



INDIA 4 IAS TM

For success in a changing world

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.*