

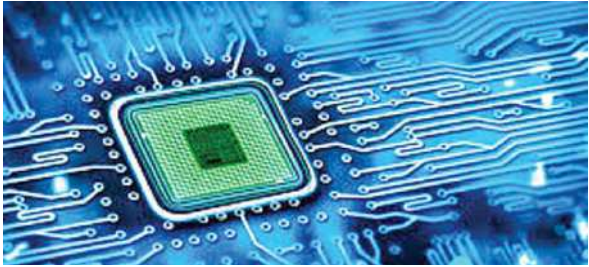
Centre sanctions 24 chip design projects in big push to semicon industry

Semiconductor chip design is main value driver in supply chain, contributing up to 50 per cent of value addition

SEMICON SURGE

- 95 cos received access to industry-grade EDA tools
- Significantly reduces design, infrastructure costs
- DLI-supported projects are scaling rapidly
- End-to-end backing for design, fabrication and production

NEW DELHI



AS many as 24 chip design projects have been sanctioned across areas such as video surveillance, drone detection, energy meters, microprocessors, satellite communications, and broadband and IoT Systems-on-Chip (SoCs) under the Centre's Design Linked Incentive Scheme (DLI) scheme, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

Additionally, 95 companies have received access to industry-grade Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools, significantly reducing design and infrastructure costs for Indian chip design startups.

Semiconductor chip design is the main value driver in the supply chain, contributing up to 50 per cent of value addition and 30-35 per cent of global semiconductor sales via the fabless segment.

DLI-supported projects are scaling rapidly, with 16 tape-outs, 6 ASIC chips, 10 patents, 1,000 engineers engaged, and over 3x private investment having been leveraged, the statement said.

The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with an outlay of Rs76,000 crore. The programme supports investments in semiconductor and display manufacturing as well as the design ecosystem. The DLI Scheme operates under this programme, ensuring end-to-end backing

The Semicon India Programme aims to catalyse a strong, self-reliant chip design ecosystem by providing financial incentives and access to advanced design infrastructure for domestic startups and MSMEs

for design, fabrication and production. C-DAC, a premier R&D organisation of the MeitY, is responsible for the implementation of the DLI Scheme as the nodal agency.

The Semicon India Programme aims to catalyse a strong, self-reliant chip design ecosystem by providing finan-

cial incentives and access to advanced design infrastructure for domestic startups and MSMEs.

The scheme is now driving the transition from design validation to production, enabling start-ups and MSMEs to move toward volume manufacturing, system integration, and market deployment. This evolving ecosystem not only strengthens India's domestic semiconductor capabilities but also positions the country as a credible player in global chip design and innovation, the statement said.

India's semiconductor ecosystem is being strengthened through a coordinated institutional framework that combines policy leadership, investment support, capacity building, and indigenous technology development. The key programmes and agencies provide end-to-end backing -- from incentivising chip design and manufacturing to developing skilled talent and fostering open-source microprocessor architectures -- ensuring India's progression toward a self-reliant and globally competitive semiconductor design ecosystem.

AIG Hospitals launches integrated stroke command centre

**BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD**

The centre is Designed to streamline accelerate stroke management and to cut critical treatment delays

AIG Hospitals in Hyderabad has launched a state-of-the-art Integrated Stroke Command Centre, a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at initiating stroke care from the moment an emergency call is received, significantly cutting down critical delays in diagnosis and treatment.

The facility was inaugurated by Telangana Minister for Information Technology D Sridhar Babu in the presence of senior clinicians, healthcare professionals and AIG Hospitals' leadership recently.

Designed to streamline and accelerate stroke management, the Integrated Stroke Command Centre enables real-time coordination between the emergency call centre, advanced life-support ambulances, radiology services, neuro-intervention teams and hospital command staff. The system allows continuous patient monitoring, live communication, pre-hospital transmission of clinical data, advance patient registration and early activation of stroke protocols -- well before the patient arrives at the hospital.

Speaking at the launch, Dr D Nageshwar Reddy,

Chairman of AIG Hospitals, said the initiative marked the beginning of a broader movement focused on stroke awareness, early recognition and timely intervention. "Stroke outcomes are largely determined by how quickly treatment begins. With this integrated approach, we believe Telangana has the potential to emerge as a national model for stroke prevention and management," he said.

Dr Reddy stressed that structured systems, technology-enabled coordination and public awareness are key to reducing stroke-related mortality and long-term disability across communities.

Congratulating AIG Hospitals on the initiative, Sridhar Babu underscored its relevance for the public healthcare ecosystem. "Medical emergencies like stroke

demand speed, preparedness and seamless coordination. This Command Centre demonstrates how technology and clinical expertise can come together to save lives," he said, encouraging the hospital to share its technical know-how so similar models could be adapted within government healthcare facilities.

He added that such initiatives align with Telangana's broader vision of leveraging technology for meaningful social impact, particularly in healthcare delivery.

