



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 05-09-2024**

### **GS-1**

1. India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

### **GS-2**

2. Law Commission
3. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)
4. Government Initiatives for LGBTQI+ Community

### **GS-3**

5. Why Namibia plans to kill hundreds of its majestic wild animals for meat

## **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**

**Syllabus: GS-1; Industries, GS-2; Government policies and Interventions, GS-3; Growth & Development**

### **Context**

- *SEMI, a U.S.-based association prompting the semiconductor industry, has announced **SEMICON India 2024** in collaboration with the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), Digital India, and Messe München India.*

### **About**

- *The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is a significant initiative launched by the Government of India to enhance the country's semiconductor manufacturing capabilities, which is vital for achieving self-reliance in critical technology sectors.*

### **Background and Introduction**

- **Launch:** *The India Semiconductor Mission was announced in December 2021 as part of the larger "Semicon India Programme".*
- **Objective:** *To establish India as a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing, and innovation, and to reduce reliance on imports.*
- **Ministry:** *The ISM operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).*
- **Total Outlay:** *The mission is part of a ₹76,000 crore (approx. \$10 billion) government initiative for the development of semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem.*

### **Objectives of ISM**

- **Develop a Sustainable Ecosystem:** *Establish a robust semiconductor and display ecosystem in India to position the country as a global leader in electronics manufacturing.*
- **Attract Investment:** *Facilitate investments in semiconductor manufacturing facilities, also known as fabs (fabrication units), along with packaging and testing.*
- **Encourage R&D and Innovation:** *Promote research, development, and innovation in the semiconductor field, including chip design and application technologies.*
- **Self-reliance in Semiconductors:** *Reduce dependence on imports and create a domestic supply chain, aligned with the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India) vision.*
- **Skill Development:** *Upskill engineers, scientists, and researchers in semiconductor technologies and create a talent pool to support the industry.*

## Key Components of ISM

- **Semiconductor Fabs:** Support and incentives for the development of semiconductor fabrication units, which are essential for the production of chips used in electronics and telecommunications.
- **Display Fabs:** Establish manufacturing units for displays, which are critical for devices like smartphones, TVs, and other electronic gadgets.
- **Packaging and Testing Facilities:** Set up Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP) units for semiconductors to increase the value chain domestically.
- **Design-Led Initiatives:** Promote startups and companies engaged in semiconductor design by providing financial support, infrastructure, and access to research labs.
- **Collaborations and Partnerships:** Foster global partnerships with semiconductor firms, research institutes, and academia to bring the latest technology and best practices to India.

## Importance of Semiconductors

- **Core to Digital Economy:** Semiconductors are the backbone of modern electronics used in devices such as smartphones, laptops, automobiles, and industrial equipment.
- **Strategic Importance:** They are critical for defense, telecommunications, artificial intelligence (AI), and 5G technology, which are key sectors for national security and economic growth.
- **Global Chip Shortage:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerabilities of global semiconductor supply chains, increasing the urgency for India to establish its domestic production.
- **Economic Growth:** Developing a semiconductor ecosystem would enhance India's position in the global supply chain and significantly contribute to its economic growth.

## Government Initiatives under ISM

The India Semiconductor Mission includes several government-led incentives to encourage the semiconductor ecosystem:

- **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:**
  - Provides up to 50% financial support for the development of semiconductor fabs and 30% financial support for ATMP units.
  - Incentivizes companies to set up manufacturing plants in India.
- **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:**
  - Offers incentives for companies that focus on chip design, development, and deployment.
  - Provides financial assistance for startups and firms working on semiconductor design and innovation.
- **Research and Development (R&D) Initiatives:**

- *Establish research centers focused on semiconductors and foster collaboration between academia and industry.*
- *Promotes the development of indigenous technologies and IP (intellectual property) in semiconductor design.*
- **Partnership with Global Semiconductor Companies:**
  - *India is working on attracting investment from global semiconductor companies such as Intel, TSMC, Samsung, and others to set up fabs in India.*
  - *Cooperation with countries like the USA, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and Israel in the semiconductor domain.*

## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities:

- **Attracting Investment:** *India's large market for electronics and growing digital infrastructure offers immense potential for attracting global semiconductor giants.*
- **Export Potential:** *By developing domestic capabilities, India could position itself as a key player in the global semiconductor supply chain, especially for markets in Europe, the USA, and Africa.*
- **Employment Generation:** *The semiconductor sector can create millions of direct and indirect jobs in manufacturing, design, and allied sectors.*

