

7 projects approved under Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

Projects will enable large-scale production of components used across smartphones, automobiles, medical devices, telecommunications, and industrial systems.

➤ **ECMS** was notified in April 2025 with a total outlay of ₹22,919 crore.

About ECMS

- **Objective:** Build a strong and self-sustaining ecosystem for electronics component manufacturing in the country.
 - ⊕ Its focus is on attracting both domestic and global investment across the value chain, promoting higher **domestic value addition**, and positioning India as a key player in global electronics trade.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY)
- **Targeted Segments:** It include sub-assemblies (Display and camera module), Bare components like Non-Surface Mount Devices, etc.
- **Tenure:**
 - ⊕ **Turnover Linked Incentive:** 6 years with 1 year of gestation period
 - ⊕ **Capex Incentive:** 5 years

India's Electronics Sector

- It contributes around 3.4% of the country's GDP.
- **Electronics production** has grown from ₹1.9 lakh crore in 2014–15 to ₹11.3 lakh crore in 2024–25, marking a six-fold increase.
 - ⊕ Exports rose from ₹38,000 crore to ₹3.27 lakh crore in the same period, reflecting an eight-fold jump.
- Electronics have emerged as **India's third largest and fastest growing export category** in 2024–25 (rising from the seventh position in 2021–22).
- India is now the **world's second largest mobile phone manufacturer**.

Other Key Measures taken to Promote the Electronics Sector in India

-  Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)
-  Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)
-  Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters Scheme (EMC 2.0)
-  Electronics Development Fund and National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019)

Government Releases Draft Guidelines for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)

Guidelines provide for preparation of mining and mine closure plans for UCG blocks, procedures for pilot feasibility study, groundwater monitoring, post-mining rehabilitation etc.

- To ensure **scientific mine closure**, companies will be required to maintain an **escrow account with the Coal Controller Organization (CCO)**.
 - ⊕ **CCO (Ministry of Coal)** collects and maintains coal production data of all private and public sector coal mines in the country.
 - ⊕ CCO also acts as the **appellate authority** in case of **disputes between consumers and owners** arising out of declaration of grade and size of coal.

What is Coal Gasification?

- A **thermochemical process** that converts coal into **syngas** – a mixture of **carbon monoxide (CO)**, **hydrogen (H₂)**, **carbon dioxide (CO₂)**, **methane (CH₄)** and other gases.
 - ⊕ It involves the **partial oxidation at high temperature and pressure** often integrated with carbon capture and storage technology to reduce CO₂ emissions.
- It enables **cleaner utilisation of coal**, producing syngas for **power generation, methanol, ammonia, urea, and liquid fuels**.

Challenges for Coal Gasification Technology

- **High Project Costs:** Requires **heavy upfront investment** in gasifiers, CO₂ capture, and processing units.
- **Technology Adoption:** Global technologies **suit low-ash coal**, making adaptation to India's high-ash coal technically complex and expensive.
- **Uncertain Coal Supply:** Inconsistent coal quality and **absence of assured long-term supply agreements** affect operational stability.
- **Input Costs:** Combined expense of coal, oxygen, and water makes domestic gasification **costlier than using imported LNG or natural gas**.

WAY FORWARD

-  **Advancing to commercial scale**
To ensure long-term viability
-  **Sustainability**
Integration of Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) for reducing emissions and improving environmental performance
-  **Policy push**
Viability Gap Funding, assured coal supply, and dedicated auction mechanisms should be promoted
-  **Technology fit**
Circulating Fluidized Bed Gasification (CFBG) technology can be leveraged for India's high-ash coal characteristics

Turning Urban Challenges into Engines of Growth

Recent U.S. hike in H-1B visa fees offers India an opportunity to attract global talent and develop livable and globally competitive cities.

India's Urban Potential & Its current status

- **Economic Engines:** Only 15 Indian cities contribute nearly 30% of India's GDP.
 - ⊕ Strengthening them could add about 1.5% to national growth annually.
- **Future Growth Drivers:** India already has the world's second-largest urban system and by 2036, urban areas will be home to 40% of the population

Major Urban Challenges

- **Pollution and Mobility:** India has 6 out of the 10 most polluted cities globally with issues like Vehicular emissions, construction dust.
- **Solid Waste Management:** Only 26% of collected solid waste is scientifically treated and mixed waste remains largely uncollected.
- **Water Scarcity:** 40–50% of piped water is lost due to leakages and inefficiencies.
- **Urban Density and Housing:** Affordable housing shortage could triple to 31 million units by 2030, issue of low Floor Space Index (Increases urban sprawl).
 - ⊕ **Floor Space Index (FSI), also known as Floor Area Ratio (FAR),** is the ratio of a building's total built-up area to its plot area
- **Other Issues:** Congestion and Mobility, weak local governance and outdated regulations (Niti Aayog).

Proposed Way Forward

- **Pollution and Mobility:** Electrify public transport and incentivize high-performing cities through the Urban Challenge Fund.
- **Water Scarcity:** Expand recycling and rainwater harvesting, adopt rational water pricing like "pay as you use".
- **Urban Density and Housing:** Allow higher Floor Space Index; adopt sustainable models like Singapore (green urban model).
 - ⊕ Following models from Sao Paulo and Tokyo, developers could gain height allowances in exchange for contributions to social housing or transit infrastructure.
- **Governance and Capacity:** Devolve powers and finances to city governments, Improve revenues via property tax reforms, digitized land records, and Land Value Capture (as in Hong Kong).

