Ashwini Vaishnaw launches the Semicon 2.0 web application portal; 12 more ECMS projects approved

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News

On 6 November 2026, Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the web application portal for 'Semicon 2.0', the second phase of the Semicon India Programme. Approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026 with an outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore, the programme rests on six pillars: chip design, machines and materials, fabrication units (fabs), ATMP/OSAT, R&D and talent development. Applications have first been opened for three pillars – machines and materials (Pillar 2), more fabs (Pillar 3) and ATMP/OSAT (Pillar 4). The aim is to attract at least three major equipment makers and five chemicals-and-gases companies. On the same day, 12 more projects under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) were approved, with ₹7,503 crore investment and 7,127 direct jobs. They will come up in seven states – Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Copper foil, cathode active material and specialty ceramics received ECMS approvals for the first time.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Date	6 November 2026
Launched by	Ashwini Vaishnaw – Union Minister of Electronics & IT (MeitY)

Point	Details
Scheme	Semicon 2.0 – ₹1,27,500 crore; Cabinet approval July 2026
Implementing body	India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) – portal: portal.ism.gov.in
Pillars opened now	Machines & materials, more fabs, ATMP/OSAT
New ECMS approvals	12 projects; ₹7,503 cr investment; ₹39,045 cr output; 7,127 jobs
ECMS so far	118 applications, 16 states, ₹77,051 crore; about 50% units are MSMEs
Phase 1	12 units, 6 states, over ₹1.64 lakh crore; 5 in commercial production (Oct 2026)
C2S programme	EDA tools to 332 institutions; about 70,000 students trained

Background

- India Semiconductor Mission (ISM): started in December 2021 with the ₹76,000-crore Semicon India Programme; it is the nodal body under MeitY for chip and display schemes. Phase 1 approved 12 units in six states; as of October 2026, five of them had begun commercial production.
- Science: semiconductors conduct electricity better than insulators but less than conductors. Silicon and germanium are elemental semiconductors; gallium arsenide (GaAs), gallium nitride (GaN) and silicon carbide (SiC) are compound semiconductors, used in LEDs, EV power electronics and 5G. Adding phosphorus to pure silicon gives an n-type, and boron a p-type, semiconductor.
- Chip value chain: design (fabless firms) → wafer fabrication in a 'fab' (front-end) → ATMP/OSAT – assembly, testing, marking and packaging (back-end). OSAT means 'Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test' – contract firms that assemble and test chips for others. India's first approved project, US firm Micron's ATMP unit (approved 2023), is at Sanand, Gujarat.
- Economy: the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) was approved by the Union Cabinet on 28 March 2025 with an outlay of ₹22,919 crore; it promotes domestic manufacture of 'passive' components such as PCBs, resistors and capacitors, sub-assemblies, and their materials and capital goods. The Chips to Startup (C2S) programme builds chip-design skills; 105 startups have been given EDA tools.

Tamil Nadu link: In its 2025–26 Budget (March 2025), Tamil Nadu announced the ₹500-crore 'Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission 2030', with two semiconductor parks of about 100 acres each at Sulur and Palladam in the Coimbatore region. Tamil Nadu is one of the seven states in this ECMS round; 'TDConnex (Chennai) Pvt Ltd' won approvals for relays and precision moulds.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Date: 6 November 2026; Launched by: Ashwini Vaishnaw – Union Minister of Electronics & IT (MeitY); Scheme: Semicon 2.0 – ₹1,27,500 crore; Cabinet approval July 2026; Implementing body: India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) – portal: portal.ism.gov.in.

What is the background to this news?

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM): started in December 2021 with the ₹76,000-crore Semicon India Programme; it is the nodal body under MeitY for chip and display schemes.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which of the following is a compound semiconductor?

A) Gallium nitride (GaN)

B) Germanium

C) Silicon

D) Selenium

Answer: A – Explanation: GaN is a compound of gallium and nitrogen, used in LEDs, micro-LED displays and power electronics. Germanium, silicon and selenium are elements.

2. In the chip industry, what do 'OSAT' firms mainly do?

A) Chip design only

B) Chip assembly and testing

C) Silicon wafer fabrication

D) Mining quartz sand

Answer: B – Explanation: OSAT = Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test – the 'back-end' work of packaging and testing chips made in a fab. Wafer fabrication is front-end work done in a fab.

3. Where is US firm Micron's ATMP unit, the first project approved (2023) under the Semicon India Programme?

A) Sanand, Gujarat

B) Dholera, Gujarat

C) Jewar, Uttar Pradesh

D) Hosur, Tamil Nadu

Answer: A – Explanation: Micron's ATMP unit is at Sanand near Ahmedabad – the first project approved under Semicon India. Tata's fab is coming up at Dholera.

4. Under 'Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission 2030', semiconductor parks were announced at Sulur and which other place?

A) Hosur

B) Palladam

C) Oragadam

D) Gangaikondan

Answer: B – Explanation: TN Budget 2025–26: a ₹500-crore mission; parks of about 100 acres each at Sulur and Palladam in the Coimbatore region.

5. What is the total outlay of the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), which cleared 12 more projects in Nov 2026?

A) ₹76,000 crore

B) ₹1,27,500 crore

C) ₹7,503 crore

D) ₹22,919 crore

Answer: D – Explanation: ECMS was approved on 28 March 2025 with ₹22,919 crore. ₹76,000 crore was Semicon phase 1; ₹1,27,500 crore is Semicon 2.0; ₹7,503 crore is the new 12 projects' investment.

Sources: PIB via DD India; Outlook; ISM; Business Today; News On AIR; DT Next. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.