



C.A Dated On 18th Aug 2018
General Studies- 1

NCMC meets for the second time in two days to review flood situation in Kerala

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) met for the second time in two days here today to review the rescue & relief operations in the flood affected areas in Kerala.

About NCMC:

A National Crisis Management Committee(NCMC) has been constituted in the Cabinet Secretariat. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

- Cabinet Secretary Chairman
- Secretary to Prime Minister Member
- Secretary (MHA) Member
- Secretary (MCD) Member
- Director (IB) Member
- Secretary (R&AW) Member
- Secretary (Agri & Coopn.) Co-opted Member
- An officer of Cabinet Secretariat. Convenor

When a situation is to be handled also by the NCMC, it will give such directions to the Crisis Management Group of the Ministry as deemed necessary.

Functions of Committee:

- Review every year Contingency Plans formulated by the Central Ministries/Departments;
- Review the measures required for dealing with a natural calamity
- Coordinate the activities of the Central Ministries and the State Governments in relation to disaster preparedness and relief, and
- Obtain information from the Nodal Officers on measures relating to the above



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RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) initiative

Why in News?

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil), an initiative that will enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to bio-diesel.

- *Under this initiative*, 64 companies at 101 locations have been identified to enable collection of used cooking oil. For instance: McDonald's has already started converting used cooking oil to biodiesel from 100 outlets in Mumbai and Pune.
- FSSAI wants businesses using more than 100 litres of oil for frying, to maintain a stock register and ensure that UCO is handed over to only registered collecting agencies.

Significance of the initiative:

FSSAI believes India has the potential to recover 220 crore litres of used cooking oil for the production of biodiesel by 2022 through a co-ordinated action. While biodiesel produced from used cooking oil is currently very small, but a robust ecosystem for conversion and collection is rapidly growing in India and will soon reach a sizable scale.

Background:

The initiative has been launched nearly a month after the food safety regulator notified standards for used cooking oil. According to FSSAI regulations, the maximum permissible limits for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) have been set at 25%, beyond which the cooking oil is unsafe for consumption.



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What is Total Polar Compounds (TPC)?

In many countries, TPC is used to measure the quality of oil. The level of TPC increases every time oil is re-heated. Some of the studies show that TPC accumulation in oil without food is slower than that in oil frying with food.

Higher level of TPC in cooking oil leads to health issues like hypertension, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and liver disease. One of the studies also noticed high levels of glucose, creatinine and cholesterol with declined levels of protein and albumin in cooking oil.

About FSSAI:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under *Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006* which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.

- It was created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.
- *Composition:* The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are appointed by Government of India. The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.

DGMO Level Talks Between India and Pakistan

DGMO (Director General Military) level talks at behest of Pakistan DGMO was held on 16 August 18. Pleasantries were exchanged between the DGMO on the occasion of Independence Day of both countries.

The quantum of cease fire violations has drastically reduced and augers well for the future.



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Concerns by India:

- Indian DGMO emphatically stated that infiltration attempts by terrorists were a major cause of concern.
- He also informed the Pakistan DGMO that 'these activities have increased in the areas North of Pir Panjal Mountain Ranges.
- Pakistan must institute measures to prevent infiltration from the launch pads located on its side of the Line of Control'.
- Indian DGMO assured that the Indian Army will abide by its commitment to uphold the Ceasefire Understanding of 2003 provided Pakistan Army initiates positive steps to control infiltration and abetment of terrorism in J&K.

Assurances by Pakistan:

Pakistan DGMO made an assurance that Pakistan Army would take prompt actions against move of inimical elements in proximity to the Line of Control and respond to information shared by the Indian side thereby facilitating conduct of anti-terrorist operations.

BIS raid Packaged Drinking Water Manufacturing Unit

Why in News?

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) conducted an enforcement raid recently on M/s Hi-Tech Aqua, in Mayapuri Industrial Area, Delhi.

The manufacturing of Packaged Drinking Water without having a valid BIS licence is a cognizable offence under Section 17 (3) of BIS Act, 2016.

About BIS:

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of [Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India](#).
- It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 which came into effect on 23rd December 1986.



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- The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.
- As a corporate body, it has 25 members drawn from Central or State Governments, industry, scientific and research institutions, and consumer organisations.
- Its headquarters are in [New Delhi](#), with regional offices in [Kolkata](#), [Chennai](#), [Mumbai](#), [Chandigarh](#) and [Delhi](#) and 20 branch offices.
- It also works as [WTO-TBT](#) enquiry point for India.

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International Conference on Recent Advances in Food Processing Technology (iCRAFPT)

Why in News?

International Conference on Recent Advances in Food Processing Technology (iCRAFPT) got underway today at Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur in Tamilnadu.

About IIFPT:

- The Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT), a premier national Institute working under the administrative control of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India functioning from its headquarters in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.
- Besides delivering research and education in food processing, the institute has been incubating farmers, entrepreneurs and aspiring youth for prospective food business ventures.
- Considering this importance and promotion of food processing among the farmers, budding entrepreneurs and researchers.
- The institute has been organizing an International Conference on Recent Advances in Food Processing Technology (iCRAFPT) during 17th to 19th August 2018 with the theme of Doubling farmers' income through food processing.



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