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Table of Content

URBAN WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT (UWM)

Context

- Recent incidents of sewage mixing with drinking water in Indian cities highlight **serious gaps in Urban Wastewater Management (UWM)**, posing risks of large-scale public health crises.

About

- **Generation vs. Treatment Gap:** India generates approximately 72,368 MLD (Million Litres per Day) of urban wastewater, but the treatment capacity is only about 28-44%**.**
- **Health Implications:** Untreated sewage is the primary driver of waterborne diseases (diarrhea, cholera, typhoid), contributing to nearly 80% of diseases and a significant portion of child mortality in India.
- **Infrastructure Deficit:** Nearly 55% of urban households are not connected to a sewer network, relying on septic tanks which often leak or are improperly managed (septage management).

Challenges in Urban Wastewater Management

- **Institutional Challenges:**
  - Fragmented governance with multiple departments working in silos.
  - Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) lack technical, financial, and human capacity.
- **Infrastructure Challenges:**
  - **Inadequate physical separation** between sewerage and drinking water networks increases cross-contamination risks.
  - **Ageing and corroded water supply pipelines** allow seepage of sewage into drinking water lines.
- **Economic Challenges:**
  - High Non-Revenue Water (NRW) losses.
  - Unrealistic user tariffs and poor collection efficiency.
  - Low cost recovery discourages private investment.
- **Technological Challenges:**
  - Limited adoption of cost-effective and energy-efficient technologies.
  - Poor mapping and monitoring of sewer connectivity.

Impacts

- **Health Impacts:** Contaminated drinking water leads to **waterborne diseases** such as **diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, dysentery, and hepatitis A and E.**

- **Children under five years** of age face a higher risk of mortality and long-term malnutrition.
- **Economic Impacts:** Increased household and public healthcare expenditure reduces economic productivity.
  - Loss of working days affects livelihoods, especially among informal workers.
- **Environmental Impacts:** Untreated sewage entering water bodies degrades urban ecosystems.
  - Contamination undermines efforts towards sustainable water reuse and recycling.
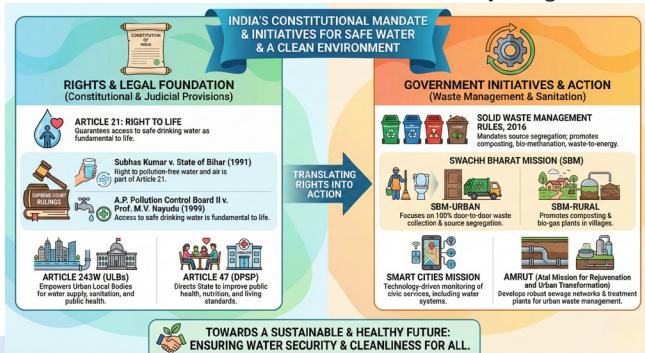
Way Ahead

- **Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS):** Implementing small-scale, localized treatment units (e.g., in housing societies or parks) to reduce the burden on main sewer lines.
- **Dual Plumbing Systems:** Mandatory for new urban developments to separate potable water from recycled water (used for flushing/gardening).
- **Real-Time Monitoring:** Using IoT sensors and AI (as highlighted in the 2025-26 CPCB guidelines) to detect leaks and contamination in the water-sewage network immediately.
- **Polluter Pays Principle:** Strengthening the financial health of ULBs through "sewerage charges" and creating a market for treated wastewater (e.g., selling it for industrial cooling or construction).

Source: IT

STATES CHALLENGES IN EXPORTS AT THE BOARD OF TRADE MEETING

Context

- **Many challenges were flagged by exporters** in a meeting of the **Board of Trade (BoT)** chaired by the Union Commerce and Industry Minister.

About

- The BoT meeting happened in the **backdrop of slowing exports** due to the steep **US tariffs of 50%** as both countries failed to conclude a trade deal.

  - **In the Board of Trade meeting,** representatives from states and the industry, as well as key Central ministries, provide the Commerce Ministry with specific inputs to boost exports and trade.

- **Concerns Raised by Exporters:**

  - Costlier raw materials, shortage of testing facilities to ensure products meet global quality standards, and lack of adequate shipping containers are all leading to loss of competitiveness of goods exports.

  - The steep US tariffs have dampened exports, and have triggered cancellations in orders and delayed payment.

  - There are also worries that these could result in orders moving to its competitors such as Bangladesh, Vietnam and China.

