

# Foxconn, Dixon, Samsung among 22 projects cleared for electronics components manufacturing scheme

NEW DELHI, Jan 2 (PTI)

FOXCONN, Dixon, Tata Electronics and Samsung are among the 22 new proposals approved by the Government under the ambitious Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), with a projected investment of Rs 41,863 crore and production worth Rs 2,58,152 crore.

The approvals - third set of clearances under the scheme - are expected to generate 33,791 new jobs, reduce India's import dependence for critical electronic components, and accelerate the build-out of high-value manufacturing capabilities in the country. Taken together with previous ECMS tranches and ongoing semiconductor initiatives, the latest clearances underline India's firm resolve to emerge as a major hub in global electronics supply chains.



According to sources, a large chunk of investments and employment will come from Apple's new vendors, who are now joining its global supply chain. Some of them will be exporting to Apple's international locations.

Notably, Motherson Electronic Components, Tata Electronics, ATL Battery Technology India, Foxconn (Yuzhan Tech India's), and Hindalco Industries are five

vendors from Apple's ecosystem.

The approved projects are spread across eight states, including Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, and reflect the Government's focus on geographically balanced industrial growth and expansion of electronics manufacturing across the country, according to the IT Ministry. At a briefing

announcing the new set of investment proposals approved by the Government, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw underlined the Centre's focus on big reforms, enabling policies, and efficient and speedy execution of projects and initiatives.

"The results are clearly visible sector after sector," Union IT Minister Vaishnaw said.

The Minister asked the industry to prioritise setting up design teams and nudged players to go for Six Sigma to be globally competitive.

In the latest batch, the maximum investments are set to come in the category of enclosures (mobile enclosures are structural housings that protect and support internal electronic components, widely used in smartphones and handheld devices), where three projects will attract Rs 27,166 crore worth of investments.

# CDS inaugurates upgraded runway at IAF's Car Nicobar airbase

SRI VIJAYA PURAM, Jan 2 (PTI)

CHIEF of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday inaugurated the upgraded runway at the IAF's Car Nicobar air base in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The CDS arrived in Car Nicobar island around 11.30 am and was welcomed by Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) and several other senior officials.

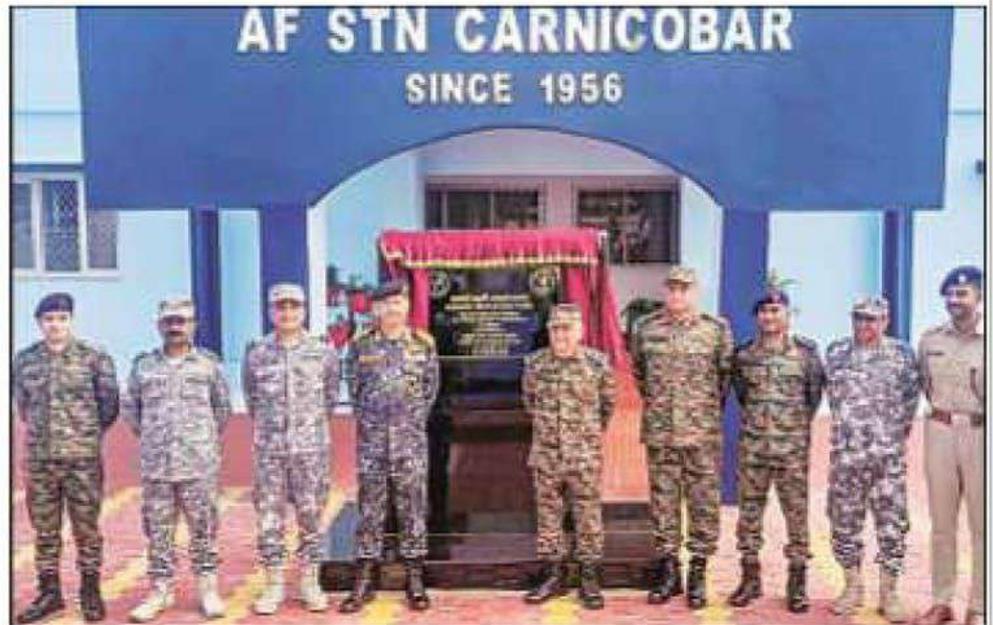
"The CDS inaugurated the resurfaced and upgraded runway at the Indian Air Force's Car Nicobar Air Base," an official said.

Located nearly 535 km from Sri Vijaya Puram, Car Nicobar in Nicobar district suffered the maximum damage during the 2004 Tsunami. "The upgraded runway will give more strength to the eastern front due to its direct strategic oversight of the Malacca Strait - a global maritime life-line/passage for international trade and energy supplies through ships. It will give the Indian Air Force (IAF) more abil-

ity for quick air operations," the senior official said. The apron areas have been expanded for smooth aircraft movement, he said, adding that the "facility will help the Indian Air Force to carry out long-range firing exercises in a minimal time". "The visit of CDS highlights the strategic importance of the Andaman and

Nicobar Islands for national security and our focus on 'Act East' policy, and the Prime Minister's vision for security & growth for all in the region," a senior Command official said.

The CDS will also inaugurate a storage facility and will pay a visit to the Tsunami Memorial, he added.



Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan with others during the inauguration of resurfaced and upgraded runway at the Indian Air Force's Car Nicobar Air Base in Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Friday. (PTI)

# Govt announces Rs 7,295 cr export package

NEW DELHI, Jan 2 (PTI)

THE Government on Friday 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.

Both measures will be rolled out over a period of six years (2025-31). Additional Secretary in the Commerce

Ministry Ajay Bhadani said that these interventions will address the trade finance issues of exporters.

Under the interest subvention scheme, exporters will get a subsidy on pre- and post-shipment export credit. This is the second component of the Rs 25,060 crore export promotion mission (EPM) approved in November 2025.

The first component -- market access support with an outlay of Rs

4,531 crore was rolled out on December 31, 2025.

The subvention scheme will help exporters from identified sectors to avail of rupee export credit at competitive rates at a time when global trade is facing headwinds.

Under the interest subvention scheme, the Government will provide subsidy benefits in the range of 2.75 per cent to eligible MSME exporters.

# US lawmakers write to Indian envoy seeking fair and timely trial for Umar Khalid

NEW YORK, Jan 2 (PTI)

A GROUP of US lawmakers has written a letter to Indian Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra, urging a fair and timely trial for activist Umar Khalid in "accordance with international law."

US Representatives Jim McGovern and Jamie Raskin are among eight lawmakers who have expressed concern regarding the "prolonged pre-trial detention of individuals charged in connection with the February 2020 violence in Delhi," including Khalid.

"The US and India share a long-standing strategic partnership that has historically been rooted in democratic values, constitutional gov-

## New York City Mayor Mamdani has written a note for Khalid

ernance and strong people-to-people ties," the letter said, adding that as the world's largest democracies, both nations have an interest in protecting and upholding freedom, the rule of law, human rights and pluralism. "It is in this spirit" that the lawmakers said they are raising their concerns regarding Khalid's detention.

The lawmakers claimed that human rights organisations, legal experts and global media have raised questions about the fairness of the investigation and legal

process related to Khalid's detention. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani has also written a note for Khalid, recalling his words on "bitterness" and the importance of not letting it "consume one's self."

The note was posted on X by Khalid's partner, Banojyotsna Lahiri.

"When prisons try to isolate, words travel. Zohran Mamdani writes to Umar Khalid," the caption accompanying the note said.

"Dear Umar, I think of your words on bitterness often, and the importance of not letting it consume one's self. It was a pleasure to meet your parents. We are all thinking of you," the handwritten note signed by Mamdani said.

## India won't tolerate any interference: BJP

NEW DELHI, Jan 2 (PTI)

THE BJP on Friday accused New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani of "interfering" in India's internal matter and asserted that India will not tolerate any such effort. BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "If India's sovereignty is challenged, 140-crore Indians will stand united under the PM Modi's leadership." People of India have "complete faith" in the country's judiciary, he added.

# China launches 'upgraded' missile destroyer

BEIJING, Jan 2 (PTI)

THE Chinese Navy has commissioned a new "upgraded" missile destroyer as it's expanding its fleet at a breakneck speed to catch up with the US naval strength.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has commissioned a new Type 052D guided missile destroyer named Loudi, which features upgraded radar, weapon and network systems, official media here reported on Friday.

Zhang Shengwei, a crew member of the Loudi, was quoted by State-run Global Times as saying that the new-type war-

ship adopts a new system and architecture, giving it enhanced combat capabilities in air defence, sea attack and task force command.

The Loudi can not only conduct long-range assault and strike missions against its targets, but also defend friendly ships in defensive missions, Zhang said.

Observers say the new ship's addition highlights the feverish pitch at which the Chinese Navy is expanding its fleet, adding a ship a month.

According to a recent BBC report, the Chinese Navy has emerged as the world's largest, operating 234 warships compared to the US Navy's 219 ships.

# India has every right to defend its people from 'bad neighbours': EAM

CHENNAI, Jan 2 (PTI)

**EXTERNAL** Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said India has every right to defend its people when it comes to "bad neighbours" and asserted that a neighbouring country cannot ask New Delhi to share water if it continues to spread terrorism in the country.

At the same time, he said with "good neighbours", India invests, helps and shares, whether it was vaccines during COVID-19 pandemic, fuel and food support during the Ukraine conflict, or USD 4 billion assistance to Sri Lanka during its financial crisis.

Without naming Pakistan, Jaishankar said India has every



External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar witnesses the exchange of MoUs between IIT Madras and leading industry, academic and Government partners from multiple countries. Jaishankar attended the inauguration of the IIT Madras Global Research Foundation on Friday. (PTI)

right to defend its people when it comes to "bad neighbours" and nobody can tell the country how to exercise that right.

"...People make it sound as diplomacy is rocket science. It is common sense..Now, what do you do in common sense with a neighbour? If you have a neighbour who is good to you or at least who is not harmful to you, your natural instinct is to be kind, is to help that neighbour. If the neighbour has a problem, you would like to contribute in some way. If nothing else, you will say hello...You will try to build friendships, bonding, etc. That's what we do as a country," he said in a fireside chat at IIT Madras here.

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