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News: Production Linked incentive (PLI)

- Recently, The **Union Cabinet has cleared Production Linked incentive (PLI) of Rs 19,500 crore to incentivise manufacturing of domestic solar cell modules.**

Significance

- This would bring in **a direct investment of around Rs 94,000 crore, directly employ about 1, 95,000 and indirectly around 7, 80,000 persons.**
- It would **save India close to Rs. 1.37 trillion in imports.**
- With these schemes we expect to have **70-80 GW of capacity which would take care of our domestic requirements as well as exports.**
- The PLI benefits coupled with State incentives under the industrial policies of the State government, concessional/ deferral duty schemes in customs will help in improving the IRR (Internal Rate of Return) of the project and make Indian-manufactured solar PV modules competitive in the market.

Production Linked incentive (PLI) Scheme

- The PLI scheme was conceived to **scale up domestic manufacturing capability, accompanied by higher import substitution and employment generation.**
- The **government has set aside Rs 1.97 lakh crore under the PLI schemes** for various sectors and an additional allocation of Rs 19,500 crore was made towards PLI for solar PV modules in Budget 2022-23.
- Launched in March 2020, the **scheme initially targeted three industries viz. Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing, Electrical Component Manufacturing and Medical Devices.**

Incentives under the Scheme

- The incentives, calculated on the basis of incremental sales, **range from as low as 1% for the electronics and technology products to as high as 20% for the manufacturing of critical key starting drugs and certain drug intermediaries.**
- In some sectors such as advanced chemistry cell batteries, textile products and the drone industry, the incentive to be given will be calculated on the basis of sales, performance and local value addition done over the period of five years.

Sectors for which the PLI Scheme has been Announced

- So far, the government has announced PLI schemes for 14 sectors including automobile and auto components, electronics and IT hardware, telecom, pharmaceuticals, solar modules, metals and mining, textiles and apparel, white goods, drones, and advanced chemistry cell batteries.

Objectives

- The Government introduced this scheme to reduce India's dependence on China and other foreign countries.
- It supports the labor-intensive sectors and aims to increase the employment ratio in India.
- This scheme works to reduce the import bills and boost domestic production.
- However, PLI Yojana invites foreign companies to set up their units in India and encourages domestic enterprises to expand their production units.

News: Ebola Outbreak

- Recently, an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) has been declared in Uganda following the confirmation of a relatively rare Sudan strain case.

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

- Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) formerly known as **Ebola haemorrhagic fever is a deadly disease with occasional outbreaks that occur mostly on the African continent.**
- Ebola virus was first **discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River** in what is now the **Democratic Republic of Congo.**
- It most **commonly affects people and nonhuman primates** (such as monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees).
- It is caused by an **infection with a group of viruses within the genus Ebolavirus:** Ebola virus (species Zaire ebolavirus), Sudan virus (species Sudan ebolavirus) Taï Forest virus (species Taï Forest ebolavirus, formerly Côte d'Ivoire ebolavirus), Bundibugyo virus (species Bundibugyo ebolavirus), Reston virus (species Reston ebolavirus) and Bombali virus (species Bombali ebolavirus)
- Host: **Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts.**

Transmission

- Animal to Human Transmission occurs through **close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected animals** such as fruit bats, chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope or porcupines found ill or dead or in the rainforest.
- **Human-to-Human Transmission occurs via direct contact** (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with Blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola.

Signs and Symptoms

- Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after contact with the virus, with an average of 8 to 10 days which include **Fever, Fatigue, Muscle pain, Body weakness, Headache, Sore throat, Vomiting, Diarrhoea, Symptoms of impaired kidney and liver function, in some cases, both internal and external bleeding.**

Diagnosis

- It can be **difficult to clinically distinguish Ebola from other infectious diseases** such as malaria, typhoid fever, and meningitis but confirmation that symptoms

are caused by Ebola virus infection are made using the following diagnostic methods:

- **ELISA** (antibody-capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay)
- **Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction** (RT-PCR) assay, etc.

Vaccines

- The **Ervebo (rVSV-ZEBOV) vaccine** has been highly effective in containing the disease.
- However, this vaccine has only been approved to protect against the Zaire strain of the virus.