Explaining the clinical framework, Dr Chaitanya Koduri, Clinical Lead -- Stroke and Neurointerventions at AIG Hospitals, said the Command Centre aims to eliminate avoidable delays by initiating assessment and decision-making during patient transit.



Ashwini Vaishnav inspects India's 1st Vande Bharat sleeper train

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav, on Saturday visited New Delhi Railway Station to inspect India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train, which is set to transform long-distance overnight rail travel in the country.

During the visit, the Minister closely reviewed the sleeper coaches and examined seating and berthing arrangements, modern interiors, safety features and passenger convenience systems.

He interacted with railway officials and assessed the technical readiness of the train, noting that it is fully prepared for operations.

Special focus has been given to passenger safety, comfort and onboard amenities.

The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train is equipped with advanced features such as automatic doors, the KAVACH safety system, enhanced fire safety mechanisms, disinfectant technology and CCTV surveillance in all coaches.

Elon Musk announces free Starlink services for Venezuela

The Starlink network, which operates through a constellation of low-Earth orbit satellites, is expected to help maintain internet access during a period of political and security uncertainty

NEW DELHI

TESLA and SpaceX chief Elon Musk on Sunday announced that his satellite internet service Starlink will provide free broadband access to the people of Venezuela for one month to ensure uninterrupted connectivity amid the ongoing crisis in the country.

Musk shared the announcement on the social media platform X, saying the move was made "in support of the people of Venezuela."

The Starlink network, which operates through a constellation of low-Earth orbit satellites, is expected to help maintain internet access during a period of political and security uncertainty.



cal and security uncertainty. "Starlink is providing free broadband service to the people of Venezuela through February 3, ensuring continued connectivity," it said in a post on X.

The announcement came shortly after Musk publicly welcomed the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in a US military operation that was sanctioned by US President Donald Trump.

Reacting to the development, Musk said Venezuela could finally move toward prosperity with Maduro no longer in power. He made the comment in Spanish, writing that Venezuela can now have the prosperity it deserves.

Musk's reaction did not come as a surprise, as he has been a long-time and vocal critic of the Maduro government.

Over the past few years, the billionaire has repeatedly called for political change in Venezuela, blaming the country's economic collapse on government policies.

Study suggests basis for compulsive behaviours could be inflammation, not habit loop

NEW DELHI

COMPULSIVE behaviours may not involve a "habit loop" that overrides self-control, but may instead involve inflammation in a brain region known to be important for choosing actions, according to a study in rats, challenging long-held views.

Behaviours in which people repeat a set of actions despite being aware of negative consequences -- such as handwashing or gambling -- are thought to stem from "entrenched habits, so it is difficult for people to break free and take back cognitive control," senior author Laura Bradfield, a behavioural neuroscientist at the University of Technology Sydney in Australia, said.

Ordinarily, habits are useful because they allow us to act on autopilot, such as when we brush our teeth or drive a familiar route, so we can think about other things, Bradfield said.

"However, if we are driving and a child steps onto the road, then we suddenly become aware of our surroundings and focus on what we are doing. This involves taking back conscious control, thinking about possible outcomes and adjusting our behaviour," Bradfield said.

Study warns of growing global threat of brain-eating amoebae in water

They can tolerate high temperatures, strong disinfectants like chlorine, and even live inside water distribution systems that people assume are safe

NEW DELHI

THE free-living amoebae, also known as brain-eating amoebae, are becoming a growing global public health threat, warned a new study.

Climate change, ageing water infrastructure, and gaps in monitoring and detection are making the dangerous group of pathogens lurk freely in water and the environment, warned the team of environmental and public health scientists, in the article published in the journal Biocontaminant.

"What makes these organisms particularly dangerous is their ability to survive conditions that kill many other

microbes," said corresponding author Longfei Shu of Sun Yat sen University, China.

"They can tolerate high temperatures, strong disinfectants like chlorine, and even live inside water distribution systems that people assume are safe," Shu added.

Amoebae are single-celled organisms commonly found in soil and water. While most are harmless, some species can cause devastating infections.

tions. Among the most notorious is Naegleria fowleri, often referred to as the brain-eating amoeba, which can trigger a rare but almost always fatal brain infection after contaminated water enters the nose during activities such as swimming. Naegleria fowleri has also contributed to several deaths in Kerala in the recent years.

The authors also emphasised that amoebae act as hidden carriers for other harmful microbes. By sheltering bacteria and viruses inside their cells, amoebae can protect these pathogens from disinfection and help them persist and spread in drinking water systems.

When regime change becomes a precedent: The Pandora's Box world cannot ignore

It is about precedent and how precedent could influence thinking of other major powers, especially Bharat

THE POLITICA
Nothing political about it

THE recent regime change operation in Venezuela, carried out by the United States, could quietly alter the global security conversation. Not because it was the first such action in history, but because of how openly it was justified, as a matter of national security, executed with patience, intelligence, and precision.