Also In News



Panda Diplomacy

China's golden monkeys were sent to France and Belgium, fostering scientific and conservation collaborations similar to Panda Diplomacy.

- **Golden Snub Nosed Monkeys** (also known as the Sichuan golden-snub monkey) is an Afro-Eurasian primate native to the central and southwestern regions of China.

About Panda Diplomacy

- It refers to the practice of the Chinese government gifting or loaning giant pandas to other countries as a symbol of friendship, goodwill, or to strengthen diplomatic relations.
- **Other Similar Diplomacies:** Orangutan diplomacy of Malaysia, Koala diplomacy of Australia, Elephant Diplomacy of Thailand.



Stablecoin

Japan has launched the world's first yen-pegged stablecoin.

About Stablecoin

- It is a **blockchain-based digital currency** pegged to a fiat currency (like yen or dollar) to maintain a stable value.
- **Purpose:** It enables faster, low-cost, and secure digital transactions, bridging traditional finance and cryptocurrency.
- **Other key Stablecoins:** Tether (USDT) and USD Coin (USDC) etc.



National Seeds Corporation

Union Agriculture Minister inaugurates National Seeds Corporation's state-of-the-art seed processing plant.

About National Seeds Corporation

- **Objective:** To promote and develop seed industry in the country through supply of quality seeds and other agro input/services as well as to enhance agricultural productivity.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Establishment:** 1963.
- **Category:** Schedule 'B', Miniratna Category-I corporation, wholly owned by Government of India



Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)

SC Allows Centre to reconsider AGR Issue.

About AGR

- AGR is defined as the **profits of telecommunications operators** from telecommunications and non-telecom services, consisting of interest earnings, funds and dividend increases.
- **Issue with AGR definition:** The companies have been of the view that AGR should comprise the revenues generated from telecom services only and non-telecom revenues should be kept out of it.



UAE Consensus

A recent UN report highlights the UAE Consensus as a key milestone advancing global clean energy transition.

UAE Consensus

- **Adopted at COP28 (2023):** The UAE Consensus marked the **first-ever Global Stocktake** under the Paris Agreement.
- **Energy Transition:** Urges nations to transition away from fossil fuels in a just, fair, and balanced way.
- **Renewables & Efficiency:** Sets clear goals to **triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency by 2030**.
- **Climate Finance:** Calls for greater adaptation support and financial reforms to help vulnerable nations.
- **Global Goal:** **Reinforces** the collective aim to **keep 1.5°C** within reach and achieve **net zero emissions by 2050**.



Keibul Lamjao National Park

Study links land use to water pollution in Manipur's Loktak Lake which shares part with Keibul Lamjao National Park.

- Loktak lake is **largest freshwater lake in Northeast India** and is famous for its **phumdis (floating islands of vegetation)**.
 - It has been a **Ramsar site since 1990** and listed under the **Montreux Record since 1993** due to ecological problems.
- ### About Keibul Lamjao National Park
- **Location:** Southern part of Bishnupur district and eastern part of Thoubal district of Manipur.
 - Declared wildlife sanctuary in 1954 & National park in 1977. It is the **only floating park** in the world.
 - The largest area of the Phumdi in the Loktak lake is in the Keibul Lamjao National Park.
 - **Fauna:** Brow-antlered deer(Sangai), Hog Deer, Otter.



Digital Arrest

The Supreme Court orally mooted tasking the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with the task of probing the menace of digital arrests.

About Digital Arrest

- Digital arrest is a scam designed to **extort money from victims** using fear, deceit, and intimidation.
- **Fraudsters impersonate law enforcement officials**, using threats of arrest, frozen bank accounts, and passport cancellations to coerce victims into paying a "fine" or "security deposit" to avoid legal action.



Burevestnik missile

Russia has successfully tested its nuclear-powered and nuclear-capable Burevestnik missile.

About Burevestnik missile (also called SSC-X-9 Skyfall)

- It is one of six **strategic weapons** of Russia's new-generation **nuclear arsenal**.
- **Type:** Long-range, low-flying **nuclear-powered cruise missile**.
 - ⊗ Cruise missile is powered by jet engines for continuous flight throughout their journey.



Gyan Bharatam Mission

Government signs MoUs with 17 institutions to expand work under 'Gyan Bharatam' Mission.

About Gyan Bharatam Mission (2025)

- **Vision:** To preserve, digitize, and disseminate India's vast **manuscript heritage** and revive its **civilizational knowledge traditions** for future generations.
 - ⊗ A manuscript is a **handwritten composition on paper, bark, palm leaf, etc., dating back at least 75 years** that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value.
- **Key Objectives:**
 - ⊗ **Digitize and catalog** over 1 crore manuscripts across the country.
 - ⊗ **Establish a National Digital Repository** of manuscripts.
 - ⊗ **Integrate AI, OCR, and blockchain technologies** for smart access, transcription, and provenance.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of culture.
- **Strategic Pillars:** Scholarly Leadership, Technological Integration, Capacity Building, public engagement.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI