Export Promotion Mission: 'Niryat Disha' sub-scheme guidelines amended

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News

The Union Department of Commerce amended the guidelines of four interventions under the 'Niryat Disha' sub-scheme of the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) on 17 November 2026, an official statement said on 18 November (IANS). Under Market Access Support (MAS), the ceiling of preceding-year export turnover for airfare reimbursement for buyer-seller meets, trade fairs and trade delegations was raised from ₹75 lakh to ₹50 crore; micro and small exporters get up to 95% and others up to 80%. The mandatory membership period with an Export Promotion Council was cut from six months to three. Under TRACE (Trade Regulations, Accreditation and Compliance Enablement), reimbursable certificates rose from 462 to 600. Freight support under LIFT (Logistics Interventions for Freight and Transport) now covers low export-intensity districts in 34 States/UTs instead of 13; Land Customs Stations, Integrated Check Posts and waterways were added, air-freight support now extends to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh besides the North-East, and the minimum origin-to-port distance for support was cut from 200 km to 100 km.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Scheme	Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – 'Niryat Disha' sub-scheme

Point	Details
Amended, announced	Amended 17.11.2026; announced 18.11.2026 – Department of Commerce
EPM approved	Union Cabinet, 12 November 2025
Outlay	₹25,060 crore (FY 2025-26 to 2030-31)
Two sub-schemes	Niryat Protsahan (trade finance), Niryat Disha (market access, non-financial barriers)
MAS	Turnover ceiling ₹75 lakh → ₹50 crore; micro & small 95%, others 80%
TRACE	Certificates 462 → 600
LIFT	13 → 34 States/UTs; LCS, ICPs, waterways added; minimum distance 200 → 100 km

Background

- The Export Promotion Mission was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 and approved by the Cabinet on 12 November 2025. It aims to raise the competitiveness of MSMEs, first-time exporters and under-represented regions. 'Niryat Protsahan' addresses access to trade finance, while 'Niryat Disha' tackles non-financial barriers such as market access, quality certification and logistics. Eleven interventions under the two sub-schemes are operational so far.
- India's export framework: the Foreign Trade Policy 2023 (from 1 April 2023) is administered by the DGFT. Exporters join Export Promotion Councils and obtain a Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC). Since 2021, the RoDTEP scheme has replaced MEIS, which had been challenged at the WTO.
- Export credit insurance is provided by ECGC, set up in 1957 and headquartered in Mumbai, while the EXIM Bank (1982) finances exports and imports – both relevant to the trade-finance goals of 'Niryat Protsahan'.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu is one of India's leading exporting States, with automobiles, electronics, textiles and leather goods prominent. Ambur and Vaniyambadi in Tirupattur district are leather and footwear export hubs (Tirupathur district administration). Wider airfare reimbursement and certification support should help such MSME exporters.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The Union Department of Commerce amended the guidelines of four interventions under the 'Niryat Disha' sub-scheme of the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) on 17 November 2026, an official statement said on 18 November (IANS).

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Scheme: Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – 'Niryat Disha' sub-scheme; Amended, announced: Amended 17.11.2026; announced 18.11.2026 – Department of Commerce; EPM approved: Union Cabinet, 12 November 2025; Outlay: ₹25,060 crore (FY 2025-26 to 2030-31).

What is the background to this news?

The Export Promotion Mission was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 and approved by the Cabinet on 12 November 2025. It aims to raise the competitiveness of MSMEs, first-time exporters and under-represented regions.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which other sub-scheme of the Export Promotion Mission addresses access to trade finance?

A) Niryat Bandhu

B) Niryat Protsahan

C) Niryat Mitra

D) Niryat Setu

Answer: B – Explanation: Niryat Protsahan – trade finance. EPM outlay: ₹25,060 crore (2025-26 to 2030-31); Cabinet approval on 12.11.2025.

2. RoDTEP was introduced in 2021 to replace which export incentive scheme that had been challenged at the WTO?

A) EPCG

B) SEIS

C) MEIS

D) Advance Authorisation

Answer: C – Explanation: MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme). RoDTEP refunds embedded duties and taxes on exported products.

3. Which Mumbai-headquartered central public sector company provides export credit insurance to exporters?

A) ECGC

B) EXIM Bank

C) SIDBI

D) NABARD

Answer: A – Explanation: ECGC (1957) – insures exporters against buyers' non-payment. The EXIM Bank (1982) lends to exporters.

4. Ambur and Vaniyambadi, leather and footwear export hubs, are now in which district of Tamil Nadu?

A) Vellore

B) Tirupattur

C) Ranipet

D) Krishnagiri

Answer: B – Explanation: Tirupattur – carved out of Vellore district in 2019. MAS and TRACE support helps such MSME exporters.

5. Which certificate does an exporter receive on joining an Export Promotion Council?

A) IEC

B) GSTIN

C) LUT

D) RCMC

Answer: D – Explanation: RCMC – Registration-cum-Membership Certificate. The membership period required for MAS fell from 6 to 3 months. DGFT issues the IEC.

Sources: Department of Commerce official statement, 18 Nov 2026 (via IANS); PIB – Cabinet approval of EPM, 12 Nov 2025; IBEF (Department of Commerce trust); Tirupathur District Administration (tirupathur.nic.in). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.