

Mega Food Park Scheme

Why in News

Recently, the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries virtually inaugurated the **Indus Best Mega Food Park at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.**

It is built under the <u>Mega Food Park Scheme</u>. By this food park, about 5000 people will get employment and about 25000 farmers will be benefited.

Key Points

About:

- It was launched in 2008-09 to give a major boost to the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage at each stage of the supply chain with a particular focus on perishables.
 - The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** is implementing the 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.

Aim:

- To provide a **mechanism to link agricultural production to the market** by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers so as to **ensure maximizing value addition**, **minimizing wastage**, **increasing farmers income** and creating **employment opportunities** particularly in the rural sector.
- Approach:
 - The Scheme is based on the "Cluster" approach and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined agri/horticultural zone for setting up of modern food processing units in the industrial plots provided in the park with a wellestablished supply chain.
- Components:
 - A Mega food Park typically consists of supply chain infrastructure including collection centers (cc), primary processing centers (ppc) central processing centers (cpc), cold chain and around 25-30 fully developed plots for entrepreneurs to set up food processing units.
- Financial Assistance:
 - The **central government provides financial assistance upto Rs. 50 Crore** per Mega Food Park (MFP) project.
 - The MFP project is **implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** which is a Body Corporate registered under the <u>Companies Act, 2013.</u>

- SPV is a subsidiary company that is formed to **undertake a specific business purpose or activity.**
- Present Status:
 - Presently, 22 Mega Food Parks are operational. It is in line with the 'Make in India' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' vision of the Government of India.

