

EWS reservation does not guarantee fee concession In private colleges: SC



New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea challenging the Economic Weaker Sections (EWS) criteria in the context of admissions to private medical colleges, refusing to accept the contention that the annual income ceiling of Rs 8 lakh for EWS candidates becomes meaningless when private medical colleges charge tuition fees running into lakhs of rupees.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi declined to interfere with a Rajasthan High Court judgment that had rejected the challenge mounted by Rajasthan domicile candidate Harshvardhan Singh, who had argued that the fee structure of private medical colleges effectively rendered EWS reservation illusory for economically weaker students. During the hearing, the Justice Nagarathna-led Bench orally observed that self-financing private institutions could not be compelled to charge fees at par with government medical colleges merely because seats are reserved for EWS candidates.

The apex court highlighted the distinction between government and private educational institutions, remarking that government colleges receive financial support from the public ex-

chequer while private colleges operate on a self-financing model. "These are self-financing institutes. For government ones, they get grants from the State. There is a vital difference," the Justice Nagarathna-led Bench said.

It further said that while private colleges cannot charge regular tuition fees fixed under the applicable regulatory framework.

When the petitioner argued that EWS candidates from families earning less than Rs 8 lakh annually could not realistically afford annual tuition fees ranging between Rs 18 lakh and Rs 25 lakh in private medical colleges, the top court suggested that financial assistance mechanisms were available. "If you are unable to pay, get a scholarship," the Justice Nagarathna-led Bench said. The special leave petition (SLP) arose from a Rajasthan High Court judgment delivered in May this year.

The petitioner, an EWS candidate who appeared in NEET-UG 2025, had contended that private medical colleges in Rajasthan were charging tuition fees between Rs 18.90 lakh and Rs 25 lakh per annum despite the EWS income ceiling being fixed at Rs 8 lakh annually.

CM Revanth warns Congress leaders against neglecting SIR process

Hyderabad, June 24 (GNS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday warned Congress leaders against treating the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll casually. Revanth Reddy warned that the party would not tolerate negligence in a crucial exercise like SIR to safeguard the voting rights of genuine electors. He directed ministers, MLAs, MPs and constituency in-charges to be extra vigilant during the SIR process, which begins on Thursday, across Telangana.

Addressing a Zoom conference attended by TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, AICC Telangana in-

charge Meenakshi Natarajan, the Chief Minister expressed serious displeasure over reports that some leaders were not taking the SIR exercise seriously in their respective constituencies. He said he already received district-wise reports on SIR awareness meetings and warned that the party would not remain a silent spectator if such negligence caused damage to the Congress. He also called upon Congress sarpanches to conduct extensive awareness campaigns in villages and educate people about the importance of the voter verification exercise. He said the party had complete



information about participation levels in district-wise awareness meetings and cautioned leaders against creating a situation where disciplinary action would become necessary.

Revanth Reddy cautioned that any lapse in the voter

amount to injustice to vulnerable sections of society.

The Chief Minister warned leaders to improve their performance within the next 10 days or face action. He said the party was closely monitoring the performance of MLAs and would appoint new in-charges in constituencies where MLAs failed to work effectively. He also made it clear that in-charge ministers would not be spared and could be replaced if they failed to implement party directives or acted against the party's interests. Revanth Reddy said all leaders must strictly adhere to party instructions and warned that those who

ignored the party's decisions on SIR would not be forgiven. Expressing concern over reports of possible deletion of genuine voters' names from electoral rolls, the Chief Minister instructed party leaders to organise more awareness programmes across the state and entrusted in-charge ministers with greater responsibility for ensuring the success of the campaign. He stressed that protecting the voting rights of the poor was critical and warned that if poor people lost their votes, they would lose welfare schemes, ration cards, Aadhar cards and official documentation could also be adversely affected.

VB-G Ram G scheme set to start July 1



New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): A high-level inter-Ministerial consultation on the Draft Convergence Framework under the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, was convened here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Rohit Kansal, Union Rural Development department Secretary.

Representatives and nodal officers from 18 Ministries and Departments of the Union government participated in the consultation. The consultation forms part of the preparatory activities being undertaken ahead of the commencement of the VB-G RAM G Act on July 1. The meeting focused on operationalising the Act's vision of a whole-of-government approach to rural development through decentralised, Panchayati Raj Institution-led planning and convergence, according to an official statement. The Framework envisages a bottom-up planning architecture in which development priorities identified by Gram Sabhas are aggregated through Panchayati Raj Institutions and aligned with sectoral programmes of different Ministries and Departments. The approach aims to ensure that public investments converge around locally identified priorities, resulting in more effective and sustainable development outcomes. To facilitate the operationalisation of the scheme from July 1, the Department has notified an interim list of 318 permissible works covering natural resource management, irrigation, rural connectivity, community infrastructure, livelihood-supporting assets, climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

India Slams Pakistan, Calls for UNSC Reform

New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): India has called for a review of outdated United Nations Security Council (UNSC) mandates, arguing that mediation frameworks adopted under Chapter VI of the UN Charter cannot be treated as having perpetual validity, while sharply criticising Pakistan for politicising a UN forum by raising the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing an Arria-formula meeting on "Bridging the Implementation Gap: UNSC Resolutions and



Maintenance of International Peace and Security", India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, high-

lighted the distinct nature of Chapters VI and VII of the UN Charter and their differing applicability in maintaining international peace and security.

Harish said Chapter VII interventions involve concrete actions to address threats to peace, breaches of peace and acts of aggression, and are aimed at restoring or maintaining international peace and security. Their non-implementation, he noted, could lead to an immediate deterioration

in the security situation and other serious consequences.