The conversation is not about whether the operation was legal under international law. Nor is it about moral judgment. It is about precedent and how that precedent could influence the thinking of other major powers, especially Bharat, at a time when the global order is already under strain. In geopolitics, what matters is not just what is done, but what others believe they can now do because of it.

simple: We waited. We gathered intelligence. We acted when our security demanded it. That framing is powerful precisely because it is easy to replicate. It does not depend on global approval. It does not rely on international consensus. It rests on one claim alone -- national interest. Once such logic is normalised, it stops being an exception and starts becoming a template.

Why precedent matters more than Intent

The United States may argue that its action was unique and context-specific. But history shows that precedents are rarely controlled by those who create them. Nations do not study intent; they study justification. If one powerful nation can argue that removing a hostile leadership is an act of defence, others will ask why the same logic should not apply to their own security threats. This is where New Delhi comes into play.

Bharat's reality: Security on two fronts

India's security challenges are not theoretical. They are immediate, geographic, and persistent.

straint after major terror attacks, to diplomatic isolation, and then to targeted, intelligence-driven military strikes. Operations such as Sindoor sent a clear message, not just to the Pakistani establishment but also to global powers, that the old doctrine had ended. The message was unmistakable: Bharat would act decisively, and international pressure would no longer be a limiting factor.

Yet, despite this shift, New Delhi stopped short of pursuing regime change through military action, even though the core issue remains unresolved; a hostile establishment whose survival strategy is tied to destabilising Bharat. In this context, the US action introduces a new argument into the equation: if a leadership structure consistently enables threats, removing that structure can be framed as self-defence rather than aggression. This is not an argument Bharat has made publicly. But it now exists in global discourse, whether New Delhi chooses to use it or not.

The Eastern front

On the eastern side, Bharat's concerns are newer but no less sensitive, especially after Dr Muhammad Yunus was installed as Chief Adviser of Bangladesh's interim government on 8 August 2024.

India-Bangladesh relations have long been considered a regional success story. However, under the current caretaker regime, concerns have grown in

The recent US regime-change operation in Venezuela could reshape global thinking on security and power—not through international law or morality, but through precedent. For nations like Bharat, facing threats on multiple fronts, this moment matters and could influence its future security doctrine

Bharat's strategic circles and among the public. These include rising instability along the border, space being created for forces hostile to India's territorial integrity, rhetoric that weakens long-standing security understandings, and a growing number of inhuman incidents of minorities, particularly the Bangladeshi Hindu community.

In such a scenario, an uncomfortable question inevitably arises, even if quietly: when instability next door begins to directly threaten national unity, where does non-interference end and self-preservation begin? The US

action does not answer this question. But it lowers the psychological barrier to asking it.

Bharat's strategic language is changing

Indian leadership has been clear that the world is entering a more interest-driven, transactional phase. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has noted that the world is moving toward a multipolar order and that every nation must protect its interests. He has also pointed out that there cannot be one set of rules for some countries and another for the rest. These are not calls

for aggression. They reflect a growing realism in New Delhi that Bharat will not allow selectively applied norms to constrain its core security interests.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has echoed this thinking, stressing that while India seeks peace, it will respond decisively when provoked. When such statements are read alongside emerging global precedents, the strategic implications are hard to ignore.

Russia and China are reading the same signals

India is not alone in reassessing the landscape. For Russia, the precedent reinforces a long-held argument that security threats near its borders justify decisive action. A US-led regime change makes it easier for Moscow to rationalise its own moves, including actions aimed at leadership outcomes in Ukraine.

For China, the implications are even deeper. Beijing has always framed Taiwan as a core issue tied to national survival. When regime change is normalised as a security response, it strengthens the belief that force can be justified by narrative rather than consensus.

From rules to reasoning

The most dangerous shift is not military -- it is intellectual. The old question was: Is regime change allowed? The new question is: Can we justify it convincingly enough? Once justification replaces legality as the main test,

instability becomes built into the system. One country's security logic becomes another country's threat.

Bharat at a strategic crossroads

As a rising power, Bharat benefits from stability, predictability, and respect for sovereignty. But as a nation facing real and persistent threats, it cannot ignore evolving global norms, especially when those norms are being rewritten by the most powerful players. The US operation may not force New Delhi to act. But it has expanded the range of arguments that can be made, at home and abroad. That alone makes this moment significant.

A Pandora's Box that will not close easily

Pandora's box, once opened, rarely shuts cleanly. If regime change becomes a widely accepted security tool, borders become more fragile, leadership transitions turn into strategic objectives, and regional tensions risk becoming global flashpoints. The world may not descend into immediate chaos. But it will become a place where force is justified more quickly, and restraint is questioned more often.

For Bharat and for the world, the challenge is no longer whether this precedent exists. It does now!

The real question is how and when will responsible nations choose to use the new doctrine?

(The author is Founder of My Startup TV)