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News: Codex Alimentarius Commission

- Recently, India participated in the 86th session of the Executive Committee of Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

- Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an **intergovernmental body established jointly by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1963** within the framework of the Joint Food Standards Programme.
- The **Secretariat of the CAC is hosted at FAO headquarters in Rome.**
- It was **established to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.**
- It meets in **regular session once a year alternating between Geneva and Rome.**
- Currently, it has **189 Codex Members made up of 188 Member Countries (including India) and 1 Member Organization (The European Union).**
- **Spices Board India is the Secretariat** for organising the sessions of the committee in India.

Food Standards

- The **Codex Alimentarius** is a collection of international food standards that have been adopted by the CAC.
- Codex Standards cover all **the main foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw**.
- In addition, materials used in the further processing of food products are included to the extent necessary for achieving the principal objectives of the code.
- Codex provisions concern the hygienic and nutritional quality of food, including microbiological norms, food additives, pesticide and veterinary drug residues, contaminants, labelling and presentation, and methods of sampling and risk analysis.