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of FSSAI, appointed by the central government. The

Chairperson is in the **rank of Secretary to the Government of India.**

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## Two-Child Policy | Uttar Pradesh | 11 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** recently faced scrutiny over claims that it had implemented a [two-child policy](#) as of 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. However, according to official statements, these reports are false and no such policy has been enacted yet.

### Key Points

- While a **draft bill** for such a policy has been submitted to the state government, it has **not been passed and formulated as a law.**
- The **Uttar Pradesh Law Commission** had shared a draft of the proposed bill on population control in 2021 with the state government.
- According to the draft bill titled [Uttar Pradesh Population \(Control, Stabilisation, and Welfare\) Bill, 2021](#), couples with more than two children would not be allowed to apply for government jobs, seek promotions, or benefit from government welfare schemes.
  - A similar policy is in place in Assam, which bars parents with more than two children from government jobs under the **Assam Public Services (Application of Small Family Norms in Direct Recruitment) Rules, 2019.**

### Two-Child Policy

- **Need:**
  - India's population has already **crossed 125 crores** and India is **expected to surpass the world's most populous nation-China** in the next couple of decades.
  - Despite having the **National Population Control Policy (2000)**, India is the **second most populous country in the world.**
  - Thus, India's natural resources are extremely **over-burdened** and facing **overexploitation.**
- **Criticism:**
  - The restricted child policy will create a shortage of educated young people needed to carry on India's technological revolution.
  - The problems like gender imbalance, undocumented children, etc. faced by China (as a result of the one-child policy) might be experienced by India.

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## Maha Kumbh | Uttar Pradesh | 11 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

In a statement released after an official meeting **the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister** said that the [Maha Kumbh](#), which is being **organised in Prayagraj in 2025**, will have a "big impact" on the state's economy with crores of people attending the event.

- A study should be conducted on **attracting both domestic and foreign tourists**, and a concrete action plan should be developed for this purpose.

## Key Points

- In the official meeting, the Chief Minister discussed the ongoing efforts, current results and future policy towards fulfilling the resolution of making the state a [USD 1 trillion economy](#).
- It is emphasized that all the ministers and senior officials should make special efforts towards ease of living and maximum employment generation.
- The total [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#) of the state was 16.45 lakh crore in 2021-22. It increased to more than 25.48 lakh crores in 2023-24.
  - Uttar Pradesh is contributing 9.2% to the [national income](#) and is becoming the growth engine of the country's development as the second largest economy of the country.
  - The [unemployment rate of the state](#), which was 6.2% in 2017-18, has come down to 2.4% in 2024.

## Maha Kumbh

- Kumbh Mela comes under [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)'s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#).
- It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
  - It takes place on the banks of the [Godavari river in Nashik](#), the [Shipra river in Ujjain](#), the Ganges in Haridwar, and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical [Saraswati river in Prayagraj](#). The confluence is referred to as the 'Sangam'.
- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a **culturally diverse festival**.
- The **over month-long fair** is marked by the construction of a massive tented township, complete with cottages, huts, platforms, civic facilities, administrative and security measures.
  - It is organized immaculately by the government, the local authorities and the police.
- The mela is especially **renowned for the presence of an extraordinary array of religious ascetics** enticed from remote hideaways in forests, mountains and caves

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## Naxal Issue Confined | Jharkhand | 11 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

According to the [Director General of Police \(DGP\)](#), the joint attacks on [Naxalites](#) in Jharkhand have contained their operations to just 5 out of the total 24 districts, with **Chaibasa facing the most impact**.

### Key Points

- **Naxalism originated as rebellion against local landlords** who bashed a peasant over a land dispute.
  - The rebellion was **initiated in 1967**, with an objective of rightful redistribution of the land to working peasants under the leadership of **Kanu Sanyal and Jagan Santhal**.
- **Started in West Bengal**, the movement has spread across Eastern India; in less developed areas of states such as **Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is considered that Naxals support Maoist political sentiments and ideology.
  - **Maoinism** is a form of communism developed by **Mao Tse Tung**.
  - It is a **doctrine to capture State power** through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances.
- Efforts are currently in place to combat [drug trafficking](#), leading to the apprehension of drug peddlers and significant seizures of opium under the the [Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances \(NDPS\) Act, 1985](#).

## Drug Trafficking

- Drug trafficking refers to the **illegal trade involving the cultivation**, manufacture, distribution, and sale of illicit drugs.
- It encompasses a **wide range of activities associated with the illegal drug trade**, including the production of drugs such as **cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and synthetic drugs**, as well as the transportation and distribution of these substances.
- Drug trafficking **operates within a complex network of criminal organisations** that span across borders, regions, and even continents.

## The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985

- It prohibits a person from **producing, possessing, selling, purchasing, transporting**, storing, and/or consuming any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.
- **The National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse was** also created under a provision of the NDPS Act, 1985, to meet the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the Act.

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## Protests in Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 11 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

In a violent protest, numerous members of the **Scheduled Caste Satnami community** in **Chhattisgarh's Baloda Bazar district** burned a section of the collectorate building, damaged vehicles, and had conflicts with the police to **demonstrate against the violation of their religious site, Jaitkham**.

### Key Points

- The **Jaitkham**, also known as the **Victory Pillar**, holds significant importance for the **Satnami community** in Chhattisgarh.
  - It is a revered **religious symbol representing the triumph of good over evil** and the spiritual heritage of the community.
  - Located at the Amar Gufa, the Jaitkham (religious pillar) is a **place of worship and a focal point for cultural and religious gatherings**, embodying the identity and history of the Satnami people.
- The protest stems from the incident when the Jaitkham religious site of the Satnami community in

Giroudhpuri town, Baloda Bazar district, was attacked.

- Satnami community members see its desecration as a profound disrespect and an attack on the community's beliefs and traditions.

## Satnami Community

- The Satnamis of Chhattisgarh were a group of people, who formed a **socio-religious movement in Bengal** during the British period.
- The movement was founded and led by **Ghasi Das** of **Bilaspur district** and he was thought to be an untouchable leather worker.

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## Samadhan Prakoshth | Haryana | 11 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

The Haryana Government has set up "**Samadhan Prakoshth**" in the Chief Secretary's Office **to handle public grievances**.

- This initiative will include '**Samadhan Shivir**' sessions at **district and sub-divisional headquarters** every working day, with the goal of resolving public issues effectively.

### Key Points

- Public grievances are divided into **policy issues and implementation bottlenecks**.
  - Policy-related issues will be handled at the state headquarters level by the '**Prakoshth**' in coordination with Administrative Secretaries.
  - **Implementation bottlenecks will be resolved through the 'Samadhan Shivir'** at the district level.
- Key district officials, including the **Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, Additional Deputy Commissioner, District Municipal Commissioner, Sub Divisional Officers**, and other relevant officers, will meet daily in the Deputy Commissioner's and SDO (Civil) offices to resolve public grievances.
- Haryana's scheme related to public grievances:
  - **CM Window - Public Grievances Redressal and Monitoring System.**
    - It is a grievances redressal and monitoring system **implemented since 25 December 2014** in all districts and all departments of Haryana as Flagship programme of the State.
    - These **grievances are registered at the CM Window counters online** and the **citizens get the SMS** on his/her mobile phone with the grievance registration number.
    - This number is used by the complainant for **tracking of grievance redressal online**. CM Window is implemented at all Districts at e-Disha Kendras & Sub-Division Offices to get the grievances from common citizens.