Board of Trade

- **Board of Trade (BOT)** has been constituted by merging Council for Trade Development and Promotion with Board of Trade in **2019.**

- It **provides a platform** to state governments and UTs for articulating state-oriented perspectives on Trade Policy.

- **Functions:** It advises the Government on policy measures connected with the Foreign Trade Policy in order to achieve the objectives of boosting India's trade.

  - It is an important mechanism for deliberations on trade related issues with industry bodies, associations, export promotion councils, and state and UT governments.

- **It is chaired** by the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry.

Exports by India

- Exports account for nearly **21% of GDP** and robust foreign exchange inflows for India.

- **Over 45 million** people being directly and indirectly employed under the export oriented industries, the MSMEs contribute nearly 45% of total exports.

- **Key export drivers during April-September 2025** include Electronic Goods (41.94%), Engineering Goods (5.35%), Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (6.46%), Marine products (17.40%) and Rice (10.02%).

- **Major export destinations** include the USA (13.34%), United Arab Emirates (9.34%), China (21.85%), Spain (40.30%), and Hong Kong (23.53%).

- Such sustained export growth has been instrumental in supporting India's current account balance and macroeconomic stability.

Government Initiatives to Curb these Challenges

- **Export Promotion Mission:** In the Union Budget for 2025-26, the Finance Minister announced an Export Promotion Mission.

  - It would facilitate easy access to export credit, cross-border factoring support, and support to MSMEs to tackle non-tariff measures in overseas markets.

  - EPM will span **six years** covering FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31.

  - **Under EPM**, **priority support** will be extended to sectors impacted by recent global tariff escalations, such as textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products.

- **Export Support Package:** The government announced a Rs 7,295-crore export support package, comprising a Rs 5,181-crore interest subvention scheme along with a Rs 2,114-crore collateral support, to improve exporters' access to credit.

- **Free Trade Agreements (FTA) Negotiations: India is aggressively pushing for newer markets** and has signed as many as three free trade agreements, with Oman, New Zealand and the UK, in 2025.

Tweaking export model

The government is working out ways to deflect the blow to exporters from the U.S. tariffs

- The plan includes **short-, medium-, and long-term measures** to address pain points and boost competitiveness

- It is based on a few "guiding principles": providing immediate relief with regard to liquidity, compliances, and order levels, **building resilience in supply chains, leveraging existing trade agreements,** and providing non-financial assistance

- **Digital Transformation:** The Department of Commerce has advanced its Digital Transformation agenda to strengthen trade facilitation and intelligence through data-driven solutions.
  - Initiatives such as Trade eConnect and Trade Intelligence & Analytics (TIA) portal lay a strong foundation for evidence-based decision-making.

Conclusion

- The Indian government's comprehensive strategy aims to reinforce the resilience of its exporters amid challenging global trade dynamics.
- Sustained efforts will be essential to protect traditional export sectors and ensure long-term competitiveness against both US tariffs and Chinese market strategies.

Source: IE

LAND ACQUISITION POLICY OF INDIA

In News

- Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan said that Land acquisition continues to be a major obstacle to infrastructure development in India.

Historical Background

- The British standardised land revenue collection by introducing different settlement systems to strengthen their control in India.
- The three main land tenure systems were in place:
  - **Zamindari System**: Under it, land was owned by landlords (zamindars) who paid land revenue to the state, while cultivation was done by tenants under their control.
    - There were two forms of this system: **the permanent settlement**, where land revenue was fixed permanently and practiced in regions like Bengal, Orissa, Banaras, and parts of Madras; and a **revised settlement system**, where revenue was periodically reassessed, prevalent in areas such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and the Central Provinces.
  - **Ryotwari system**: Under it , cultivators (ryots) owned and tilled their land and paid land revenue directly to the state.
    - Revenue was assessed individually for each holding and settlements were temporary.
    - It was Introduced in 1792 by Captain Read and Thomas Munro in Bara Mahal and was later extended to regions such as Bombay, Assam, and Bihar.
  - **In the mahalwari system**, land was collectively owned by the village community but individually cultivated.
    - The community was responsible for collecting and paying land revenue to the state. This system, based on divisions called mahals, was mainly practiced in Punjab, Agra, and Awadh.

Current status of Land acquisition policy of India

- The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013 replaced the colonial-era Land Acquisition Act of 1894 to provide a more transparent and humane framework for land acquisition.
- It is effective from January 1, 2014, and amended in 2015.
- It establishes a modern framework for land acquisition, guaranteeing fair compensation and rehabilitation for families affected by such acquisitions.

Key Features

- It focuses on fair compensation, consent, and transparency in land acquisition.
- It ensures Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R), including housing, livelihood support, employment or annuity, and infrastructure in resettlement areas.
- Landowners receive compensation of **twice the market value** in urban areas and **four times in rural areas**.
  - **Consent is mandatory—70% for PPP projects** and **80% for private projects.**
- Acquisition of irrigated multi-cropped land is restricted, and if acquired, equivalent wasteland must be developed.
- A **Social Impact Assessment (SIA)** is compulsory to assess social, economic, and environmental impacts.
- **"Public purpose"** is clearly defined to prevent misuse, and unused land must be returned or put in a land bank within five years.
  - While defence, railways, and atomic energy projects are exempt from certain procedures, compensation and R&R still apply.

- The Act emphasizes transparency, public hearings, and provides additional safeguards for SCs and STs.
- Disputes can be taken to the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement (LARR) Authority.

Challenges and Concerns

- The Act faces several challenges in its implementation that make full implementation of the Act difficult.
- Some of the challenges are:
  - Procedural requirements often delay land acquisition for development projects
    - Multiple clearances (forest, wildlife, environment) add to delays.
    - Around 35% of infrastructure project issues stem from land acquisition hurdles.
  - Compensation costs can put a strain on both public and private project budgets
  - Balancing development needs with social justice remains a contentious issue
    - There are concerns over displacement, inadequate rehabilitation, and loss of livelihood.
  - Delays increase project costs, affecting national infrastructure targets.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- India's 2013 Land Acquisition Act promotes fairness and transparency, but implementation delays and disputes hinder infrastructure development.
- Therefore Improving digital land records, speeding up clearances, and ensuring proper rehabilitation are essential.
- While the government does not plan to change the law, more efficient execution is urgently needed.

Source :TH

GOVERNMENT PUSHES AI FOR TEACHERS, EASING OPEN SCHOOLING FRAMEWORK

Context

- Recently, India has unveiled **plans to empower teachers with AI tools** and liberalize the **country's open schooling framework** to align India's education system with the goals of **Viksit Bharat by 2047.**

- The policy, aligning with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, underscores India's commitment to **'AI-enabled learning for all'.**

Role of AI in Education

- **AI For Teachers:** AI-based platforms aim to be introduced **to assist teachers** in lesson planning, personalized assessments, and student engagement.
  - **NCERT and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** will collaborate to develop **adaptive digital teaching aids** capable of tailoring instructional materials based on student learning patterns.
  - It includes **AI training modules** for educators, developed in collaboration with the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** and **Intel India** under the AI for All **program.**
  - The goal is to empower teachers with AI-driven insights, helping them track learning outcomes and bridge knowledge gaps faster.
- **AI For Open Schooling:** The government seeks **to streamline administrative procedures** such as enrollment, performance tracking, and certification by integrating AI into the **Open Schooling Framework**.
  - It aims to enable NIOS learners **to access real-time academic support** and **individualized progress dashboards**.
  - A pilot project i.e. '**Open AI Schools'** is announced to rollout allowing **flexible, AI-supported curricula for distance learners.**
  - **Strengthening the NIOS Ecosystem:**
    - **Open Basic Education (OBE)** for learners above 14 years of age (equivalent to Classes 3, 5, and 8)
    - **Secondary and Senior Secondary courses**
    - **Vocational and Life-Enrichment programmes**

Applications of AI in Education

- **Bridging Digital and Linguistic Divides:** The new AI platforms will be multilingual, supporting all 22 scheduled languages recognizing India's linguistic diversity.
  - The initiative dovetails with the Bhashini Project**,** aimed at building **AI-based language translation frameworks** to ensure inclusivity in digital education.

- **AI in Indian Classrooms:** The transformative use of AI in Indian classrooms, where technology bridges rural-urban education gaps.

- **Personalized Learning at Scale:** One of AI's most powerful contributions is its ability to tailor learning experiences to individual student needs. AI-driven platforms can:
  - Adapt content based on a learner's pace, strengths, and weaknesses.
  - Provide real-time feedback, helping students correct mistakes instantly.
  - Enable inclusive education by supporting learners with disabilities through tools like **speech-to-text, text-to-speech, and language translation.**

- **Empowering Educators:** Initiatives like the **'AI for All' program** and the **AI Samarth platform** aim to build digital capacity among educators. AI can assist teachers by:
  - Automating administrative tasks, freeing up time for instruction.
  - Identifying learning gaps through data analytics.
  - Enhancing engagement with interactive, multimedia-rich content.
  - Support systems to ensure ethical and effective use of AI in classrooms

- **Predictive Analytics**: AI models forecast student dropout risks and suggest remedial actions.

