Tamil Nadu's ban on egg mayonnaise

Prelims – *Current events of international importance.*

Mains (GS III) – *Food processing and related industries in India.*

Why in News?

The Tamil Nadu government has banned the manufacture, storage, distribution, and sale of mayonnaise made using raw eggs, citing public health risks.

- **Mayonnaise –** It is described as a semi-solid emulsion containing egg yolk, vegetable oil, vinegar, and other seasonings.
- Egg yolks (and some seasoning, if one wants) are stirred together with oil to create a thick pale-yellow sauce. In the end, a dash of acid is added.
- The protein in the egg acts as an emulsifier (a substance that binds two immiscible liquid to form a stable mixture) for the oil and water, also from the egg (some 50% of the yolk is water).

Health Risks associated with Mayonnaise

- Eggs are known to ***carry innumerous pathogens***, which are usually neutralized in the cooking process (through the application of heat). But mayonnaise uses raw eggs.
- This is especially relevant in Indian conditions, where improper preparation and storage amid hot and humid weather creates additional risk of contamination by microorganisms, especially *Salmonella* and *E Coli.*
- **Salmonella –** These are bacteria that can cause severe illness if consumed.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), they are a leading cause of foodborne illness, hospitalizations, and deaths worldwide.
- Warm, humid weather is the ideal condition for salmonella to grow. Symptoms of salmonella infection include watery diarrhoea, vomiting, and stomach cramps.
- **E coli –** These are bacteria which can cause infections in the gut, urinary tract, and other parts of the body.
- While most E Coli strains are harmless, they are in fact important to the digestive process certain kinds can cause severe illness.
- **High-risk groups -** While these bacteria can affect everyone, it poses more acute risks to certain groups such as immunocompromised individuals, children, and the elderly.
- **Significance of the ban -** It will likely force food businesses to switch to eggless or pasteurized-egg versions, at least until a comprehensive risk assessment is done.

States	Banned food items
Telangana	Egg-mayonnaise

Tamil Nadu	Gutka and Paan masala
Punjab	caffeinated energy drinks
Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh	Cotton candy and Gobi Manchurian contains Rhodamine B
Karnataka	Artificial food colors

Reference

The Indian Express | Tamil Nadu banned egg mayonnaise

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