

NEWS TODAY

MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR 'PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR THE FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (PLISFPI)

- The PLISFPI was launched as a **Central Sector Scheme** as a part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- > The Ministry also has **launched a portal** for the PLISFPI.

Key highlights

Outlay, duration, and coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs. 10900 crore from 2021-22 to 2026-27. Rolled out on All India basis.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of processing capacity and branding abroad to incentivise emergence of strong Indian brands. Creation of global food manufacturing champions. Remunerative prices of farm produce.
Components covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ready to Cook/ Ready to Eat (RTC/ RTE) foods, Processed Fruits & Vegetables, etc. Organic products of SMEs including Poultry Meat, Egg Products etc.
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented through a Project Management Agency. Applicant for the Scheme shall be: Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) or a Company registered in India; Co-operatives; SME and making an application for coverage under the Scheme.
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of processing capacity to generate processed food output of Rs 33,494 crore. Create employment for nearly 2.5 lakh persons by 2026-27.
Convergence Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage under the PLI Scheme will not affect eligibility under other schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.

BIOMEDICAL WASTE GENERATION AT MAXIMUM AS COVID-19 CASES SURGE IN DELHI

- With the number of COVID-19 infections rising over past several weeks, there has been a massive surge in biomedical waste.
- > Also, unlike last year, it is **not limited to hospitals and quarantine centres** but households are also producing such waste.
- According to **Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules**, biomedical waste is any waste which is generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals or in research activities pertaining thereto or in the production or testing of biologicals.
- Current mechanism to deal Biomedical Waste**
 - > Last year, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has released **guidelines for Biomedical waste management generated from COVID-19**.
 - > These guidelines were to be **followed in addition to Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016**.
- The Rules provide for Color coding of waste categories with treatment options (refer infographic).

Colour coding	Waste category	Treatment options
Yellow	Human and Animal anatomical wastes, Soiled wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incineration or Plasma pyrolysis or deep burial
	Expired medicines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return back to manufacturer or supplier for incineration at >1200°C
	Chemical wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incineration
	Chemical liquid wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It shall be pre-treated before mixing with other wastewater.
	Discarded linens, Mattresses etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-chlorinated chemical disinfection followed by Incineration
	Microbiology waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-treat to sterilize with non-chlorinated chemicals thereafter Incineration
Red	Contaminated Waste (Recyclable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autoclaving/micro-waving /hydroclaving and sterilization and shredding.
White (Translucent)	Waste sharps including metals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autoclaving/Dry Heat Sterilization
Blue	Cardboard boxes with blue coloured marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disinfection/autoclaving/ microwaving/hydroclaving

MANIPUR HIGH COURT (HC) ALLOWS 7 MYANMAR REFUGEES TO APPROACH UNHCR

- HC allowed seven Myanmar nationals, to travel to New Delhi to seek protection from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- > HC held that, though India is **not a party to UN Refugee Conventions**, India is party to **Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948** and the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966**.
- > Also, Article 21 encompasses the **principle of 'non-refoulement'**.
 - Principle of non-refoulement guarantees that **no one should be returned to a country where they would face torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and other irreparable harm**.
- India's stand on refugees**
 - > India has **no clear refugee policy** as decisions are made on a case to case basis.
 - > India has **not signed the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees, or its 1967 Protocol** that stipulates the rights and services host states must provide refugees.
 - > However, **India has offered shelter to Tibetans, Chakmas of Bangladesh, Afghans and ethnic Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka**.
 - > **Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 aims to grant citizenship** to illegal immigrants from selected countries.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives and protecting the rights of refugees, forcibly displaced communities & stateless people. The office of the UNHCR was created in 1950, during the aftermath of the **Second World War**, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes.