In contrast, Chapter VI provides a range of peaceful means—including negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation and arbitration—to deal with disputes whose continuation may endanger international peace and security. Such interventions, Harish said, are designed to address prevailing realities and therefore warrant review in accordance with changing circumstances and contexts.

"Every Indian is special. Every Indian is a VIP"- VP

New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today released the book "VIP Culture in India: Power, Privilege and the Distance from Democracy" at Uppashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, and said that the subject explored by its authors, former Rajya Sabha Member from Arunachal Pradesh Shri Nabam Rebia and co-author Shri Sandeep Kumar, touches the very core of democratic governance and public life in India.

The Vice President said that the Constitution envi-



sions a society based on justice, equality, liberty and fraternity. He emphasized that the essence of democracy lies in the relationship between citizens and those entrusted with public authority, adding that democracy flourishes when public of-

ice is viewed as a responsibility rather than a privilege.

Quoting the great Tamil saint-poet Thiruvalluvar, the Vice-President observed that true leadership is characterized by accessibility, compassion and accountability. He stated that leaders who remain approachable and respectful towards the people earn enduring trust and admiration.

Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan said the themes explored in the book resonate with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of public office as a means of service

rather than privilege. Referring to the Prime Minister's decision to abolish red beacons lights for dignitaries and his recent gesture of delaying his departure to ensure NEET aspirants were not inconvenienced by traffic restrictions, the Vice-President said such actions exemplify citizen-centric governance and reinforce the principle that public authority exists to serve citizens. Recalling the Prime Minister's words, he said, "Every Indian is special. Every Indian is a VIP." He added that "Seva is the ultimate Dharma."

MP: Land row intensifies as Congress demands SC judge probe into Ujjain trust deal

New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): The political controversy surrounding alleged land transactions linked to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and his family members deepened on Wednesday, with the Congress escalating its attack by demanding a judicial probe under a sitting Supreme Court judge into what it described as a "massive land grab" in Ujjain.

At a press conference in New Delhi, Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari alleged that government land worth nearly Rs 500 crore had been allotted to a trust headed by Shri Ram, cultural advisor to Chief Minister Yadav, for a



token amount of Rs 1.

Calling the transaction suspicious, he demanded that the state government explain the circumstances under which such land was transferred. "Government land worth around Rs 500 crore was handed over for Rs 1 to a trust headed by the Chief Minister's cultural advisor. The government must

tell the people of Madhya Pradesh why such a decision was taken and who stands to benefit from it," Patwari said, adding that the issue was part of a larger pattern of questionable land-related decisions.

The fresh allegations follow earlier claims by the Congress that Yadav and his family members had

purchased nearly 168 acres of land in and around Ujjain after he became Chief Minister, including about 111 acres in areas linked to future Simhastha Kumbh preparations.

The opposition has also alleged that some of these acquisitions were made in locations likely to benefit from development projects proposed under Ujjain's Master Plan-2035. Congress spokesperson and Chairman of the AICC Media and Publicity Department Pawan Khera joined Patwari in accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of shielding the transactions.

Trump unveils strategy to shield US from threats

Washington, June 24 (GNS): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday unveiled a new national resilience strategy aimed at ensuring that no adversary, crisis or disruption can threaten America's core interests, placing national security, supply chains, infrastructure and technology at the centre of a broad government overhaul.

The strategy, released by the White House, sets a national goal that "no adversary or hazard should be able to hold America or our core interests at risk" and seeks to strengthen the country's ability to withstand security threats, economic shocks and public health emergencies and infrastructure failures.

The document describes resilience as a strategic capability that promotes prosperity, deters adversaries and preserves US freedom of action during crises. "From the moment I returned to office last year, I made a solemn vow to our Nation and the world that on my watch, no adversary or danger should be able to hold America at risk," Trump wrote in a message accompanying the strategy. "My National Resilience Strategy ensures this vital mission will endure for generations to come," he said. The plan outlines four guiding principles prioritise, modernise, distribute and simplify that will be applied across four key sectors.

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BUS FACILITY AVAILABLE

China's unbeatable new export is a process, not a product

Jeffrey Wu

The Chinese "cannot be allowed to export their way back to prosperity," argues US Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent, who claims that China's economy is the "most unbalanced in history." Such remarks reflect the growing fear in Washington that China's overcapacity, subsidies and dumping are distorting global trade.

The more pressing concern, however, is not what China exports, but how. Global cost structures are indeed being reshaped, but by a quieter and more complex force: relentless productivity improvements. China is not merely moving more goods, it is exporting a new production model powered by automation, artificial intelligence and state-guided industrial optimization. This shift is disruptive, deflationary and still largely misunderstood.

China's rise as the world's factory in the late 20th century was driven by labor and scale. But now, China aims to achieve a new form of dominance through intelligent infrastructure. No longer confined to apps or chatbots, AI has been embedded across the physical economy — guiding everything from robotic arms and warehouse fleets to autonomous production lines. For example, Xiaomi's "lights-out" factory in Beijing can assemble 10 million smartphones annually with minimal human intervention.



AI conducts a symphony of sensors, machines and analytics that form a tightly woven industrial loop, driving efficiencies that traditional manufacturers can approach only incrementally.

Nor is this technology-driven ecosystem confined to a single factory. DeepSeek's 671 billion-parameter open-source large language model is already being deployed not just for coding but also to optimize logistics and manufacturing. JD.com is revamping its supply networks through automation. Unitree is exporting bipedal warehouse robots. And Foxconn (Apple's primary manufacturing partner) is developing modular, AI-led microfactories to reduce its dependence on static production lines.

These examples may not represent "prestige innovation," but they do attest to a broad culture of industrial optimization. Under the banner of "new quality productive forces," the Chinese government is rolling out AI

pilot zones and subsidizing factory retrofits. Cities like Hefei and Chengdu are also offering local grants that rival the scale of national initiatives elsewhere.

