



C.A Dated On 30-10-2018

**General Studies-2**

**Mega Food Park**

**Why in News?**

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal today inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat.

Gujarat Agro Infrastructure Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd the Park is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District Surat.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> Mega Food Park has been sanctioned by the Ministry in Mehsana District of Gujarat.

**Benefits Expected:**

- Mega Food Park will leverage an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crores in 25-30 food processing units in the park and generate a turnover of about Rs. 450-500 crore annually.
- The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.
- Modern infrastructure for food processing created at Park will benefit the farmers, growers, processors and consumers of Gujarat and adjoining areas immensely and prove to be a big boost to the growth of the food processing sector in the State of Gujarat.

**About Mega Food Parks Scheme:**

- Aimed at giving a major boost to the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage at each stage of the supply chain with particular focus on perishables, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Mega Food Park Scheme in the country.
- Mega Food Parks create modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along the value chain from farm to market with strong forward and backward linkages through a cluster based approach.
- Common facilities and enabling infrastructure is created at Central Processing Centre and facilities for primary processing and storage is created near the farm in the form of Primary Processing Centers (PPCs) and Collection Centers (CCs).



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- Under the Scheme, Government of India provides financial assistance upto Rs. 50.00 Crore per Mega Food Park project.

**IMPRESS Scheme**

**Why in News?:**

Union HRD Ministry has launched the web portal of IMPRESS scheme with an aim to build a research ecosystem in educational institutions.

**About IMPRESS Scheme:**

The *objective* of Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS) is to identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society.

- It will provide an opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in the country which includes all universities (central and state) and also a few private institutions meeting the requirement.
- The scheme will focus on broad thematic areas such as state and democracy, urban transformation; media, culture and society; employment, skills and rural transformation; governance; innovation and public policy; macro-trade and economic policy and social media and technology.
- Under IMPRESS, 1,500 research projects will be awarded for two years to support social science research in the higher educational institutions.
- *The Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR) will be the project implementing agency.*
- The scheme will be implemented till March, 2021.

**Namami Gange Programme:**

**Why in News?**



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The Executive Committee (EC) of the National Mission for Clean Ganga approved 12 projects worth Rs. 929 Crore under the Namami Gange programme in its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting today.

**Two Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been sanctioned for Delhi** for creating 340 MLD waste treatment capacity at a cost of Rs 580 Crore.

### **About Namami Gange**

- **Namami Gange Programme**, an integrated conservation mission, was approved as the flagship programme by the [government](#) in June 2016 with a budget outlay of ₹20,000 crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation, and rejuvenation of the Ganga.
- Under the project, 8 states are covered. Dept of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation proposes to make 1,674 gram panchayats by the Ganga open defecation-free by 2022, at a cost of Rs 1,700 cr (central share).
- An estimated Rs 2,958 Crores ([US\\$460 million](#)) have been spent till July 2016 in various efforts in cleaning up of the river.

### **Main pillars of Namami Gange Programme**

1. Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure
2. River-Front Development
3. River-Surface Cleaning
4. Bio-Diversity
5. Afforestation
6. Public Awareness
7. Industrial Effluent Monitoring
8. Ganga Gram

Its implementation has been divided into Entry-Level Activities (for immediate visible impact), Medium-Term Activities (to be implemented within 5 years of time frame) and Long-Term Activities (to be implemented within 10 years)

### **General Studies- 3**

### **Less Polluting Firecrackers named – SWAS, SAFAL and STAR**



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CSIR scientists have developed Less Polluting Firecrackers which are not only environment friendly but 15-20 % cheaper than the conventional ones.

Indian Fireworks industry is over 6000-crore worth of annual turnover and provides employment opportunities to over 5 lakh families directly or indirectly, this endeavour of CSIR aims at addressing the pollution concerns at the same time protecting the livelihoods of those involved in this trade.

