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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(06 September 2024)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- PM MODI'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE
- SC ON RIGHTS OF ACCUSED UNDER PREVENTION OF MONEY

LAUNDERING ACT

MCQs

HONOUR

PM MODI'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE

PM Modi arrived in Singapore on Wednesday 4th September. This is two-day visit to Singapore at the invitation of his newly elected counterpart, PM Lawrence Wong.





KEY FACTS

- 1. This visit, part of his broader **South East Asian** tour following a historic trip to **Brunei**.
- Visit is focused on deepening bilateral ties and exploring new avenues for collaboration, particularly in the semiconductor industry.
- 3. This marks his 5th visit to Singapore; visit comes shortly after Lawrence Wong assumed office as the new Prime Minister of Singapore.
- 4. PM Modi had last visited the country in 2018.

KEY ASPECTS OF THE VISIT

Arrival and Reception:

- Welcoming Ceremony: He was warmly greeted by the Indian diaspora with traditional dance performances and participated in cultural activities, including playing the dhol.
- Official Engagements: Modi's visit began with a ceremonial welcome at the Parliament House.

High-Level Meetings:

 With Prime Minister Lawrence Wong: The primary agenda was to elevate India-Singapore ties to a "comprehensive strategic partnership" and discuss regional



and global issues. (India-Singapore relations were elevated to **Strategic Partnership** during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Singapore in **2015**.)

With President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh
 Chok Tong: Further discussions on strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various fields.

MoUs and Agreements:

- Signed MoUs: 4 significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed,
 focusing on cooperation in semiconductors, digital technologies, skill
 development, and healthcare.
- **Significance**: These agreements represent a major step in formalizing and expanding the **strategic partnership** between the two nations.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Elevating Bilateral Relations:

 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: Both countries agreed to upgrade their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership, reflecting the depth and breadth of their cooperation.



• Economic and Trade Relations: Emphasis was placed on expanding trade and investment flows. Singapore is a leading economic partner for India, with significant investments and opportunities for further collaboration.

Semiconductor Sector Focus:

- Facility Tour: PM Modi and PM Wong are scheduled to visit AEM Holdings Ltd's semiconductor facility, highlighting the importance of this sector in their bilateral relations.
- Opportunities for Collaboration: The visit shows the potential for India and Singapore to collaborate in advancing semiconductor technology, leveraging Singapore's expertise and India's growing capabilities.

Broader Cooperation Areas:

- Pillars of Cooperation: Discussions covered advanced manufacturing,
 connectivity, digitalization, healthcare, skills development, and sustainability.
- Ministerial Roundtable Outcomes: The leaders reviewed the outcomes of the recent India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable, emphasizing the need for accelerated action in these areas.

Cultural and Regional Initiatives:

- 60th Anniversary Celebrations: The leaders discussed preparations for the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2025 and announced the establishment of India's first Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre in Singapore.
- Regional and Global Issues: The discussion also covered important regional and global topics, including India-ASEAN relations and India's vision for the Indo-Pacific.

Future Directions

- Enhanced Cooperation: The upgraded partnership will foster closer cooperation in sustainability, advanced manufacturing, digital technologies, and connectivity.
- Invitation to Visit: PM Modi extended an invitation to PM Wong to visit India, which Wong accepted, indicating a continued commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY

Singapore's Role:

Global Contribution: Singapore contributes approximately 10% of global semiconductor output, 5% of wafer fabrication capacity, and 20% of semiconductor equipment production.

• Economic Impact: The semiconductor sector is a significant driver of Singapore's economic growth, contributing 8% to its GDP.

Collaborative Potential:

- Talent Development: Singaporean universities offer specialized courses in microelectronics and IC design, providing opportunities for collaboration in talent development.
- Industrial Synergies: Singapore's well-developed semiconductor ecosystem presents opportunities for India to integrate into the global semiconductor value chain, particularly in areas where Singapore has limitations.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Production Costs: Rising production costs in Singapore may lead to diversification of semiconductor operations.
- Global Competition: Other countries are offering substantial incentives to attract semiconductor investments, which could impact Singapore's share in global production.



CONCLUSION

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Singapore is a landmark event in the strengthening of India-Singapore relations, focusing on enhancing strategic ties and exploring opportunities in the semiconductor sector. The signing of four MoUs and the elevation of bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership signify a robust commitment to deepening cooperation across various domains. This visit not only highlights the growing significance of the semiconductor industry but also reflects a broader strategic alignment under India's Act East Policy. As both nations explore new avenues for collaboration, addressing challenges such as rising production costs and global competition will be crucial for sustaining their partnership and advancing mutual interests.