The strategy echoes the one pursued by Japanese industry in the 1980s, when automation, lean production and industrial consolidation helped firms out-compete global rivals. But the Chinese approach goes further, blending AI with economies of scale, feedback loops and a unique cultural dynamic known as "neijuan" (involution): a self-perpetuating race to optimize and out-compete, often at the expense of profit margins. BYD, among the most vertically integrated automakers globally, recently cut prices across dozens of models, triggering a \$20 billion stock selloff.

In sectors from e-commerce to electric vehicles, this practice has driven such relentless cost compression that the state has occasionally seen fit to intervene.

In April, the People's Daily newspaper warned that extreme involution was distorting market stability, citing a destructive price war in food delivery between JD.com, Meituan and Ele.me. And the problem is even more acute in the EV industry. While more than 100 Chinese EV brands currently compete, more than 400 have gone out of business since 2018.

The arena of global competitiveness is unforgiving. Those who survive emerge leaner, more adaptive and better positioned than their legacy counterparts. That is how successful Chinese EV makers have managed to edge into Europe, offering models at price points that local firms struggle to match. Viewed from afar, the process looks chaotic. In practice, though, it resembles natural selection. China is deliberately promoting industrial evolution: the state fosters a wide field of contenders and then lets the market winnow the

field. This approach is rippling across industries. In solar panels, Chinese manufacturers now account for more than 80 percent of global production capacity, driving prices down more than 70 percent over the past decade. And a similar trend is emerging in EV batteries, where Chinese firms dominate the cost-per-kilowatt curve. But make no mistake: this deflation does not stem from oversupply or dumping. It reflects re-designed cost structures, which are the result of AI, intense competition and relentless iteration. Thus, Chinese industry has made efficiency a tradable asset — one that is reshaping global pricing dynamics. Once this shift really takes hold, businesses around the world will find themselves adjusting their own pricing strategies, labor deployment and supply chain configurations.

But this development presents new challenges for many economies. Consider the role of central banks, whose mission is to ensure price stability. What can they do if inflation is subdued not by weak demand, but by superior supply-side efficiency coming from abroad? Most likely, monetary policy will lose traction in such a scenario. The march of software advances will not slow just because interest rates rise or fall. Instead, industrial policy will have to come to the fore not as protectionism, but as an adaptive necessity.

The Levant swings between dreams and deals

The talk of a new Middle Eastern "deal" we have been hearing over the past few days is jarring. The agreement reportedly being cooked up sees Syria cede the Golan Heights to Israel in return for the Lebanese city of Tripoli. The official reactions of Lebanese parties, of course, mixed outrage and condemnation. However, those who understand the intentions they hold behind the scenes and see the implications of Benjamin Netanyahu shaping Washington's vision and approach to the Middle East will address this development with the seriousness it deserves. Moreover, this apparent deal was leaked as Israel tightened its control over Iran's airspace and expanded its list of targets inside Iran. Not only that, but it also coincided with the tacit alignment of Washington, Tel Aviv and Ankara's visions regarding all regional crises, from the Kurdish question to what remains of the Palestinian struggle. Some observers now believe that the Washington-Tel Aviv axis has new priorities with regard to the sectarian dynamics of the Levant, at least temporarily, following the transition from Barack Obama and Joe Biden to Donald Trump. The irony, however, is this same American (Republican) and Israeli (Likud) right had originally bet on "political Shiism" in the region during the buildup to the invasion of Iraq.

Back then, it was the American neoconservatives, working closely alongside the Israeli right, that steered George W. Bush's presidency via his White House advisers and Pentagon officials. At the time, the US was also trying to overcome a trauma, that of 9/11. The neoconservatives exploited this catastrophe to occupy Iraq, which was eventually handed over to Iran. The leader of the Coalition Provisional Authority that oversaw Iraq's transition, Paul Bremer, even boasted that his administration had "ended a thousand years of Sunni rule" in Iraq.

As the saying goes, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since 2003. To begin with, despite the Democrats' sympathy for the so-called Arab Spring in several Arab countries, they and the Israeli leadership refrained from supporting the Syrian uprising against Bashar Assad's regime. Later, they effectively turned a blind eye to Iran's military intervention to rescue the Syrian regime.

Moreover, the Democratic leadership was keen on ensuring the success of the nuclear deal it had signed with Iran after the Muscat negotiations. As a result of this deal, and the policies pursued by the Obama and Biden administrations, Tehran felt empowered to move freely across the region. In contrast, Netanyahu and his Likud allies never forgot their apprehensions about Iran's role in the Arab arena and continued to seek containment. However, it is clear that Israel has been the biggest beneficiary of Iran's role in the region. It was happy to see Iran become a "bogyman" that frightened Arab states and compelled them to rush toward normalization with Tel Aviv in pursuit of protection. Moreover, Israel has never truly been concerned by the bombastic rhetoric of the so-called resistance regimes and parties, so long as its borders remained secure ... and the possibility of expanding them remained available. Still, in one way or another, the events of Oct. 7, 2023 (the Al-Aqsa Flood operation launched from the Gaza Strip), was a replay of 9/11.

That day undoubtedly marked a turning point for regional alliances, leading to a shift in priorities. Without minimizing the tragedy in Gaza, the most dangerous aspect of Israel's political response was Netanyahu's stated intention to "reshape the Middle East." In Trump, Netanyahu found his long-sought prize. Trump is an ideal partner in drawing this map over the rubble of political entities that never meant anything to either of them, and at the expense of peoples who have never factored into their political calculations.

