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World Food India:

Why in News/

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal has today said that World Food India 2019 will be the biggest gathering of all global and domestic stakeholders in Food Processing Sector.

About the Event:

- **WFI 2019 will be held from 1-4th November 2019 in New Delhi** and will position India as Food Processing Destination of the World.
- World Food India 2019 shall consist of several top level seminars, investment opportunities, exhibitions, high level CEO roundtables, country sessions, B2B and B2G networking etc.
- For the year 2019, the Ministry is targeting to partner with at least 15 countries and participation from at least 80 countries.
- **The tagline of the event will be "Forging Partnerships for Growth".**

Background:

- The government initiated a biennial event- World Food India to promote food processing sector at global level.
- The first such event was conducted in 2017 and received wide success.
- The event created Brand India in global food map by positioning India as a World Food Factory.
- It was for the first time in India that all major policy makers and top industrialists across the globe in Food Processing Industries were together under one roof.

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MNREGA Report:

Why in News?



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The gap between the number of households that demanded jobs and the number met in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural [Employment](#) Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) widened marginally in the financial year 2018-19.

Details:

- In at least nine States the wage rates paid were below the minimum assured in FY18, according to a report published by the Centre for Policy Research.
- In FY19, only 4.5 crore households (HH) were provided with jobs through the scheme — 70 lakhs less than the demand.

About MNREGA:

- **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005** (or, NREGA [No 42](#), later renamed as the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act", MGNREGA), is an [Indian labour law](#) and [social security](#) measure that aims to guarantee the '[right to work](#)'.
- It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

History:

- The act was first proposed in 1991 by [P.V. Narasimha Rao](#).^[3] It was finally accepted in the parliament and commenced implementation in 625 districts of India. Based on this pilot experience, NREGA was scoped up to cover all the districts of India from 1 April 2008.
- The statute is hailed by the government as "the largest and most ambitious social security and public works programme in the world".
- In its World Development Report 2014, the World Bank termed it a "stellar example of rural development".

Objectives:

- The MGNREGA was initiated with the objective of "enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work".
- Another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets (such as roads, canals, ponds and wells).



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- Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and minimum wages are to be paid. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance. Thus, employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement.

Implementation:

- MGNREGA is to be implemented mainly by [gram panchayats](#) (GPs).
- The involvement of contractors is banned. Labour-intensive tasks like creating infrastructure for water harvesting, drought relief and flood control are preferred. [[citation needed](#)]

The law provides many safeguards to promote its effective management and implementation.

The act explicitly mentions the principles and agencies for implementation, list of allowed works, financing pattern, [monitoring and evaluation](#), and most importantly the detailed measures to ensure transparency and accountability

One nation , One Election:

Why in News?

Left parties have opposed the idea of 'one nation, one election' proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling it undemocratic and against the principle of federalism.

About ONOE:

PM Modi calls for all-party meet on 'one nation, one election'.

Simultaneous elections refer to holding elections to Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, Panchayats and Urban local bodies simultaneously, once in five year.

Problems associated with frequent elections:

- The massive expenditure that is currently incurred for the conduct of separate elections.
- The policy paralysis that results from the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct during election time.



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- Impact on delivery of essential services.
- Burden on crucial manpower that is deployed during election time.
- Frequent elections affect policymaking and governance as the government is trapped in short-term thinking.
- It also destabilises duly-elected governments and imposes a heavy burden on the exchequer.
- It also puts pressure on political parties, especially smaller ones, as elections are becoming increasingly expensive.
- The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) which comes into force with the announcement of poll dates, prevents government from announcing any new schemes, make any new appointments, transfers and postings without the approval of election commission. This brings normal work of the government to a standstill.
- It also increases the cost of management to the election commission.

