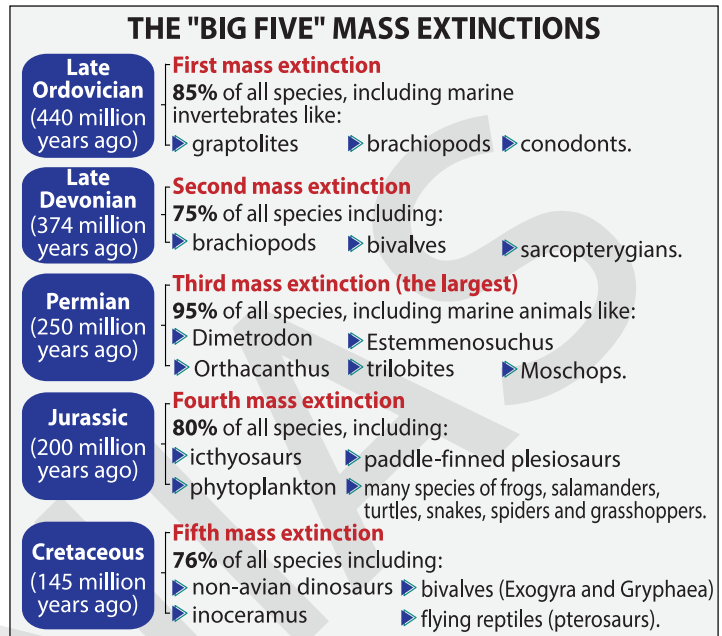


NEWS TODAY

SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION THE MOST SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM: RESEARCH

- Mass extinction refers to a **substantial increase in degree of extinction** or when Earth loses more than three-quarters of its species in a geologically short period of time.
- So far **there have been five mass extinctions (refer infographics)**, in last 450 million years, **that have led to destruction of 70-95% of species of plants, animals and microorganisms** that existed earlier.
 - > These were caused by events such as massive volcanic eruptions, depletion of oceanic oxygen or collision with an asteroid.
 - > After each of these extinctions, it took millions of years to regain species.
- According to a new research, **ongoing sixth mass extinction may be one of the most serious environmental threats** to persistence of civilization as loss of species will be permanent.
 - > It is referred to as **Anthropocene extinction**.
 - > This **extinction is human-caused** and is more immediate than climate destruction.
 - > **400 vertebrate species went extinct in last century**, extinctions that would have taken over 10,000 years in normal course of evolution.
 - > There will be **more pandemics** if we continue destroying habitats and trading wildlife.
 - > Suggested **complete ban on wildlife trade**.



3 ELECTRONICS INCENTIVE SCHEMES LAUNCHED BY MEITY

- 3 schemes have been notified with an outlay of about Rs 50,000 crore in order to -
 - > **position India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing**
 - > push further the vision of **National Policy on Electronics 2019**.
- **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing**
 - > To boost **domestic manufacturing and attract large investments** in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components, including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.
 - > It extends **incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales** of goods manufactured in India for a period of five years.
 - > Government will initially **plan to incentivise 10 firms**, five global and five local.
- **Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS):** It will provide financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure for manufacture of downstream value chain of electronic products.
- **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme:** Providing support for creation of world class infrastructure with common facilities and amenities for attracting major global electronics manufacturers along with their supply chain to set up units in country.

GOVERNMENT TAKING STEPS TO CUT IMPORTS AND BOOST EXPORTS

- These are **in line with recently launched Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** and will also **boost domestic production** under Make in India.
 - > Government is considering proposals for investment of \$16-17 billion to **boost domestic production of air conditioners and its components, furniture and leather footwear**.
 - For furniture, **3-4 clusters hubs near ports**, which are also close to wood producing areas.
 - For ACs, **increase in customs duty on components** to discourage imports from China.
 - For leather footwear, **improve cost structure, attract global investors** by giving sops.
 - > Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers fixed **minimum percentage of local content in public procurement of 55 chemical and pesticide products**.
 - Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had revised Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017, to encourage Make in India and to promote manufacturing and production of goods, services and works in India.
 - > **Government is identifying promising sectors**, where India has a natural advantage, to cut imports.
 - **Sectors already identified by DPIIT** include capital goods and machinery, mobile and electronics, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, textiles and garments.

