



C.A Dated On 11-02-2019

**GS-2**

**Mega Food Park**

**Why in News?**

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal today laid foundation stone Mega Food Park in Mathura in Uttar Pradesh.

**About the Park:**

- The Mega Food Park is being set up in 57.41 acre of land at a cost of Rs. 120.77 Crore.
- Government of India has approved a financial assistance of Rs. 50.00 Crore to the project.
- The Park also has a common administrative building for office and other uses by the entrepreneurs and 5 PPCs at Aligarh, Mathura, Kanshiram Nagar, Bharatpur & Agra having facilities for primary processing and storage near the farms.

**Benefits:**

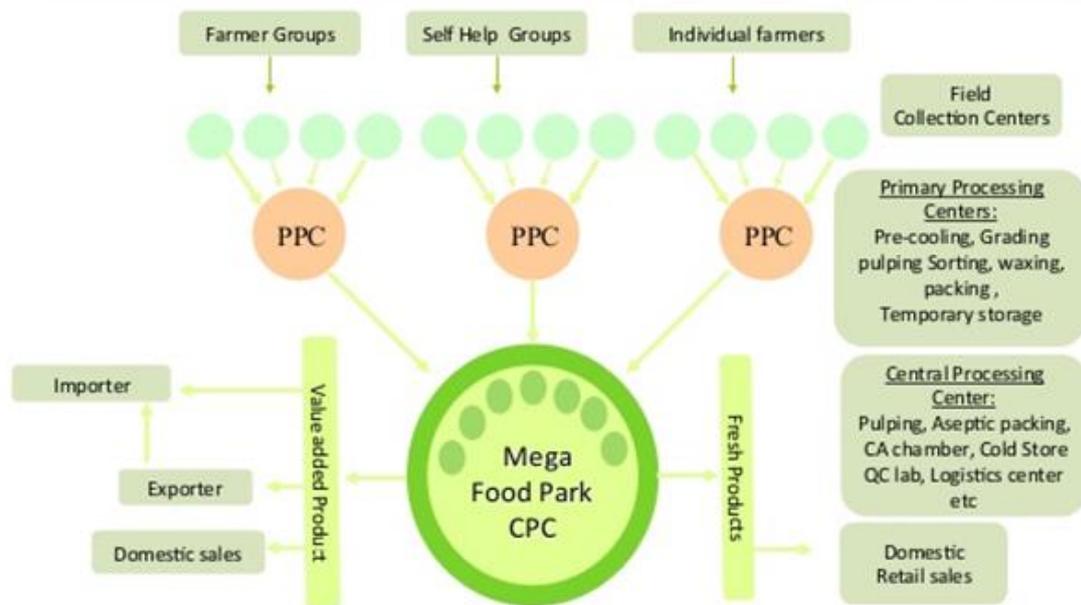
- Mega Food Park will leverage an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crore in 25-30 food processing units in the park and generate a turnover of about Rs. 450-500 crore annually.
- The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC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

**About the Scheme:**



C.A Dated On 11-02-2019

## Mega Food Park Model: An Illustration



### Mega Food Park Scheme- The Need

- ❖ Food processing sector- a sunrise sector, is capital intensive with long gestation periods
- ❖ Hence, incentives from the Govt. required to promote private investment in the sector
- ❖ The Scheme conceptualized on an Industrial Park Model and customized to the need of food processing sector. Aim also to overcome the weakness plaguing the sector
- ❖ Grant assistance to be provided to entrepreneurs for setting up common infrastructure
- ❖ The common infrastructure to act as the feeder point for processing units to be set up in the periphery area

### **Background:**



### **C.A Dated On 11-02-2019**

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

### **National Commission for Minorities (NCM) :**

#### **Why in News?**

The [Supreme Court](#) on Monday directed the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to take a decision within three months on a representation seeking laying down of guidelines for defining the term 'minority' in the context of Statewise population of a community.