- **Language and Accessibility Tools**: Natural Language Processing (NLP) applications support translation and assist differently-abled learners.

Challenges and Ethical Concerns

- **Digital Divide:** Unequal access to AI tools between rural and urban schools.

- **Data Privacy:** Ensuring the protection of student data.

- **Teacher Preparedness:** Teachers need training to use AI responsibly.

- **Bias and Transparency:** AI algorithms may reinforce socio-economic biases if not designed carefully.

Other Related Efforts & Initiatives

- **National AI Portal:** A platform to promote AI awareness and collaboration in education.

- **AI for All Program:** Introduced AI curriculum in CBSE schools to promote digital literacy.

- **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR):** Uses AI for data-driven decision-making and personalized student learning.

- **SWAYAM and DIKSHA platforms:** Employ AI-based analytics to enhance online education experiences.

- **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025:** It was introduced during the **Winter Session of Parliament in 2025**, and has been referred to a **joint parliamentary committee** for review after initial opposition. It seeks to:
  - Modernise teaching standards and aligning education outcomes with national development goals.
  - Create pathways for **non-traditional institutions** like ITIs and skill centers to offer open schooling programs.
  - Expand access to flexible, inclusive **education for out-of-school youth**, working professionals, and marginalized communities.
  - **Standardize technical education** to ensure employability and promote entrepreneurship.
    - The government expects to bring it for passage by the **end of the 2026 Budget Session**.

Looking Ahead

- **AI-in-education drive** is part of a broader vision to make India a **global hub for AI literacy and educational innovation** by 2030.
  - It aligns with the Digital India Mission and supports the Skill India **and** Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan initiatives.

- The **phased rollout** is expected to begin in the 2026–27 academic session, starting with pilot programs in 200 Kendriya Vidyalayas and select NIOS study centers.

- The government aims to **create a more inclusive, lifelong learning framework**, aligned with India's vision for **Viksit Bharat (Developed India)** by expanding its scope and relaxing institutional requirements.

Source: TH

═══ NEWS IN SHORT ═══

195TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SAVITRIBAI PHULE

Context

- PM Modi paid homage to social reformer Savitribai Phule on her birth anniversary, remembering her contributions to society in the field of education.

About Savitribai Phule

- Savitribai Phule, **a poet and social reformer**, is widely recognised as the **first female teacher of modern India.**
- Born in 1831, she was married to social activist Jyotirao Phule at the age of 10.

Key Contributions

- **Pioneer of Women's Education:** In 1848, alongside her husband Jyotirao Phule, she established India's first school for girls at Bhide Wada in Pune.
  - She founded the **Mahila Seva Mandal in 1852** to raise awareness about women's rights and social status.
- **Social Reformer:** She fought tirelessly against **caste-based discrimination** and untouchability.
- **Advocate for Vulnerable Groups:** She established **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha**, a shelter for pregnant rape victims and widows to prevent infanticide and provide them a safe place to deliver.
- **Literary Work:**
  - Kavya Phule in 1854
  - Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892.

Source: AIR

RANI VELU NACHIYAR

Context

- PM Modi paid tribute to **Rani Velu Nachiyar** on her **birth anniversary.**

About

- **Rani Velu Nachiyar (1730–1796)** was one of the **earliest Indian queens** to wage an armed struggle against British colonial rule.
- She was daughter of **King Sellamuthu Sethupathy,** ruler of the Ramanathapuram (Ramnad) kingdom
- After her husband was killed in 1772 by the British East India Company with the help of the Arcot Nawab, she fled and began organizing resistance.
- She organized **one of India's first organized armed rebellions** against the British.
  - She successfully recaptured Sivagangai in 1780 and became the first Indian queen to defeat the British in battle.
- She ruled Sivagangai for about 10 years, later she handed over administration to her daughter Vellachi Nachiyar.

- **Significance:**
  - One of the first women freedom fighters of India.
  - Early example of women's participation in armed resistance.
  - Symbol of anti-colonial resistance in South India.
  - Demonstrates that organized resistance to British rule began much before 1857.

Source: AIR

MAGH MELA 2026

Context

- **'Magh Mela 2026'** festival has begun in Prayagraj.

