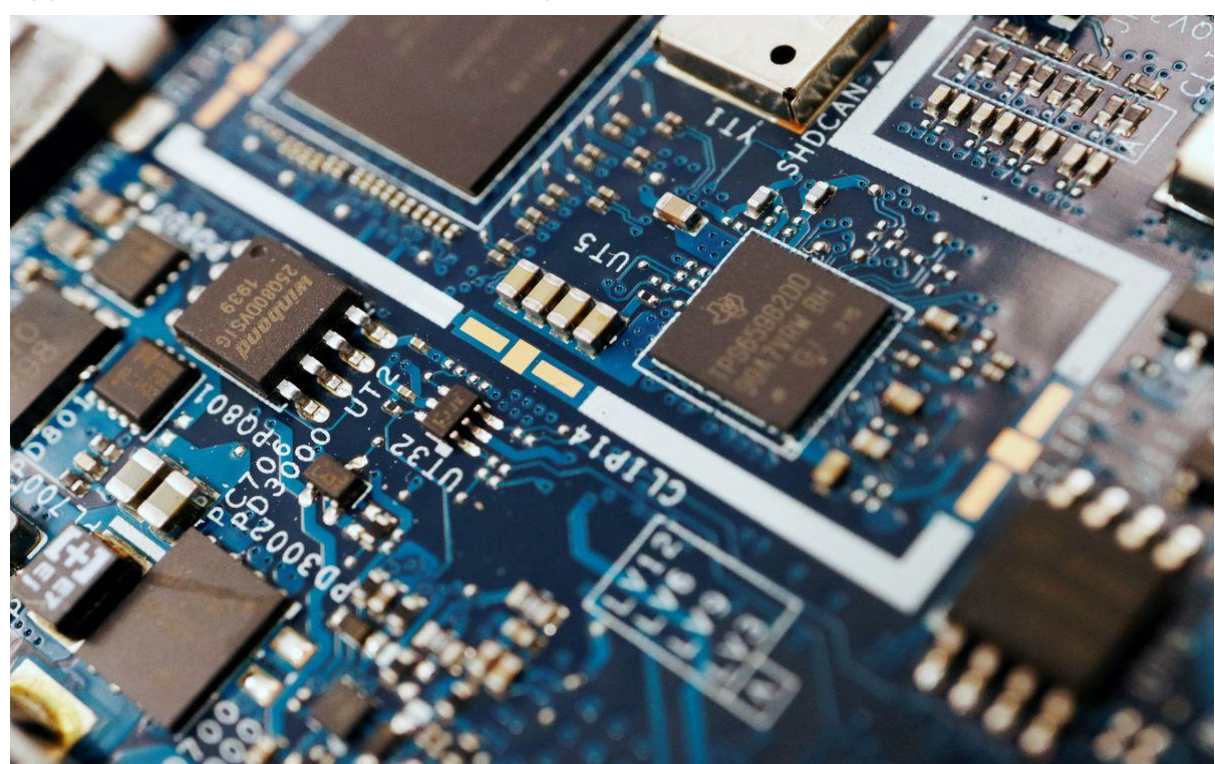




Current Affairs of the Day

Ukraine halts half of the world's neon output for chips, clouding the outlook

Ukraine's two leading suppliers of neon, which produce about half the world's supply of the key ingredient for making chips, have halted their operations as Moscow has sharpened its attack on the country, threatening to raise prices and aggravate the semiconductor shortage.



Neon for Semiconductor Chips:

1. Some 45%-54% of the world's semiconductor grade neon, critical for the lasers used to make chips, comes from two Ukrainian companies, Ingas and Cryoin, according to Reuters calculations.
2. The stoppage casts a cloud over the worldwide output of chips, already in short supply after the pandemic drove up demand for cell phones, laptops and later cars, forcing some firms to scale back production.



Govt looks to appoint industry professionals, experts as professors



In a move aimed at reforming the recruitment norms for central universities, the government is considering bringing in a provision for the appointment of professionals and industry experts as 'professors and associate professors of practice'.

NEP 2020: Lateral entry

1. The provision will be made a part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation, which advocates bringing diversity to the university education system. The University Grants Commission (UGC) will constitute an expert committee to revise the existing regulations.



2. Under the NEP, there is a great emphasis on educational institutions collaborating with the industry. From the industry side also, a lot of people want to contribute to the education field.
3. As per the current norms, it is mandatory to have a PhD for an appointment at the posts of associate professors and professors. Soon, a PhD will also become mandatory for the position of assistant professor — an entry-level post at universities or colleges.
4. Most of these industry experts, including a great media person, an entrepreneur, a diplomat or a banker, don't have PhD degrees but they have a thorough knowledge and excellent experience.
5. If we keep that mandatory PhD requirement, there is no way of bringing such diversity into university education. Therefore, we are considering revising our current regulations and introducing new positions which will be known as professors of practice and associate professors of practice.

<p>MAINS DAWP</p>	<p>Q1. Critically discuss the need to abandon ambitious nuclear energy goals of India in favour of renewable energy.</p> <p>Q2. “The modern world is not possible without semiconductors”. Comment</p> <p>Q3. Discuss salient features of India's three-stage nuclear policy.</p>
<p>MCQs</p>	<p>Q1. Which of the following materials are used in the manufacturing of semiconductor chips?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neon 2. Cobalt 3. Silicon <p>Select the correct answer from the codes given below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1 and 2 only b. 2 and 3 only c. 2 only d. 1, 2 and 3