‘World Food India’ Conference

What is the issue?

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- ‘World Food India’ conference is being organised by the ‘Ministry of Food Processing’ in partnership with the ‘Confederation of Indian Industry – CII’.
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- Over 200 companies worldwide, 18 government delegations, many domestic CEOs and state representatives are attending it.
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What did the PM say?

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- PM Modi inaugurated the conference and spoke at length about the opportunities available for the food industry in India.
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- Having the world’s second-largest arable land area and 127 diverse agro-climatic zones, India has a natural advantage in the sector.
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- While Private sector participation has been increasing in many segments of the food value chain more is required in contract farming and raw material sourcing.
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- There is a clear opportunity for global supermarket chains to consider India as a major outsourcing hub.
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- States have been urged to come up with attractive food policies to win investments and develop specialisations in select products.
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What were the ideas for increasing nutritional value?

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- Aerated drink majors were asked to consider blending 5% of fruit juice in their products to increase nutritional value.
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- Food majors were asked to explore the opportunities offered by the railways were over 1 million meals are served daily.
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- Apart from post-harvest management, the immense potential in niche areas such as organic and fortified foods was pointed out.
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- Promoting traditional foods such as coarse grains due to their “nutrition-rich and climate-smart” nature was suggested.
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- The capability of India’s long food tradition to blend taste with nutritional value was elaborated.
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- Along with modern technology, processing and packaging, this can help the world overcome lifestyle diseases.
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What are the Schemes on the avail?

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- Farmers are central to food processing industry and ‘Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana’ has helped streamline this.
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- The scheme envisions an investment of $5 billion for promoting food processing, cold storages and other infrastructure.
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- It is expected to benefit 2 million farmers and generate more than half-a-million jobs over the next 3 years.
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- Under the scheme 9 ‘Mega Food Processing Parks’ are already operational and and more than thirty others are coming up.
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How does different sectors look?

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- Dairy sector is vital area the rural economy, increasing and diversifying the product profile in the sector is being worked on.
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- India currently ranks sixth in production and export of honey is heading towards a sweet revolution.
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- Indian fisheries products are exported to about 95 countries and a a big leap through the envisioned ‘blue revolution’ is awaited.
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- Current focus is on development of untapped areas, such as ornamental fisheries (pearls) and trout farming.
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- Functional infrastructure for organic food production also exists in the vast stretches of the northeast states – a path to sustainability.
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Source: The Hindu

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