Indeed, the future of Palestine has rarely seemed as bleak and hopeless since 1948. As for Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, whose borders were drawn by the Sykes-Picot Agreement (which completed what the Balfour Declaration had begun), they may now need to brace for a world in which Türkiye is the region's second power, behind Israel. Lebanon's most sectarian non-Sunni hard-liners likely would not object, in my view, to ceding more than half of the Sunni population and giving up Tripoli (and Akkar and Dinniyeh), if Washington and Tel Aviv guaranteed "privileges" for the Christians and Shiites. In fact, many Lebanese Christians have lost hope in the very idea of "Greater Lebanon," which was born in 1920 and saw Tripoli and other areas added to the country. And many Shiite extremists would be happy to secure a demographic majority by reducing the number of Sunnis in the country. As for Syria, the Sunni majority seems well placed to strengthen its position and to address the fears of the Alawite, Christian, Druze and Kurdish minorities through a deal between the US and Türkiye. Moreover, it is worth keeping an eye on the Syrian-Iraqi border amid the radical shifts and consequential negotiations underway in the Kurdish arena. So, one wonders: will dreams align with the fine print of the deals? Or are we back to the mess of trial and error?

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5 immutable steps to enduring AI adoption

Edgar Perez

The relentless drumbeat of artificial intelligence adoption echoes through the AI Workshops I run worldwide. Executives, envisioning a revolutionary future powered by algorithms and neural networks, are fervently pushing for its implementation. Yet, a significant chasm exists between this top-down enthusiasm and the ground-level reality experienced by workers. This tension underscores a critical truth: AI's transformative potential remains dormant unless it is embraced by the very employees who will interact with and be impacted by it.

The challenges are multifaceted, ranging from data complexities to integration hurdles. Ultimately, the linchpin for successful AI adoption lies in the unwavering leadership of the CEO. But when will these leaders truly champion the AI cause? When they are convinced that AI is not merely a technological novelty but a potent catalyst for achieving tangible business goals and objectives. Amid the fervent discourse and the inherent skepticism, a fundamental question emerges: How can organizations move beyond the superficial adoption of AI to achieve its deep and lasting integration? The answer lies not in forceful imposition but in a carefully orchestrated journey, guided by a set of immutable principles that address both the strategic imperatives of the C-suite and the practical realities



faced by the employee base.

These five steps, when executed with foresight and commitment, pave the way for a future where AI is not just a tool, but an intrinsic part of the organizational fabric, driving innovation, efficiency, and sustainable growth. The first, and arguably most crucial, step in the journey toward long-term AI adoption is the articulation of a clear, purpose-driven AI vision that is inextricably linked to the organization's core business objectives. This was never about chasing the latest technological trends or implementing AI for its own sake. Instead, it necessitates a deep understanding of the organization's strategic priorities, its pain points, and its aspirations for the future. A vague mandate to "adopt AI" is a recipe for confusion, resistance, and ultimately, failure. Employees need to understand why AI is being introduced, what problems it is intended to solve, and how it will contribute to the overall success of the company.

This requires a collaborative effort, involving not just the executive team but also representatives from various departments and levels within the organization. The process should begin with a thorough assessment of the business. What are the opportunities for growth and innovation? What are the key challenges the organization faces? Where are the bottlenecks in current processes?

Once these areas are identified, the focus should shift to exploring how AI (and technology in general) can provide tangible solutions and drive measurable impact, where possible. For instance, a retail company aiming to enhance customer satisfaction might identify long wait times at checkout as a significant pain point. Their AI vision could then center around leveraging computer vision and predictive analytics to optimize checkout processes, reduce waiting times, and personalize the customer experience.

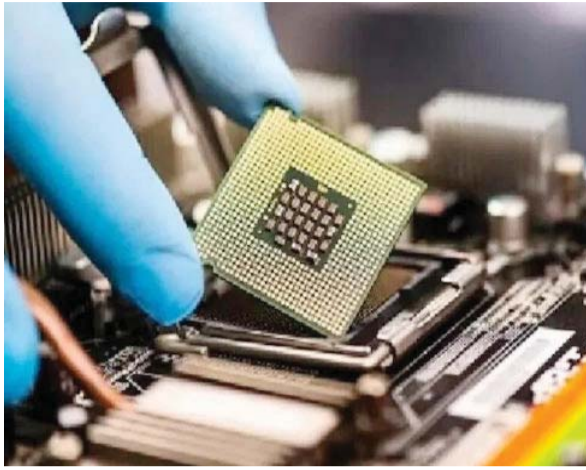
This clearly defined purpose, improving customer satisfaction, provides a compelling rationale for AI adoption that resonates with employees across the organization. Similarly, a manufacturing firm struggling with quality control issues might envision an AI-powered system that uses machine learning to analyze production line data in real-time, identifying anomalies and predicting potential defects before they occur. The business objective here is clear: to improve product quality, reduce waste, and enhance operational efficiency.

One theme I address in virtually all my keynotes is the crucial need to move beyond the abstract and translate AI's potential into concrete, relatable benefits that align with the organization's business strategy. This should be clearly communicated, consistently reinforced, and actively championed by the CEO, setting the tone for the entire organization. Without

this foundational clarity, AI initiatives risk becoming isolated experiments, lacking the strategic coherence necessary for long-term integration. Once a clear AI vision is established, it's no time for executives to rest on their laurels. The next immutable step is to cultivate an organizational culture that embraces experimentation, prioritizes continuous learning, and fosters open communication around AI initiatives.

As I continuously stress during my AI Workshops, the adoption of AI is not a linear process; it involves exploration, trial and error, and the inevitable need to adapt and refine strategies along the way. A culture of experimentation encourages employees to explore the potential of AI in their respective domains, to propose innovative use cases, and to test new tools and approaches. This requires creating a safe space where failure is seen not as a setback but as a valuable learning opportunity.

