World Food Safety Day

Why in News

The **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** virtually attended the **World Food Safety Day (7th June)** celebrations organized by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.**

Key Points

- **About:**

    - The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** jointly facilitate the observance of World Food Safety Day, in collaboration with Member States and other relevant organizations.
    - It was **first celebrated in 2019**, to strengthen the commitment to scale up food safety made by the **Addis Ababa Conference** and the **Geneva Forum in 2019** under the umbrella of **"The Future of Food Safety".**
- **Aim:**

    - To **draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks**, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development**.**
- **2021 Theme:**

    - Safe Food for a Healthy Tomorrow.
- **Importance of Food Safety:**

    - Access to **sufficient amounts of safe food is key to sustaining life** and promoting good health.
        - Foodborne illnesses are **usually infectious or toxic in nature** and often invisible to the plain eye, caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemical substances entering the body through contaminated food or water.
        - An estimated **4,20,000 people around the world die every year after eating contaminated food** and children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the foodborne disease burden, with 1,25, 000 deaths every year.
    - Food safety has a **critical role in assuring that food stays safe at every stage of the food chain** - from production to harvest, processing, storage, distribution, all the way to preparation and consumption.
        - **Food production** is responsible for up to **30% of global greenhouse-gas emissions** contributing to global warming.
        - **Global food waste accounts for 6.7% of global greenhouse gas emissions**, directly leading to climate change.
- **Related Global Initiative:**

    - The **Codex Alimentarius**, or **"Food Code"** is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission**.**

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission is a **joint intergovernmental body** of the Food **and Agriculture Organization** and **World Health Organization.**

    - Currently, it has 189 members and **India is a member.**
- **Indian Initiatives for Food Safety:**

    - **State Food Safety Index :**

        - **FSSAI** has developed the **State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States** on **five parameters** of food safety.
        - The **parameters** include Human Resources and Institutional Arrangements, Compliance, Food Testing- Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training and Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.
    - **Eat Right India Movement:**

        - It is an **initiative of the Government of India and FSSAI** to transform the country's food system in order to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians.
        - Eat Right India is aligned to the **National Health Policy 2017** with its focus on preventive and promotive healthcare and flagship programmes like Ayushman Bharat**,** POSHAN Abhiyaan**,** Anemia Mukt Bharat and Swachh Bharat Mission**.**
    - **Eat Right Awards:**

        - FSSAI has instituted the **'Eat Right Awards'** to recognize the contribution of food companies and individuals to empower citizens to choose safe and healthy food options, which would help improve their health and well-being.
    - Eat Right Mela**:**

        - Organised by FSSAI, it is an outreach activity **for citizens to nudge them towards eating right.** It is organised to make citizens aware of the health and nutrition benefits of different types of food.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- **About:**

    - FSSAI is an **autonomous statutory body** established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).**
    - It has its headquarter in Delhi and its administrative **Ministry is Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.**
- **Functions:**

    - **Framing of regulations** to lay down the standards and guidelines of food safety.
    - **Granting FSSAI food safety license** and certification for food businesses.
    - **Laying down procedure and guidelines** for laboratories in food businesses.
    - To **provide suggestions** to the government in framing the policies.
    - To **collect data regarding contaminants** in foods products, identification of emerging risks and introduction of a rapid alert system.
    - **Creating an information network** across the country about food safety.

Source:PIB