SC ON RIGHTS OF ACCUSED UNDER PMLA

The Supreme Court of India has recently made several landmark decisions regarding the rights of accused individuals under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

The Court's rulings emphasize the importance of due process and protect the rights of the accused, even amidst stringent provisions related to arrest and bail.

GROUNDS FOR ARREST

- Case: Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India (2023)
- Issue: Whether the Enforcement Directorate (ED) must provide written grounds for arrest under Section 19 of the PMLA.
- Ruling: The Court ruled that the accused must be informed of the grounds for arrest in writing, as mandated by Article 22 of the Constitution. Oral communication is insufficient; written grounds are essential to validate the arrest.

BAIL FOR UNDERTRIALS

• Case: Ajay Ajit Peter Kerkar v. Directorate of Enforcement (May 16, 2024)

- **Issue:** Applicability of Section 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to PMLA cases.
- Ruling: The Court upheld the application of Section 436A, which entitles undertrials
 to bail if they have been detained for half the maximum period of imprisonment
 for the offense. This provision has been replaced by Section 479 of the Bhartiya
 Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, affecting PMLA cases.
 - o But if the convict has been arrested for more than one offence, then this section will not be applicable.

NEED AND NECESSITY TO ARREST

- Case: Interim bail granted to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal (July 12, 2024)
- Issue: Legality of arrest without establishing the "necessity" under Section 19 of the
 PMLA.
- Ruling: The Court emphasized that the ED must have a high threshold of evidence to justify the arrest. It referred the issue of "need and necessity to arrest" to a five-judge bench for further deliberation.

RELAXATION OF TWIN CONDITIONS

- Case: Bail granted to former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia (August 9, 2024)
- Issue: Relaxation of stringent "twin conditions" for bail under Section 45 of the
 PMLA.
- Ruling: The Court allowed relaxation of the twin conditions (burden of proof and likelihood of re-offending) due to Sisodia's prolonged incarceration (17 months)
 without trial.

BAIL EXCEPTIONS FOR WOMEN

- Case: Bail granted to BRS leader K Kavitha (August 27, 2024)
- Issue: Application of bail exception under Section 45 for women accused under the PMLA.
- Ruling: The Court overruled the Delhi High Court's denial of bail to Kavitha,
 emphasizing that the exception should not be denied based on educational status.

The bench found the lower court's reasoning flawed and affirmed Kavitha's right to bail.

CONFESSION TO ED OFFICERS

- Case: Prem Prakash v. Union of India (2024)
- Issue: Admissibility of confessions made to ED officers under Section 50 of the
 PMLA.
- Ruling: The Court held that confessions made to ED officers do not violate the right
 against self-incrimination under Article 20(3) of the Constitution. However,
 confessions obtained through coercive methods are deemed invalid. The ruling
 highlights the importance of voluntariness in confessions.

GENERAL ANALYSIS

- Rights of the Accused: The Supreme Court has reaffirmed the importance of procedural safeguards for accused individuals under the PMLA. The rulings emphasize that legal protections must be upheld to ensure fairness in the judicial process.
- Impact of Rulings: These decisions reflect a balance between stringent anti-money laundering measures and constitutional rights. They provide significant precedents for future cases and guide lower courts and authorities in implementing PMLA provisions.



MCQs

- 1. Consider the following statements wrt Act East Policy & mark the correct ones:
 - 1. Act East Policy aims at integrating culturally with ASEAN countries.
 - 2. It was launched in 2014.
 - (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Both 1 & 2
 - (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (C)

- 2. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:
 - 1. India & Singapore upgraded their partnership to Strategic Partnership in 2018.
 - 2. The 2024 visit by the Indian PM established a Comprehensive Strategic partnership between India & Singapore.
 - (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Both 1 & 2
 - (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (B)

- 3. Consider the following statements and mark *how many* of them are correct?
 - 1. Singapore manufactures 20% of world's semiconductor chips.
 - 2. The cost of chip manufacturing in Singapore is on the rise.
 - 3. Singapore has a well developed semiconductor chip ecosystem.
 - (A) Only 1 statement is correct.
 - (B) Only 2 statements are correct.
 - (C) All the statements are correct
 - (D) None of the statements are correct

Ans. (B)

- 4. Consider these statements wrt Prevention of Money Laundering Act & mark the correct ones:
 - 1. This law was passed in 2002.
 - 2. Money Laundering is a cognizable & non bailable offence as per the law.
 - Enforcement Directorate was established as per the law to investigate into cases of Money Laundering.
 - (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Only 2 & 3
 - (D) Only 1 & 2

Ans. (D)



- 5. Which of these comprise the twin conditions for bail under PMLA?
 - 1. The accused has to prove innocence.
 - 2. The prospect of not committing the crime again when out on bail.
 - (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Both 1 & 2
 - (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (C)