Cabinet okays 4 manufacturing units with Rs 4,600 crore outlay



New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved four more semiconductor projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) with an outlay of Rs 4,600 crore. The four proposals approved are from SiCsem, Continental Device India Private Limited (CDIL), 3D Glass Solutions Inc., and Advanced System in Package (ASIP) Technologies. With these, the total approved projects under the ISM have reached 10, with cumulative investments of around Rs 1.60 lakh crore in six states. "These four approved proposals will set up semiconductor manufacturing facilities with a cumulative investment of around Rs 4,600 crore and are expected to generate a cumulative employment for 2,034 skilled professionals, which would catalyse the electronic manufacturing ecosystem, resulting in the creation of many indirect jobs," a Cabinet communique said.

SiCsem and 3D Glass will be set up in Odisha. CDIL is located in Punjab, and ASIP will be set up in Andhra Pradesh. SiCsem Private Limited is collaborating with Clas-SiC Wafer Fab Ltd., UK, to establish an integrated facility of silicon carbide-based Compound Semiconductors in Info Valley, Bhubaneswar.

This will be the first commercial compound fab in the country. The project proposes to manufacture silicon carbide devices. This compound semiconductor fab will have an annual capacity of 60,000 wafers and

a packaging capacity of 96 million units. The proposed products will have applications in missiles, defence equipment, electric vehicles (EVs), railways, fast chargers, data centre racks, consumer appliances, and solar power inverters, the Cabinet note said.

3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS) will set up a vertically integrated advanced packaging and embedded glass substrate unit in Odisha. This unit will bring the world's most advanced packaging technology to India. The facility will have a large variety of advanced technologies, including glass interposers with passives and silicon bridges, and 3D heterogeneous integration (3DHI) modules. Planned capacity of this unit will be approximately 69,600 glass panel substrates, 50 million assembled units, and 13,200 3DHI modules per annum.

The proposed products will have significant applications in defence, high-performance computing, artificial intelligence, RF and automotive, photonics and co-packaged optics, etc. According to the Cabinet, the Advanced System in Package Technologies (ASIP) will set up a semiconductor manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh, under a technology tie-up with AFACT Co. Ltd, South Korea, with an annual capacity of 96 million units. The manufactured products will find applications in mobile phones, set-top boxes, automobile applications, and other electronic products.

Continental Device (CDIL) will expand its dis-

India's CPI inflation plunges to 8-year low of 1.55 pc

New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): India's inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased further to 1.55 per cent in July this year, compared to the same month of the previous year, as prices of food declined during the month. This is the lowest level of year-on-year retail inflation since June 2017, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Statistics.

The retail inflation in July was also lower by 55 basis points than the 2.1 per cent for the previous month of June this year which was the lowest level of retail inflation since January, 2019.

Food inflation in July this year fell into the negative zone at -1.76 per cent as prices declined compared to the same month of the previous year. There was also a decline of 75 basis points in food inflation in July, in comparison to June. This is the lowest level of food inflation since Janu-



ary 2019. The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during July, 2025 is mainly attributed to favourable base effect and to decline in inflation of pulses, vegetables, cereals, egg and sugar.

The inflation rate also fell due to the decline in cost of transport and communication and education. Besides, there was a mild drop in housing inflation during the month. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank (RBI) has pegged India's CPI inflation at 3.1 per cent for 2025-26

as the steady progress of the monsoon and robust kharif sowing are expected to keep food prices in check.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra recently said, "The inflation outlook for 2025-26 has become more benign than expected in June. Large favourable base effects combined with steady progress of the southwest monsoon, healthy kharif sowing, adequate reservoir levels and comfortable buffer stocks of foodgrains have contributed to this moderation."

RBI Guidelines for Multilingual Service, Faster Grievance Redressal

New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): The Reserve Bank of India has, from time to time, underscored the importance of clear and accessible communication between banks and their customers, stressing the need to use the customer's preferred language, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

"RBI's Master Circular on Customer Service in Banks states, inter alia, that all customer-facing materials at the branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks must be made available in Hindi, English, and the concerned regional language," Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State for Finance, said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Reinforcing this requirement, the RBI, through a letter on September 30, 2024, reiterated that all customer communications must invariably be issued in a trilingual format — Hindi, English, and the



relevant regional language to ensure transparency, clarity, and convenience for all, the Minister said further. According to the minister, all banks have a robust board-approved grievance redressal mechanism in place to address complaints. "Further, the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2021, provides a cost-free platform for redressal of complaints against RBI-regulated entities (REs) in matters relating to deficiency in service, if the grievance is not redressed or reply is not given by the RE within the prescribed

timeline," Chaudhary said. The government, through the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal, has had a feedback call centre since June 2022, to assess citizen satisfaction after grievance disposal, and the feedback data gets forwarded to the banks concerned for appropriate action, the Minister informed. Further, RBI's toll-free Contact Centre (14448), operational since November 2021, provides information on the grievance redressal mechanism, assistance in filing complaints, and updates on existing cases.

Finance Ministry issues corrigendum to Income Tax Bill on advance tax interest

New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): The Finance Ministry has issued a corrigendum to the Income Tax Bill, 2025, clarifying the interest applicable on short payment of advance tax. The amendment specifies a 3 per cent interest rate on such shortfalls, bringing the clause in line with provisions under the Income Tax Act, 1961. The amendment specifies a 3 per cent interest rate on such shortfalls, bringing the clause in line with provisions under the existing act.

Under current rules, taxpayers with an annual tax liability of Rs 10,000 or more are required to pay advance tax in four instalments — on June 15, September 15, December 15, and March 15.