A 'ONE HEALTH' APPROACH THAT TARGETS PEOPLE, ANIMALS

- **Interconnectedness** of animals, humans, and the environment, an approach referred to as "One Health" (refer to infographics).
 - This concept recognises that **health of human beings is connected to health of animals and environment** and is relevant for Food safety, controlling zoonosis and antibiotic resistance.
 - It was associated with the **emergence of severe acute respiratory disease (SARS) in early 2003** and subsequently **avian influenza H5N1**.
- **Relevance** : Studies indicate that more than two-thirds of existing and emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, or can be transferred between animals and humans, and vice versa.
 - For example: Recently, **8 lions in Hyderabad zoo test positive for COVID-19**, 1st such case in India.
- **Challenges**
 - Veterinary **manpower shortages**.
 - **Lack of information sharing** between human and animal health institutions.
 - **Inadequate coordination on food safety** at slaughter, distribution, and retail facilities.
- **Steps taken:**
 - India established a **National Standing Committee on Zoonoses** in the 1980s.
 - Recently, funds were sanctioned for setting up a '**Centre for One Health**'.
 - The **National Animal Disease Control Programme** for Foot and Mouth disease and Brucellosis control.



INCOME TAX DEPT SETS THRESHOLD FOR SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC PRESENCE (SEP)

- Income Tax Department notified a threshold for **Significant Economic Presence (SEP)** to come into effect from April 1, 2022.
- The **notified thresholds** are:
 - **Transaction Threshold**: Any non-resident whose revenue exceeds Rs 2 crore for transactions in respect of goods, services or property with any person in India.
 - **User Threshold**: Any entity that systematically and continuously does business with more than 3 lakh users in India.
- In 2016, **India introduced Equalization Levy or 'Google Tax'** applicable to **payments for digital advertisement services received by non-resident companies** without a permanent establishment (PE) here, if these exceeded ₹1 lakh a year.
 - It was later expanded to non-resident e-commerce operators with the levy at the rate of 2%.
 - The idea was to **tax profits of those online and offline businesses** that don't have a physical presence in India but derive significant economic value from the country.
- Later, in addition to Equalization Levy, SEP was introduced **through Finance Act, 2018 to enlarge the scope of income of non-residents** that accrues or arises in India, by establishing a 'business connection' of foreign entities in India.

ALSO IN NEWS

Article 164(4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Article 164(4) of Constitution, an unelected member can assume office as Chief Minister but he or she has to either win a by poll or get elected to the Legislative Council within six months to retain the position.
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was established under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December, 1985. APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of scheduled products such as Fruits, Vegetable, Meat, Poultry Products, Dairy Products, Confectionery, Biscuits, Bakery Products, Honey, Jaggery and Sugar Products, Cocoa products, chocolates, floriculture Products, Pickles, Papads and Chutneys etc. ➢ It also provides financial assistance, information, guidelines towards the development of scheduled products.
E-way bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent e-way bill Data suggests that GST receipts could see a decline in May. E-way bill or Electronic-way bill is a document introduced under the GST regime that needs to be generated before transporting or shipping goods worth more than Rs 50,000 within state or inter-state. It is usually a unique bill number generated for the specific consignment involving the movement of goods.
Computed tomography (CT) scan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) director said not to conduct CT scans for mild COVID-19 cases and warned that increased exposure to radiation escalates the risk of cancer. CT scan combines a series of X-ray images taken from different angles around your body and uses computer processing to create pictures of your organs, bones, and other tissues. ➢ These images provide more detailed information than normal X-ray images.
Zinc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several studies have stated that zinc has a broad-spectrum antiviral activity against a variety of viruses including COVID-19 and plays a key role in the immune system. Zinc is vital for more than 300 enzymes in the body, and also plays a role in protein synthesis, wound healing, DNA synthesis, cell division and is required for proper sense of taste and smell. Food high in Zinc: Eggs, Garlic, Legumes, Spinach, Potatoes, Yoghurt, Dark Chocolate, Meat, Shellfish, Seeds, Nuts.
Ayush-64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The poly-herbal drug Ayush-64 is an Ayurvedic formulation, developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRS), the apex body for research in Ayurveda under the Ministry of Ayush. Originally developed in 1980 for the management of Malaria, this drug has now been repurposed for Covid 19 as its ingredients showed notable antiviral, immune-modulator and antipyretic properties.