About

- Magh Mela is held **annually** at the sacred region of **Prayagraj** on the banks of **Sangam** during the month of **Magh.**
- It is held from **Paush Purnima to Mahashivratri.**
- Prayagraj is the site of the confluence of the **Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati.**
  - The confluence of these three sacred rivers enhances the **importance of bathing and donating.**
- **Kalpavas:** Many devotees undertake Kalpavas, a vow to live simply on the riverbanks for the entire month — rising early, bathing at Brahma Muhurat, meditating, chanting, and performing charity.

Source: IE

REPEALING AND AMENDING ACT, 2025

In News

- The Repealing and Amending Act, 2025, was passed in the recently concluded winter session of the Parliament.

> **Did You Know?**
> - **Repeal** means an abrogation or removal of any law by a competent authority.
> - **Amendment** is an action or result of amending an existing statute by alteration or by adding, deleting or substituting something.

The Repealing and Amending Act, 2025
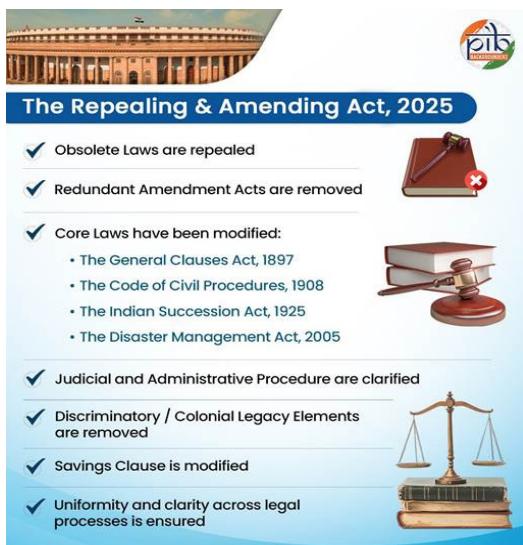
- It streamlines India's legal framework by removing 71 obsolete or redundant laws (from 1886–2023) and making targeted amendments to modernize and correct inconsistencies in key statutes.

- The Act uses a **two-pronged approach**: It **eliminates** outdated enactments, amendment Acts already incorporated into principal laws, and other laws no longer needed.
    - It updates foundational laws like the General Clauses Act (1897), Code of Civil Procedure (1908), Indian Succession Act (1925), and Disaster Management Act (2005) to correct drafting errors and modernize language.

- A savings clause ensures continuity, preserving existing rights, legal processes, and practices despite the repeals.

Source : Air

STAPHYLOCOCCUS

In News

- Researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru University collected air samples from parts of Delhi and found high levels of **antibiotic-resistant staphylococci** in both the indoor and outdoor environment.

About Staphylococcus

- Staphylococcus is a genus of **Gram-positive bacteria.**

- Staphylococci are spherical bacteria, commonly called "staph." They exist in clusters and are found on skin and mucous membranes.

- Eight staphylococcal species were identified, with Staphylococcus epidermidis and Staphylococcus arlettae being the most prevalent human- and animal-associated species.

Source: IE

GLP-1 WEIGHT-LOSS DRUGS

In News

- In 2025, GLP-1 weight-loss drugs, including Eli Lilly's Mounjaro (tirzepatide) and Novo Nordisk's Wegovy (semaglutide), entered the Indian market, quickly becoming high-value pharmaceutical products despite limited patient uptake.

GLP-1

- It is a hormone released from the enteroendocrine cells of the small bowel in response to the arrival of a nutrient bolus.

- It is secreted continuously at low basal levels and rises within minutes of food ingestion.

Impacts of GLP-1 medications

- GLP-1 medications have revolutionized weight loss and can reduce body weight in obese patients.

- GLP-1 drugs carry known risks including gastrointestinal issues, pancreatitis, and rare thyroid cancers , as well as possible lean body mass loss and premature facial aging.

Source : IE

NINE YEARS OF PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA

Context

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, a flagship scheme for pregnant women and lactating mothers, has completed nine years.

About the scheme

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a **Centrally Sponsored flagship scheme** to provide **maternity benefits** to women belonging to **socially and economically disadvantaged sections** of society.
    - It was launched on the **1st January 2017.**

- **Objectives:** To provide cash incentive for **partial compensation for the wage loss** so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first child;

  - To **improve health** seeking behavior amongst the Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).

  - To promote **positive behavioral change** towards the **girl child** by providing **additional cash incentive** for the second child, if that is a girl child.