If a shortfall in payment occurs, even by a single day beyond the quarterly due date, interest is levied for a minimum period of three months. The Income Tax Bill, 2025 — passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday — is set to replace the 60-year-old



income tax law, with a focus on simplification through fewer chapters and reduced wordage. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the revised bill in the house on Monday, following the government's decision to withdraw the earlier draft presented on February 13 this year. To avoid confusion caused by multiple iterations, that version was withdrawn on August 8 after being sent to a Parliamentary Select Committee for review. All of the authorised changes are combined into a single updated text in the revised bill. Most of the 285 suggestions

made by the Select Committee, which was presided over by BJP MP Bajjayant Panda, are included in the updated draft. The key features of the Income Tax Bill, 2025 include the following: Companies that have chosen the new regime can also take advantage of deductions under Section 80M of the 1961 Act (Clause 148 of the IT Bill, 2025). Clause 93 of the 2025 bill provides deductions for family member gratuities and commuted pensions.

Section 206 divides the provisions of the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) and the Alternate Minimum Tax

(AMT) into two sub-sections. The AMT provisions only apply to non-corporations that have made deduction claims. LLPs with only capital gains income are not subject to AMT if there is no claim for a deduction. In clause 187, the word "profession" has been added after "business" to allow professionals who earn more than Rs 50 crore annually to use the designated electronic payment methods. With the removal of Clause 263(1)(ix), flexibility has been granted to allow refund claims in situations where the return is not filed promptly.

Make in India booster: OnePlus to manufacture premium tablets in country

New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): In a boost for the 'Make in India' initiative, global technology brand OnePlus on Tuesday announced a collaboration with domestic electronic firm Bhagwati Products Ltd (BPL) to manufacture premium tablets. This strategic partnership aligns with OnePlus' long-term vision for India and its recent 'Project Starlight' initiative aimed at deepening local integration. "As part of these efforts, OnePlus is ramping up its local manufacturing operations. In addition to producing smartphones in India, the company has begun manufacturing its tablet products at M/s BPL's facility based in Greater Noida," the company said in a statement.

Robin Liu, CEO, OnePlus India said, "By localising tablet production, we are reinforcing our commitment to India and creating meaningful value for our user community. This partnership re-

flects our long-term vision to innovate for India, invest in India, and grow with India."

The collaboration is a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make India a global technology hub and the country's growing competitiveness in the international market.

Alongside China and Vietnam, India is now a major player in global electronics manufacturing, with companies shifting production to diversify supply chains. Vikas Jain, Co-Founder, Bhagwati Products Limited, said, "This milestone not only marks the addition of OnePlus to our customer portfolio but also the introduction of a new form factor to our manufacturing expertise at our Greater Noida facility."

India now has 300 mobile manufacturing units, up from two in 2014. In FY14, 26 per cent of mobile phones sold in India were locally made, which has surged to 99.2 per cent.

Indian pharma sector will not suffer any loss due to Trump tariff: Former ICMR chief

New Delhi, June 24 (GNS): The Indian pharma sector, which supplies 80 per cent of the world's generic medicines, will not suffer any loss due to tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, the ICMR's former Director General, Dr N.K. Ganguly said. The former Indian Council for Medical Research's (ICMR) remarks came amid concerns over the escalation of tariffs to 50 per cent on Indian goods by Trump. "If any country in the world increases tariffs, it does not benefit them because the loss is suffered by that country only. India is a country that provides medicines at cheap rates and also exports them," Ganguly told. The noted microbiologist said that whether it is Europe or North America, the prices of drugs are very high in foreign countries.

And they do not make generic drugs because it requires manpower, a factory, etc., which are very ex-



pensive. In such a situation, generic drugs are imported from other countries.

"As a result, India will not suffer any loss due to this (US) tariff. The loss will be to those who have imposed this tariff because India is a country that provides medicines at the cheapest rates, and the maximum number of drugs are manufactured there," Ganguly told IANS.

India has also reduced the tariff on life-saving drugs, which are manufactured in India, so that the countries

that need them can easily procure them.

Thus, "the country that has increased the tariff will suffer losses to its people because they will get medicines at higher rates", the former ICMR chief said.

While the initial duty of 25 per cent on export of Indian goods to the US came into effect from August 7, the additional levy will become effective from August 27.

Higher tariffs will make Indian goods, such as shrimps, organic chemicals,

carpets, apparel (both knitted and woven), among others, costly in the US market.

Ganguly said that the prices of drugs are low in India as the country follows a pricing policy for drug manufacturing. "Many schemes are also run by the government, due to which people get medicines at cheaper rates. Apart from this, medicines are also available at cheaper rates at the government-run pharmacy under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana," the expert noted.

SEBI took action against 89 market manipulators in FY25 with advanced tech

Mumbai, June 24 (GNS): Markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on Tuesday revealed that it conducted search and seizure operations involving 89 entities at 71 locations covering 18 cities across the country during 2024-25. The inspections were launched on 24 mutual funds and their Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs), plus 13 portfolio managers, according to the SEBI's Annual Report.

The off-site monitoring of all mutual funds was powered by algorithm-based alert systems. The SEBI's inspection drive included 312 stock brokers, 90 depository participants, 51 merchant bankers, 56 RTAs, 207 investment advisers, 149 research analysts, eight credit rating agencies, 11 debenture trustees, seven designated depository participants, seven custodians, and three KYC registration agencies. To strengthen its



surveillance and investigation capabilities, the SEBI set up a lab in 2023-24 with cutting-edge technologies.

During 2024-25, it has added multiple new data sources and new data analytics tools in the lab. "These tools have significantly streamlined data analysis, reduced time and manual effort, and improved accuracy in identifying connections among entities involved in violation of securities market laws," according to the SEBI.

