

**20<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

### **Project to eliminate microplastic contamination in foods**

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently launched an innovative project in New Delhi to address the growing concern over microplastic contamination in food items.

#### **Key Points-**

- ❖ The project was launched in March this year to develop and validate analytical methods for detecting micro and nano-plastics in various food products as well as assess their prevalence and exposure levels in India.
- ❖ The primary objectives of the project include developing standard protocols for micro/nano-plastic analysis, conducting intra- and inter-laboratory comparisons, and generating critical data on microplastic exposure levels among consumers.
- ❖ The study is being implemented in collaboration with leading research institutes across the country, including CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (Lucknow), ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (Kochi) and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (Pilani).
- ❖ The project will help understand the extent of microplastic contamination in Indian food and guide the formulation of effective regulation and safety standards to protect public health

#### **About FSSAI-**

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- ❖ As the country's food safety regulator, FSSAI is committed to ensuring that Indian consumers have access to safe and healthy food.


### **Kisan Ki Baat Program**

The central government will launch a radio programme titled Kisan Ki Baat to give farmers access to science.

### Key Points –

- ❖ This program will be on the lines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly program Mann Ki Baat on All India Radio.
- ❖ According to the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, this program will start from the month of September.
- ❖ **Objective:** The objective of this initiative is to modernize agricultural practices and empower farmers with cutting-edge scientific information.

### Person In News- Obituary

<b>Rakesh Pal</b>	<p>Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal died on 18 August in Chennai at the age of 59.</p> <p>He was in Chennai to attend an official function when he died of a heart attack.</p>	
-------------------	--	---

### Important News- Worldwide

<b>Japan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Recently, the powerful storm 'Ampil' hit Japan. The Ampil storm has hit the east coast.</li> <li>❖ The Japan Meteorological Agency has described it as a powerful and dangerous storm. Due to the storm, heavy rains and strong winds are blowing in many eastern areas including the capital Tokyo. The storm is moving at a speed of 216 km/h.</li> <li>❖ The months from May to November in Japan are called typhoon season. During this time, about 20 storms come. Due to this, heavy rains, landslides and floods occur.</li> <li>❖ Even in the typhoon season, the months of August-September have the most storms. Ampil storm is the seventh storm of the year.</li> </ul>
--------------	--

Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chamber of Accounts of Uzbekistan to enhance audit cooperation and exchange of expertise between the two countries.</li> <li>❖ The agreement signed by the two apex audit institutions aims to enhance cooperation and exchange of expertise in the field of audit between the two countries.</li> <li>❖ The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes a cooperation platform for exchange of knowledge and experience among audit professionals to develop capacity to conduct audits.</li> </ul>
Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ India and Israel have signed a Joint Letter of Intent to establish a new Water Technology Centre at IIT-Madras.</li> <li>❖ The Water Technology Centre aims to become a hub for innovation, research and capacity building in water technologies, particularly focusing on sustainable solutions for urban water supply.</li> </ul>

### Important News- Other States

Jammu and Kashmir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Recently a week-long national event called 'Chinar Book Festival' started at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar with the aim to inculcate the habit of reading books among the youth.</li> <li>❖ The festival is organised by National Book Trust (NBT).</li> <li>❖ This festival is the first of its kind in Kashmir.</li> </ul>
Sikkim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Botanists discovered a new orchid species, <i>Gastrodia indica</i>, at the Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary in Sikkim, India.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ This orchid is notable because it does not open its flowers, a rare feature among orchids, making it the first known <b>cleistogamous orchid</b> in India.</li> <li>❖ Cleistogamous orchids are orchids that produce flowers that do not open, and reproduce through self-pollination, or autogamy.</li> </ul>
--	---

### Important Day/Dates

World Photography Day	19 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ World Photography Day is celebrated every year on August 19.</li> <li>❖ On August 19, 1839, the French government announced the invention of the daguerreotype process by Louis Daguerre.</li> <li>❖ Theme - "An Entire Day"</li> </ul>
World Humanitarian day	19 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ World Humanitarian Day is a global day for people helping people.</li> <li>❖ Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 and first observed in 2009.</li> <li>❖ 2024 campaign: #ActForHuman.</li> </ul>

### Sports

Tokyo Paralympics gold medallist **Sumit Antil** and shot-put star **Bhagyashree Jadhav** will be the flag-bearers for the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the Paris Paralympics.

### Key Points –

- ❖ Sumit is the reigning Paralympic champion in the men's javelin throw F64 category.
- ❖ On the other hand, Bhagyashree won a silver medal in the shot put F34 category at the 2022 Asian Para Games and finished seventh at the Tokyo Paralympics. She also won a silver medal in the women's shot put F34 category at the Para-Athletics World Championships in May this year.
- ❖ The Paralympic Games will be held from August 28 to September 8.
- ❖ 84 athletes will represent India at these Games. This is the country's largest ever contingent at the Paralympic Games.
- ❖ Moto – Games Wide Open