### Challenges:

- **Capital Intensive:** *Setting up semiconductor fabs is extremely capital intensive, requiring significant upfront investment and long-term commitment.*
- **Technological Expertise:** *India lacks experience in high-end semiconductor manufacturing, which will require strong partnerships and knowledge transfer from established global players.*
- **Global Competition:** *Countries like Taiwan, South Korea, and China have a well-established semiconductor ecosystem, making it challenging for India to compete in this domain.*

## Recent Developments

- *In 2022, India signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with global semiconductor companies and initiated dialogues with key stakeholders to develop fabrication units.*
- *The Indian government launched the "Semicon India 2022" conference to bring industry leaders, innovators, and policymakers together to discuss India's role in the global semiconductor ecosystem.*

- *The Vedanta-Foxconn partnership was announced to set up a semiconductor manufacturing facility in India, representing a significant step in achieving the goals of the ISM.*

## **Conclusion**

- *The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is a transformative initiative aimed at making India a leader in semiconductor manufacturing, design, and innovation.*
- *Given the strategic and economic importance of semiconductors, ISM is aligned with India's broader vision of self-reliance and technological advancement.*
- *It represents a long-term approach to becoming a key player in the global tech ecosystem.*

## **Law Commission**

**Syllabus: GS-2: Non-statutory bodies.**

### **Context:**

- *Govt sets up 23rd Law Commission for legal reforms.*

### **23rd Law Commission of India**

#### **Establishment:**

- *The Union Government established the 23rd Law Commission on September 1, 2024.*
- *The Commission is set up for a period of three years, from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027.*

#### **Composition:**

- **Chairperson:** *Full-time.*
- **Members:**
  - *Four full-time members.*
  - *Secretaries of the Legal Affairs and Legislative departments as ex-officio members.*
  - *Up to five part-time members.*
- **Current Status:** *Government yet to appoint the members.*

#### **Primary Objectives:**

➤ **Identifying Obsolete Laws:**

- *Review existing laws to identify those that have become obsolete and recommend their repeal.*

➤ **Auditing Laws Affecting the Poor:**

- *Conduct audits of laws that impact the poor and suggest necessary changes.*

➤ **Advisory Role:**

- *Provide views and recommendations on any law referred by the Ministry of Law and Justice.*

**Key Tasks Assigned:**

➤ **Review of Existing Laws:**

- *Examine laws in light of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).*
- *Suggest reforms and improvements to align laws with DPSP and the Preamble of the Constitution.*

➤ **Impact of Globalization:**

- *Assess the impact of globalization on issues such as food security and unemployment.*
- *Recommend measures to protect the interests of marginalized communities.*

➤ **Judicial Administration Reform:**

- *Review the current judicial administration system.*
- *Propose ways to make the system more responsive to contemporary demands.*
- *Focus on:*
  - *Eliminating delays in the judicial process.*
  - *Simplification and standardization of High Court rules.*
  - *Implementation of case flow management frameworks.*

**Law Commission of India:**

- **Nature:** *A non-statutory body established by the Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice.*
- **Purpose:** *To conduct legal research and make recommendations to the government on legal reforms, functioning as an advisory body.*

### Historical Background:

- **Pre-Independence:** *The first Law Commission was established in 1834 by the British Government under the Charter Act of 1833, chaired by Lord Macaulay.*
- **Post-Independence:** *The first Law Commission of independent India was set up in 1955 under M. C. Setalvad. It has been reconstituted every three years by executive orders since then.*

### Creation:

- *A Law Commission is established through a Union government resolution, approved by the President, and the chairperson is appointed by the government.*

### Functioning:

- *The Commission handles projects based on references from the Central Government, Supreme Court, and High Courts, and can initiate studies on its own.*
- *It is supported by legal officers from the Indian Legal Service and administrative officers from the Central Secretariat Service.*
- *The Commission welcomes public input on matters under its consideration.*

## **The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**

### Syllabus: GS-2: Regulatory bodies

#### Context:

- *Makers of **Kangana Ranaut's Emergency** move Bombay HC seeking censor certificate to release movie on September 6.*
- *The Bombay High Court is scheduled to hear a plea from the makers of the film **Emergency**, directed by Kangana Ranaut, regarding the issuance of a physical censor certificate.*

#### Overview:

- *The **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.*
- *It is responsible for regulating the public exhibition of films in India under the provisions of the **Cinematograph Act, 1952**.*

### Functions:

- *The CBFC reviews films, including trailers and advertisements, before their release.*
- *It classifies films based on their content into various categories such as U (Universal), UA (Parental Guidance), A (Adult), and S (Restricted to specialized audiences).*
- *It can suggest modifications, deletions, or even deny certification if a film violates legal and ethical standards.*