In order to combat market abuse, a Market Intelligence portal has been developed

for market participants to provide market intelligence inputs pertaining to market abuse. The portal has been operational since May 2024.

An Enhanced Surveillance Measures framework has been extended to stocks listed on the mainboard and SME segments with a market capitalisation of less than Rs 1,000 crore. Addressing the abnormal price movement in PSU stocks, the major surveillance frameworks have been extended to PSU stocks.

"To prevent the misuse of client funds by intermediaries, the direct pay-out of se-

curities to the client's demat account was made mandatory. Framework to facilitate safer participation of retail investors in algorithmic trading through brokers and mandating qualified stock brokers to offer ASBA-like facility in secondary markets were taken to ensure that retail investors are protected," SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey said. Regulated entities have been mandated to disassociate from unregulated entities, which provide advice/recommendations/unverified claims on return and performance. Cautionary advisories

CM Revanth urges Centre to Safeguard TG's Water Share in Tungabhadra Project

Hyderabad, June 24 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday urged the Centre to ensure the state's rightful share of water from the Tungabhadra project and strengthen institutional mechanisms for equitable distribution among Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Reviewing issues related to the Tungabhadra project, the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) and inter-state river water disputes, the Chief Minister said Telangana was entitled to 15.9 TMC of water from the Tungabhadra river but was currently receiving only about 5 to 6 TMC.

He noted that water from the RDS was crucial for irrigating 83,987 acres across nearly 75 villages in Jogulamba Gadwal district and stressed the need to protect the interests of farmers dependent on the project.

Given the involvement of three states, Revanth Reddy proposed strengthening the Tungabhadra Board under the aegis of the Central Water Commission (CWC) to ensure effective coordination and equitable utilisation of water resources.

The Chief Minister also expressed concern over the safety of the RDS ayacut and directed officials to



identify and take up necessary protective works on a priority basis. Reviewing the modernisation works of the Rajolibanda Diversion Canal, he noted that Telangana had already deposited 59 crore towards

the project, but significant portions of the work remained incomplete.

Officials informed him that works under Packages 3 and 4 had been completed, while those under Packages 1 and 2 were yet

to commence.

Reddy said he would raise the issue of the pending works during the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka convened by the union Jal Shakti Minister

on Thursday. Officials also informed the Chief Minister that heavy siltation on the Telangana side of the RDS was affecting water diversion. Although an expert committee had recommended desilting

measures in 2004, the recommendations were yet to be implemented.

The meeting decided to seek immediate intervention from the Centre and cooperation from the Karnataka government, as the affected silted area lies within the neighbouring state. Telangana will also submit a representation seeking implementation of the expert committee's recommendations along with desilting works. The Chief Minister directed officials to compare the findings of the 2004 report with current ground conditions and prepare a comprehensive report. He also asked them to

explore measures for maximising water utilisation under the Tungabhadra Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Further, Reddy ordered enhancement of the capacity of the Mallammakunta Balancing Reservoir, a key component of the Thummilla project, and directed officials to expedite the works.

Irrigation Minister N. Utam Kumar Reddy, Government Adviser Jitender Reddy, Irrigation Adviser Aditya Nath Das, Irrigation Secretary Rahul Bojja, Special Chief Secretary (Energy) Naveen Mittal and senior irrigation officials attended the review meeting.

Congress Leader Submits Memorandum Opposing Proposed UCC in Madhya Pradesh



The memorandum put forward the following demands:

- ▶ The proposal to implement the Uniform Civil Code in Madhya Pradesh should be withdrawn immediately.
- ▶ Constitutional protection should be ensured for the personal laws and traditional rights of all religious communities and tribal groups.
- ▶ Before drafting any such law, the government should hold detailed consultations with religious scholars, legal experts, social organizations, and concerned stakeholders.
- ▶ Suggestions and objections received from citizens should be made public and considered through a transparent process.

sions protect citizens' freedom to practice and propagate their religion as well as preserve their cultural and religious traditions.

The memorandum emphasized that Muslim Personal Law has legal recognition under the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, and that personal laws form an integral part of the religious and cultural identity of various communities. It further stated that any legislation affecting these rights should be introduced only

after extensive consultation and consensus-building among all stakeholders. Qasmi expressed confidence that the committee would take a decision in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution, religious freedom, and India's tradition of cultural diversity and pluralism.

The memorandum was submitted to the High-Level Committee constituted by the Madhya Pradesh Government to examine the proposed Uniform Civil Code.

HYDRAA Removes Encroachments To Save Government Land, Pond

Hyderabad, June 24 (GNS): Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) saved government land worth Rs.1,000 crore in IT Corridor and a pond on the city outskirts by removing encroachments. The agency saved five acres of government land in Khanamet village of Serilingampally mandal of Rangareddy district on Tuesday.

HYDRAA said some people tried to acquire valuable land in Survey No. 42 on the way from Metal Charminar to HITEC Exhibition Centre. Two temporary sheds were built there and a room was also constructed.

HYDRAA received a complaint from the revenue department that a fencing is being erected around the land with iron sheets.

Serilingampally revenue officials have been claiming this land as their own for many years and preventing anyone from coming there. HYDRAA entered the scene on their request and removed two temporary sheds, the constructed room and the fencing. After removing all encroachments, HYDRAA fenced around 5 acres of government land. The agency also erected HYDRAA boards



claiming it as government land. The value of this land is estimated to be around Rs.1,000 crore.

In another operation, HYDRAA removed encroachment in Marripalli pond in Marripalli village of Abdullahpurmet mandal of Rangareddy district.

The agency said the encroacher set up RMC unit on their patta land and dumped the soil to encroach on the pond. He also constructed sheds for the workers to live within the perimeter of the pond FTL. He tried to encroach five acres of land.