RCEP COUNTRIES OFFER INDIA 'FLEXIBLE PACKAGE' TO BRING BACK ON NEGOTIATION TABLE

- Recently, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) nations reached out to India with a more acceptable proposal asking it re-join.
 - > RCEP have offered India the **option of deferring commitments** related to opening up its market.
 - > RCEP had also **softened its stand on market access demands** for foreign products in India.
- However, Indian ministries have different views regarding this development-
 - > **External affairs ministry remains against India entering RCEP.** It argues that China plans to use it as a platform to counter India's efforts in building domestic manufacturing capabilities.
 - > **Commerce department held that it will like to study the proposal.** Decision will also need to take into account realities of global trade and need to find suitable export destinations for India's goods.
- **India pulled out of RCEP in November 2019** after years of negotiations citing various reasons.
 - > Of the 70-odd issues that had held up deal, around **50 were India's concerns**.
 - > India's concerns included, **Trade deficit, risk to domestic sectors and agriculture**, threat of Chinese products, **trade in services** etc.
- **RCEP** is a proposed free trade agreement between ASEAN nations and their FTA partners.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH PLANS TO PROVIDE TAP CONNECTION TO ALL RURAL HOUSEHOLDS BY MARCH 2023

- Central Government approved Rs 255 Crore for State under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in 2020-21.

About JJM

- JJM was launched in 2019 with aim to **providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)** to every rural household (Har Ghar Nal Se Jal) by 2024.
 - FHTC means a tap connection to a rural household for providing drinking water in **adequate quantity (55 litres per capita per day) on regular basis.**
- Following works are taken up under JJM**
 - In-village **water supply infrastructure**
 - Reliable **drinking water source development**
 - Technological intervention** for treatment of water
 - Retrofitting of completed and ongoing piped water** supply schemes
 - Grey water management**
- Funding pattern:** Total estimated cost is Rs. 3.60 Lakh Crore.
 - Fund sharing pattern between Centre and State is 90:10 for Himalayan (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh) and North-Eastern States; 100:0 for UTs and 50:50 for rest of States.
- Benefits:** Improve quality of life, assist in ODF-sustainability, generate employment, boost economy etc.
- JJM is an upgraded version of **National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)** that was launched in 2009.
 - Currently, **81.67% of rural households** do not have tap water connections.








Institutional mechanism under JJM:

National level	National Jal Jeevan Mission
State level	State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM)
District level	District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM)
Gram Panchayat level	Paani Samiti/ Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/User group

ALSO IN NEWS

Kohala hydropower project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is 1,124-MW power project on the Jhelum River in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to be constructed by China under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC is collection of infrastructure projects worth around \$46 billion under China's Belt and Road initiative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPEC will connect China's Xinjiang with Pakistan's Gwadar port in Balochistan. India has objected to CPEC as it is being laid through PoK.
Maize for ethanol production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has suggested use of maize for production of ethanol. It will increase demand and ensure remunerative prices and higher income for maize growers. Also, maize has a great potential for crop diversification in rice-wheat cropping system areas of north-western plains. National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, has identified corn (maize) among potential feedstock for production of ethanol.
SBI launches financial inclusion and micro market(FI&MM) vertical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under this new vertical, State Bank of India (SBI) will offer loans predominantly for agriculture and allied activities and micro and small enterprises. It has been created with an exclusive focus on FI&MM especially in rural and semi urban areas for better customer experience. It also aims to improve service quality and availability of banking services through the bank's network of over 63,000 customer points in rural, semi-urban, urban and metro areas.
PM at CII annual session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 elements to achieve higher growth and self-reliance: Intent, inclusion, investment, infrastructure and innovation Self-reliant India: It means becoming stronger to embrace the world. It also means India will not be dependent on others in strategic sectors. It is about creating strong enterprises that can become global leaders. On systemic reforms: These are not random or scattered decisions, but rather systemic, planned, integrated, inter-connected and futuristic process. It also means taking decisions with courage and taking them to a logical conclusion.
Arsenicum album 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a homoeopathic drug to correct inflammation in body. Following a Ministry of AYUSH advisory, several states have recommended this drug for preventive use against COVID-19. Medical scientists and some homoeopathic practitioners have stressed that there is no scientific evidence that it can works against COVID-19.
Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Principal Scientific Adviser and Department of Science and Technology have jointly initiated a decentralized, bottom-up, and inclusive process for formulation of a new STIP 2020. It will also integrate lessons of COVID-19 including building of an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) through ST&I. Earlier, four major policies have been implemented namely, Scientific Policy Resolution, Technology Policy Statement 1983, Science and Technology Policy 2003, and Science Technology Innovation Policy 2013.

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