### Structure:

- *The **CBFC is headquartered in Mumbai**, with nine regional offices across India.*
- *The board consists of a **Chairperson and members** appointed by the central government, typically from the film industry, academia, and other walks of life.*

### Legal Framework:

- *Governed by the **Cinematograph Act, 1952** and the **Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983**.*
- *The board's decisions can be challenged in the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT).*

### Significance:

- *Plays a crucial role in maintaining the cultural and moral fabric of society by regulating the content shown in films.*
- *Balances the need for creative expression with societal sensitivities.*

## **Government Initiatives for LGBTQI+ Community**

### Syllabus: GS-2: Social Justice.

#### Context:

- *The **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)** has taken significant steps to ensure that the policies concerning the LGBTQI+ community are inclusive and equitable.*



- *This initiative comes in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2023 judgment, which highlighted the need for comprehensive reforms to protect and empower LGBTQI+ individuals.*
- *A key aspect of this initiative is the formation of a committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, tasked with defining the entitlements of the LGBTQI+ community.*

### **Key Actions Proposed:**

- **Ration Card Access for Queer Partners:**
  - *The committee proposes granting access to ration cards for queer partners, ensuring that they are recognized as a family unit for the purposes of accessing essential services.*
- **Banking Rights:**
  - *This includes the allowance of joint bank accounts for LGBTQI+ couples, as well as partner nomination rights, which would extend financial security and legal recognition to queer relationships.*
- **Healthcare Measures:**
  - *Proposals include banning harmful practices like conversion therapy and ensuring that sex reassignment surgery is accessible and covered by healthcare policies.*
- **Mental Health and Discrimination:**
  - *Addressing issues of mental health within the LGBTQI+ community is a priority, along with tackling systemic discrimination that affects their quality of life and access to services.*

### **Core Values Exhibited:**

- **Inclusivity:**
  - *By ensuring access to essential social services and equal treatment, the policy initiatives reflect a commitment to inclusivity, recognizing the rights and needs of LGBTQI+ individuals.*
- **Non-Discrimination:**
  - *The measures address biases in ration card issuance, banking, and healthcare, ensuring that LGBTQI+ individuals are not unfairly excluded from these services.*
- **Dignity:**

- *Recognizing and legally protecting queer relationships through these proposed actions upholds the dignity of LGBTQI+ individuals, acknowledging their rights as equal citizens.*
- **Health Rights:**
  - *The prohibition of conversion therapy and improvements in healthcare access underscore the importance of health rights, ensuring that LGBTQI+ individuals receive appropriate and respectful medical care.*
- **Mental Well-Being:**
  - *Promoting mental health and well-being is crucial, particularly in combating the stigma and discrimination that LGBTQI+ individuals often face, ensuring a supportive environment for their mental health.*
- **Consultation:**
  - *Inviting public and stakeholder input in the policy-making process demonstrates a commitment to creating effective, community-informed policies that truly address the needs of the LGBTQI+ community.*

## **Why Namibia plans to kill hundreds of its majestic wild animals for meat**

**Syllabus: GS-3; Environmental Impact**

### **Context**

- *Namibia plans to cull hundreds of its most majestic wild animals, including dozens of elephants and hippopotamuses, to provide meat for its 1.4 million people — nearly half the southern African nation's population — who are reeling under the worst drought in a century.*



### What has led to the drought in Namibia?

- The **drought began in Botswana in October 2023**, spread and intensified across Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, and affects most of southern Africa today, according to a report by the European Commission.
- The situation is so bad mainly because of **El Niño**, a weather pattern associated with extreme heat and dry spells in many parts of the world and the ocean.
- An El Niño event returned after seven years in 2023, leading to **above-average temperatures and minimal precipitation** across the region.
- Severe soil moisture deficits and vegetation stress followed, resulting in drought.
- Also, numerous studies have found that with rising temperatures due to climate change, extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have become more frequent and intense.

### How would the culling of wild animals help?

- It is not just for meat that Namibia wants to cull wild animals.

- *The government fears that the **drought will force the animals to migrate in search of food and water, which could bring them into conflict with human populations.***
- *The country has a significant number of wild animals, including 24,000 elephants, one of the largest populations in the world.*
- *The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism statement said it also hopes that culling of some animals would reduce the effect of the drought on wildlife.*
- *It would help “in managing the current grazing pressure and water availability...in some parks and communal areas where we feel numbers exceed available grazing and water,” the ministry said.*