#### **Background:**

- A Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi asked BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay to refile his representation to the commission which, in turn, will take a decision on it within three months from Monday.
- Mr. Upadhyay, in his plea, said the term 'minority' needed to be redefined and reconsidered in the context of population of a community in a State, instead of nationwide population data.
- The plea said that Hindus, who are a majority community as per national data, are a minority in several northeastern States, and in Jammu and Kashmir.
- However, the Hindu community is deprived of benefits that are available to the minority communities in these States, the plea said, adding the commission should reconsider the definition of minority in this context.

#### **About NCM:**



C.A Dated On 11-02-2019

### **National Commission for Minorities**

The **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** is a body constituted by the Government of India to monitor and evaluate the progress of people classified as minorities by the Indian government. Essentially the minorities in India consist of followers of all religions other than Hinduism and weaker sections in the Hindu community. The Commission is also referred to as the **Minority Commission**. It was formed as a result of an act of the Indian Parliament in 1993.[1]

#### **UN Declaration**

The NCM adheres to the UN Declaration of 18 December 1992 which states that "States shall protect the existence of the National or Ethnic, Cultural, Religious and Linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories and encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity." [1]

### **GS-3**

#### **Indo-US Trade relation:**

#### **Context:**

India could lose a vital U.S. trade concession, under which it enjoys zero tariffs on \$5.6 billion of exports to the United States, amid a widening dispute over its trade and investment policies, people with close knowledge of the matter said.

#### **GSP withdrawal**

- A move to withdraw the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) from India, the world's largest beneficiary of a scheme that has been in force since the 1970s, would be the strongest punitive action against India since President Donald Trump took office in 2017, vowing to reduce the U.S. deficit with large economies.
- US has repeatedly called out India for its high tariffs. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has courted foreign investment as part of his Make-in-India campaign to turn India into a manufacturing hub and deliver jobs to the millions of youth.
- The trigger for the latest downturn in trade ties was India's new rules on e-commerce that restrict the way Amazon.com Inc. and Walmart-backed



**C.A Dated On 11-02-2019**

Flipkart do business in a rapidly growing online market set to touch \$200 billion by 2027.

**Reasons:**

- The GSP was tied to the trade package and since that deal had slipped further away, the U.S. was considering withdrawing or scaling back the preferential arrangement, people familiar with the matter said.

**Agricultural Loan:**

**Why in News?**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday raised the limit of collateral-free agricultural [loans](#) to ₹1.6 lakh from the current ₹1 lakh with a view to help small and marginal farmers.

**Details:**

- The [Central bank](#) also decided to set up an internal working group (IWG) to review agricultural credit and arrive at a workable policy solution.
- The Interim Budget had also announced measures to boost the farming sector in addition to annual payment of ₹6,000 to small and marginal farmers.
- Currently, the banks are mandated to extend collateral-free agricultural loans up to ₹1 lakh. This limit was fixed in the year 2010.
- "Keeping in view the overall inflation and rise in [agriculture](#) input costs since then, it has been decided to raise the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.6 lakh.
- This will enhance coverage of small and marginal farmers in the formal credit system.
- The IWG will examine issues related to agricultural credit and arrive at workable solutions and policy initiatives.

**Solar cell:**



**C.A Dated On 11-02-2019**

**Context:**

The 36-year-old has developed a novel inkjet processing method for perovskites — a new generation of cheaper solar cells — that makes it possible to produce solar panels under lower temperatures, thus sharply reducing costs.

**Details:**

- Perovskite solar cells have the potential to address the world energy poverty.
- Solar panels coated with the mineral are light, flexible, efficient, inexpensive and come in varying hues and degrees of transparency.
- They can easily be fixed to almost any surface — be it laptop, car, drone, spacecraft or building — to produce electricity, including in the shade or indoors.
- Though the excitement is new, perovskite has been known to science since at least the 1830s, when it was first identified by German mineralogist Gustav Rose while prospecting in the Ural mountains and named after Russian mineralogist Lev Perovski.
- Initially the process was complicated and required ultra high temperatures, so only materials that could withstand extreme heat — like glass — could be coated with perovskite cells.

**Self-sufficient buildings**

- The Swedish construction group Skanska is testing the cutting-edge panels on the facade of one of its buildings in Warsaw.
- It also inked a licencing partnership with Saule for exclusive right to incorporate the technology in its projects in Europe, the U.S. and Canada.