Acting on public complaint, HYDRAA took up investigation with the authorities concerned at the field level. It removed the sheds on Tuesday and erected fencing to ensure FTL boundaries. It led the way by providing opportunities for farm work.

HYDRAA ordered the encroacher to remove the silt dumped in the pond.

According to Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) records, the total area of Marripalli pond is 31.05 acres. HYDRAA has taken steps to protect the water body.

HYDRAA said early this month that it successfully reclaimed and protected public assets worth over Rs 1.10 lakh crore in less than two years. It exuded confidence of moving towards the Rs 2 lakh crore protection milestone within the next year. The agency said that it reclaimed and protected lakes, nalas, parks, government lands, and blue-green resources.

These priceless public assets, once under threat from encroachments and land-grabbing activities, have been safeguarded for future generations, it said.

Ashrafal Madaris High School, Kamran Playground, Yakutpura



Hyderabad, June 24 (GNS): The 50-day Football Coaching Camp conducted at Ashrafal Madaris High School, Kamran Playground, Yakutpura, concluded successfully. A certificate distribution ceremony was held

on this occasion. The chief guest, Mr. Aijaz Ali Qureshi, Advocate, distributed certificates among the participants who successfully completed the training program. During the camp, Mr. Mohd Muneeruddin Mohsin (Football

Coach) and Mr. Mohd Sarwar (Football Coach) provided professional football training and guidance to the children. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Aijaz Ali Qureshi highlighted the importance of sports and physical activities

in building a healthy body, strong character, and discipline among children. He encouraged parents to motivate their children to actively participate in sports.

Football practice will continue daily from 6:00 AM

to 7:30 AM. Parents are requested to send their children regularly to Ashrafal Madaris High School, Kamran Playground, Yakutpura, so that they can further develop their skills and talents in football.

Indiramma houses to be sanctioned for every eligible poor family: Jupally Krishna Rao

Nagarkurnool District, June 24 (GNS):Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said that Indiramma houses would be sanctioned to every eligible poor family irrespective of political affiliation. He was speaking at the housewarming ceremonies of newly constructed Indiramma houses in Gantraopally and Chennapurapally villages of Peddakothapally mandal in Nagarkurnool district. On the occasion, the Minister distributed new clothes to beneficiaries and conveyed his best wishes. He expressed hope that the families would live happily and enjoy good health and prosperity in their new homes.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister stated that despite financial constraints, the Congress government sanctioned 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses across the state in



the first phase at an estimated cost of 22,500 crore soon after assuming office. He said that 3,500 houses were allotted to each Assembly constituency. He further informed that the government has decided to take up construction of 2.5 lakh additional houses in the second phase, with 2,000 houses allocated to each constituency.

The Minister emphasized that houses are being provided to all eligible poor families without discrimination based on caste, religion, community, or political

affiliation. He noted that the government is spending 5 lakh for the construction of each house. To accelerate construction works, payments are being released to beneficiaries in stages every Monday, he said. The Minister added that fulfilling the dream of home ownership for poor families remains a key objective of the state government, and that the Indiramma Housing Scheme is providing permanent housing security to thousands of families across Telangana.

Ponnam Reviews Grand Bonalu Arrangements

Hyderabad, June 24 (GNS): State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar directed officials to work in coordination to organize this year's Bonalu festivities—which symbolize Telangana's culture, traditions, beliefs, and spiritual heritage—on a grand scale. He noted that the state government has accorded high priority to the Bonalu festival since the formation of Telangana state.

He presided over a high-level review meeting on Wednesday at the Dasarathi Auditorium within the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute in Jubilee Hills. The meeting, attended by officials from various departments, focused on arrangements for the Bonalu festivities scheduled from July 16 to August 13 across Hyder-

abad, Ranga Reddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts under the aegis of the Endowments Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister remarked that Bonalu is not merely a religious festival but a cultural symbol reflecting the soul of Telangana. He noted that lakhs of devotees from all corners of the state flock to Hyderabad during the month of Ashadham to visit various temples and seek the blessings of the Goddess. He directed Endowments Department officials to ensure that every single devotee gets the opportunity to have a darshan of the Goddess. It was noted that the Hyderabad administration possesses the experience of successfully organizing major religious and cultural events such as Bonalu, Ganesh Utsavs, Ramzan, and Muharram.

Hyderabad Police Bust Investment Trading Fraud, 6 Held

Hyderabad, June 24 (GNS): The Cyber Crime Police of Hyderabad arrested six individuals in connection with a Rs 1.22 crore investment trading fraud. Investigations revealed the operation of a network of mule bank accounts used to route cybercrime proceeds. The accounts were allegedly utilised for online trading and money laundering activities.

The arrests mark a significant step in disrupting financial networks supporting cyber fraud, the police said on Wednesday.

Three of the accused are residents of Maharashtra,

while two are from Maharashtra. The sixth accused is from Andhra Pradesh.

According to police, in January 2026, the victim, a resident of Hyderabad, was induced through a WhatsApp investment group named '282 BARCLAYS India High-Quality Stock Trading Research Group'. He invested through fake platforms www.BarclaysDailyTrading.com and app. bulishmark.com after being promised high returns and IPO allotments. Initially, he was allowed to withdraw Rs 1,05,000 to gain confidence. Thereafter, he invested Rs 1,22,18,029.50 in 19 transac-

tions. The fraudsters falsely displayed profits of Rs 15.69 crores and demanded an additional Rs 35 lakhs for the release of IPOs. According to V. Arvind Babu, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Cyber Crimes, investigation revealed that one of the key accused established a company with the objective of opening high-value current bank accounts and subsequently sharing internet banking credentials with third parties. These accounts were utilised for routing proceeds of cybercrime and collections generated through online Trading platforms.

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