#### **Details about the crackers:**

- The crackers have been named as safe water releaser (SWAS), safe minimal aluminium (SAFAL) and safe thermite cracker (STAR).
- It has unique property of releasing water vapour and /or air as dust suppressant and diluent for gaseous emissions and matching performance in sound with conventional crackers.
- SWAS crackers eliminates usage of (KNO<sub>3</sub>) Potassium nitrate and Sulphur with consequent reduction in particulate matter (30-35%) SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>.
- It has matching sound intensity with commercial crackers in the range of 105-110 dBA.
- SWAS has been tested for shelf life upto 3 weeks with consistent performance.
- SAFAL has minimal usage of aluminium (only in flash powder for initiation) with consequent significant reduction in particulate matter (35-40 %) compared to commercial crackers.
- It has matching sound intensity with commercial crackers in the range of 110-115 dBA.

#### **Other innovations made:**

**E-crackers-** CSIR-CEERI, being an electronics laboratory, is developing safe and pollution free technology of electronic crackers (E-crackers) to meet latent social aspiration of enjoying fireworks.

- It includes various products like E-Ladi, E-Anar, system for E-cracker show etc.
- At present CSIR-CEERI is ready with the laboratory level prototype of E-Ladi.
- Ladi is based on high-voltage electrostatic discharge to generate light/sound effect. It is triggered by providing heat to the thermal switch which will give the excitement of firing the conventional cracker.
- The E-Ladi is also programmable to give various light/sound effect.



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- The team from CSIR-CEERI Pilani has developed functional prototype of E-Ladi, demonstration is also planned in next two months.

**Living Planet Report- WWF**

Unbridled consumption has decimated global [wildlife](#), triggered a mass extinction and exhausted Earth's capacity to accommodate humanity's expanding appetites, the conservation group WWF warned on Tuesday.

**Observations made by WWF:**

- From 1970 to 2014, 60% of all animals with a backbone — fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals — were wiped out by human activity, according to WWF's "Living Planet" report, based on an ongoing survey of more than 4,000 species spread over 16,700 populations scattered across the globe.
- For freshwater fauna, the decline in population over the 44 years monitored was a staggering 80%.
- Regionally, Latin America was hit hardest, seeing a nearly 90% loss of wildlife over the same period.
- Another dataset confirmed the depth of an unfolding mass extinction event, only the sixth in the last half-billion years.
- Depending on which of Earth's lifeforms are included, the current rate of species loss is 100 to 1,000 times higher than only a few hundred years ago, when people began to alter Earth's chemistry and crowd other creatures out of existence.
- Measured by weight, or biomass, wild animals today only account for four% of mammals on Earth, with humans (36%) and livestock (60%) making up the rest.
- Ten thousand years ago that ratio was probably reversed.

**Marine life:**

- Back-to-back marine heatwaves have already wiped out up to half of the globe's shallow-water reefs, which support a quarter of all marine life.



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- Even if humanity manages to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius — mission impossible, according to some scientists — coral mortality will likely be 70 to 90%.
- An increase by 2 degrees Celsius would be a death sentence, a major U.N. report concluded last month.

**About Living Planet Report:**

- The **Living Planet Report** is published every two years by the [World Wide Fund for Nature](#) since 1998.
- It is based on the [Living Planet Index](#) and [ecological footprint](#) calculations.
- The *Living Planet Report* is the world's leading, science-based analysis on the health of our only planet and the impact of human activity.
- Humanity's demands exceed the Earth's capacity to sustain us. The latest edition of the Living Planet Report is released in October 2018.

**About WWF:**

- The **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** is an [international non-governmental organization](#) founded in 1961, working in the field of the wilderness preservation, and the reduction of [human impact on the environment](#).
- It was formerly named the **World Wildlife Fund**, which remains its official name in [Canada](#) and the [United States](#).
- It is the world's largest [conservation organization](#) with over five million supporters worldwide, working in more than 100 countries, supporting around 1,300 conservation and environmental projects.
- WWF is a foundation, with 55% of funding from individuals and bequests, 19% from government sources (such as the [World Bank](#), [DFID](#), [USAID](#)) and 8% from corporations in 2014.
- The group aims to "stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature
- Currently, their work is organized around these six areas: food, climate, freshwater, wildlife, forests, and oceans