- **Benefits:** The benefit is available to a woman for the **first two living children** provided the second child is a girl.

  - A **cash benefit of five thousand rupees** for the **first child** and

  - **six thousand rupees** for the second girl child.

- **Cash incentives in two instalments** as per the schedule provided in table below:

Instalment	Conditions	Amount
First Instalment	On registration of pregnancy and at least one Ante-natal check-up within 6 months from LMP date at the Anganwadi Centre (AWC)/ approved Health facilities may be identified by the respective administering State /UT	₹ 3,000/-
Second Instalment	1. Child Birth is registered 2. Child has received first cycle of BCG, OPV,DPT and Hepatitis-B or its equivalent/substitute	₹ 2,000/-

- Benefits can be availed **only on the basis of the Aadhaar Number of Beneficiary** so as to avoid any duplication or malpractices.

- In case of **miscarriage/still birth,** the beneficiary would be treated as a fresh beneficiary in the event of any future pregnancy.

Source: AIR

ELECTRONICS COMPONENT MANUFACTURING SCHEME (ECMS)

Context

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) approved 22 new projects under the ₹22,919 crore Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme

- **Objective:** To develop a robust component manufacturing ecosystem by attracting investments (global / domestic) across the value chain by integrating its domestic electronic industry with the Global Value Chains (GVCs).

- **The Target Segment Category under Scheme includes;**

  - Sub-assemblies
  - Bare components
  - Selected bare components
  - Supply chain ecosystem and Capital equipment
  - Sub-assembly - Telecom.

- **Types of Incentive:** Turnover linked incentive, capex incentive and hybrid incentive.

- **Tenure of the Scheme:**

  - Turnover Linked Incentive: Six years with one year of gestation period.
  - Capex Incentive: Five years.

Global Scenario of Electronics sector

- The global electronics market is estimated at around **US\$ 4.3 trillion.**

- The electronics GVC is intricate, with a select group of nations like **China, Taiwan, the USA, South Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Mexico, and Malaysia.**

  - **China** is the world's largest electronics producer, accounting for nearly **60%** of worldwide electronics production.

- **Indian Scenario:** India's electronics sector reached in 2024-25, with production touching ₹**11.3 lakh crore**, a **six-fold increase** from ₹1.9 lakh crore in 2014-15.

Source: TH

KEY INTERVENTIONS LAUNCHED TO STRENGTHEN MSME EXPORTS UNDER EXPORT PROMOTION MISSION

Context

- The government has launched **two key interventions** under the NIRYAT PROTSAHAN sub-scheme as part of the initial roll-out of the **Export Promotion Mission** to strengthen MSME exports and improve access to trade finance.

Interest Subvention for Export Credit

- It is related to interest subvention for **pre and post shipment export credit**, aimed at reducing the cost of export credit and easing working-capital constraints faced by MSME exporters.

- **Key Provisions:**
  - Base interest subvention of **2.75%**, with **scope for additional incentives for exports** to notified under-represented or emerging markets, subject to operational readiness.
  - Applicable only to exports under a notified positive list at the **HS six-digit level.**

Collateral Guarantee Support for Export Credit

- It relates to **collateral support for export credit,** aimed at addressing collateral constraints faced by MSME exporters and improving access to bank finance.
- Under this **a collateral guarantee support for export credit** is being introduced in partnership with the **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)**. It **guarantee coverage of**
  - **Up to 85 percent** will be provided for **Micro and Small exporters** and
  - **Up to 65 percent** for **Medium exporters**, with a maximum outstanding guaranteed exposure of ₹**10 crore** per exporter in a financial year.

Source: AIR

GALAXY FROGS

Context

- According to the study, a group of seven **galaxy frogs** vanished from Western Ghats due to disturbances and behavioural changes due to **photo tourism.**

About

- **Galaxy frogs (Melanobatrachus indicus)** are **one of the rarest amphibians** in the world that live exclusively under **rotten logs in Kerala's Western Ghats.**
- Galaxy frogs were first discovered in **1878,** not much is known about them since they are difficult to find.
- Galaxy frogs require **precise ecological conditions**, such as temperature and humidity, to survive.
- It is endemic to wet evergreen forests of **southern Western Ghats in Kerala and Tamil Nadu states of India.**
- Measuring between 2 cm and 3.5 cm, these frogs do not produce sounds.
  - Scientists believe they use their spots to communicate.

- They were designated as the **flagship species of Kerala's Mathikettan Shola National Park in 2021.**
- The species is currently listed as **vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.

Source: IE

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