Merits of Simultaneous elections:

- *Governance and consistency:* The ruling parties will be able to focus on legislation and governance rather than having to be in campaign mode forever.
- *Reduced Expenditure of Money and Administration:* The entire State and District level administrative and security machinery will be busy with the conduct of elections twice in a period of five years as per the current practice. Expenditure can be reduced by conducting simultaneous elections.
- *Continuity in policies and programmes.*
- *Efficiency of Governance:* Simultaneous elections can bring the much-needed operational efficiency in this exercise. Populist measures by governments will reduce.
- Simultaneous elections can also be a means to *curb corruption* and build a more conducive socio-economic ecosystem.
- The *impact of black money on the voters will be reduced* as all elections are held at a time.

Issues in simultaneous elections?

- The biggest challenge is achieving political consensus, which seems to be "chimerical".



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- Regional parties will be more opposed to the idea than national parties because there is always a tendency for voters to vote the same party in power in the state and at the Centre in case the Lok Sabha polls and the state elections are held together.
- Also, according to IDFC, there is a 77% chance that the Indian voter will vote for the same party for both the state and Centre when elections are held simultaneously.

For simultaneous elections to be implemented, Changes to be made in Constitution and Legislations:

Amendments needed in the following articles:-

- Article 83 which deals with the duration of Houses of Parliament need an amendment
- Article 85 (on dissolution of Lok Sabha by the president)
- Article 172 (relating to the duration of state legislatures)
- Article 174 (relating to dissolution of state assemblies)
- Article 356 (on President's Rule).
- The Representation of People Act, 1951 Act would have to be amended to build in provisions for stability of tenure for both parliament and assemblies. This should include the following crucial elements:
 - Restructuring the powers and functions of the ECI to facilitate procedures required for simultaneous elections
 - A definition of simultaneous election can be added to section 2 of the 1951 act.

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Greenhouse Gas Emission:

Why in News?

EU leaders will this week discuss setting a target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, European officials said on Monday, following elections that highlighted climate change fears.

Matters of Discussion:



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- European Union leaders meeting on Thursday and Friday in Brussels will debate the 2050 target of "climate neutrality" that the environmental group WWF says now has the support of 16 of the EU's 28 countries.
- The EU must lead the way, by engaging in an in-depth transformation of its own economy and society to achieve climate neutrality," according to the draft.
- The draft contained a footnote, saying the wording may be adjusted to reflect the results of the summit debate, which an EU source said would focus on the 2050 target.
- The source said that a number of EU countries want more debate on financing the shift from an economy running on fossil fuels, especially those in eastern Europe, to one driven by clean energy.

Sixteen 'on board'

- The World Wildlife Fund said Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Britain are "on board" for the 2050 goal.
- The British government last week presented draft legislation to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.
- Under the 2015 Paris climate change treaty, the EU pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030

Combating desertification: India;s Role:

Context:

Speaking at an event in New Delhi on the occasion of World Day to combat desertification and drought Shri Javadekar announced that India will be hosting the fourteenth session of Conference of Parties (COP - 14) from 29th August – 14th September 2019.

The Union Minister further highlighted that with about 30% of country's total geographical area being affected by land degradation; India has high stakes and stands strongly committed to the Convention.

Measures taken:

- The Union Minister also launched a flagship project on enhancing capacity on forest landscape restoration (FLR) and Bonn Challenge in India, through a pilot phase of 3.5 years implemented in the States of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in partnership with The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),



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through this flagship project aims to develop and adapt best practices and monitoring protocols for the Indian states and build capacity within the five pilot states on FLR and Bonn Challenge.

- This will be eventually scaled up across the country through subsequent phases of the project.

About Bonn Challenge:

- The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- At the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris, India also joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge pledge to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020, and additional 8 million hectares by 2030. India's pledge is one of the largest in Asia.
- United Nations has 3 Rio Conventions namely, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Background:

- Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development issues to the land agenda.
- In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared 17 June the "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought" to promote public awareness and the implementation of the UNCCD in the desertification affected countries.
- India is hosting the Fourteenth session of Conference of Parties (COP - 14) from 29th August - 14th September 2019 at India Expo Mart Limited, Greater Noida. One of the primary functions of the COP is to review reports submitted by the Country Parties detailing how they are carrying out their commitments. India will take-over the COP presidency from China for two years until the next COP is hosted in 2021.