

Irregularities in registration of farmers: Seven marketing secretaries suspended in Telangana

Adilabad: Seven secretaries of the Marketing department, including two from erstwhile Adilabad district, were suspended for their alleged role in irregularities in registration of cotton farmers in Warangal region. An order to this effect was issued by the region director Uppala Srinivas on Wednesday.

According to the order, Madhukar Kamble from Adilabad market yard, Ramanjaneyulu of Chennur, P Nirmala (Warangal, Srinivas (Janagama), Parameshwar (Chinna Koduru), Namala Srinivas (Bhadradi Kothagudem) and Prithvi Raj (Peddapalli) were placed under suspension based on a report submitted by the officials, who probed allegations against the secretaries.

The department initiated a probe into the

irregularities when farmer associations lodged a complaint against the officials, alleging that large-scale discrepancies took place in issuance of temporary registrations. The secretaries issue the registrations to farmers enabling them to sell the cotton produce at procurement centres operated by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

The officials of the Marketing department reportedly issued the registrations to farmers who don't grow the cotton by colluding with unauthorised traders of the cotton, duping the CCI.

They allegedly accepted huge amounts as commission for doing the favour. Certain officials of the agriculture department were learnt to be under the scanner for their role in the irregularities.



Hyderabad sizzles in mid-February: Kapra records hottest day while Serilingampally enjoys coolest night



Hyderabad: Those residing in Kapra bore the brunt of the summer heat most in the day time while residents of Serilingampally had the cosiest of the night with mercury dropping to lowest there in the city on Thursday. As the summer starts to peak with both day and night time mercury rising high, several parts of the city have been experiencing temperatures higher than normal for mid-February. On Thursday, according to the Telangana State Development Planning Society data, Kapra had the highest temperature of the city logging in 37.4 degree Celsius followed by LB Nagar at 37.1 degree Celsius and Begumpet with 35.6 degree Celsius. In most places across the city and the suburbs, the day temperature remained above 35 degree Celsius giving a taste of the impending harsh summer time.

As per the TGDPS recordings, the Malakpet-Saroonagar-Hayathnagar belt

temperatures stood at 35.5 degree Celsius while the mercury dropped a notch down along Serilingampally-Chandnagar-RC Puram with 35.4 degree Celsius. During the nights, the mercury dropped to the lowest in the city at 15.2 degree Celsius along the city suburbs at Serilingampally and 15.3 at Rajendranagar. While the minimum temperatures were more comfortable in areas like Malkajgiri and parts of Secunderabad, even the night temperatures did not provide much relief in other parts of the city. The residents of Santoshnagar went to sleep with night temperature of 22.6 degree Celsius while those in Saroonagar had to reconcile with 22.2 degree Celsius. The nights were warmer in Khairatabad, Falaknuma, Malakpet and Moosapet too with 21 degree Celsius plus recordings. Across the State, Siddipet logged in the highest day temperature of 37.7 degree Celsius followed by

Mulugu with 37.6 degree Celsius. However, the summer temperatures plummeted to 12.4

degree Celsius at Adilabad making it the most comfortable summer night in the State.

Motorists in Hyderabad can now get more fuel than what they pay for at BPCL outlets



Hyderabad: Now, motorists in the city and across the State can get 2 per cent extra amount of fuel on refilling their vehicle fuel tanks with fuel worth Rs 200 or more at the outlets run by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). The offer period which commenced in January this year will be available till the midnight on March 31. The offer is available at select BPCL retail outlets. Customers fueling any product i.e., MS (Petrol), Speed, Speed 97 or HSD using UFill for an amount of Rs 200 or more at one go at the participating retail outlets will get 2 per cent extra amount of fuel. "Customers can avail this offer by buying fuel worth Rs 200 and more at select fuel outlets. It is available on digital transactions

only. Good number of customers are availing this offer across the BPCL outlets in the city and State," said Srinu, a worker at the fuel pump in Errum Manzil.

The maximum incentive amount will be Rs 120 per transaction during scheme period; customer will get additional incentives on a maximum of two eligible transactions per VPA/UPI ID in a day and, maximum of four eligible transactions per VPA/UPI ID in a month and a maximum of 10 transactions per UPI/VPA ID during scheme period. In case of UFill voucher redeemed partially or refunded, the refund amount will be calculated based on actual fuelling, which will not include incentive amount*^T

“It’s never enough”: 60%* India’s Sandwich Generation worries about future financial security, shows Edelweiss Life study

Hyderabad :Focused on offering the best to their parents and children, India’s Sandwich Generation feels unprepared for their own future. An Edelweiss Life Insurance study shows 60% respondents agree, “no matter how much I save or invest, I feel like it’s never enough for future.” Sandwich Generation is defined as individuals in the age of 35 - 54 years, financially providing for two generations of dependents – their ageing parents, and growing children. The life insurer, in collaboration with YouGov, surveyed 4,005 respondents in this generation across 12 cities to understand their attitudes, beliefs, and level of financial preparedness. Sumit Rai, MD & CEO, Edelweiss Life Insurance said,

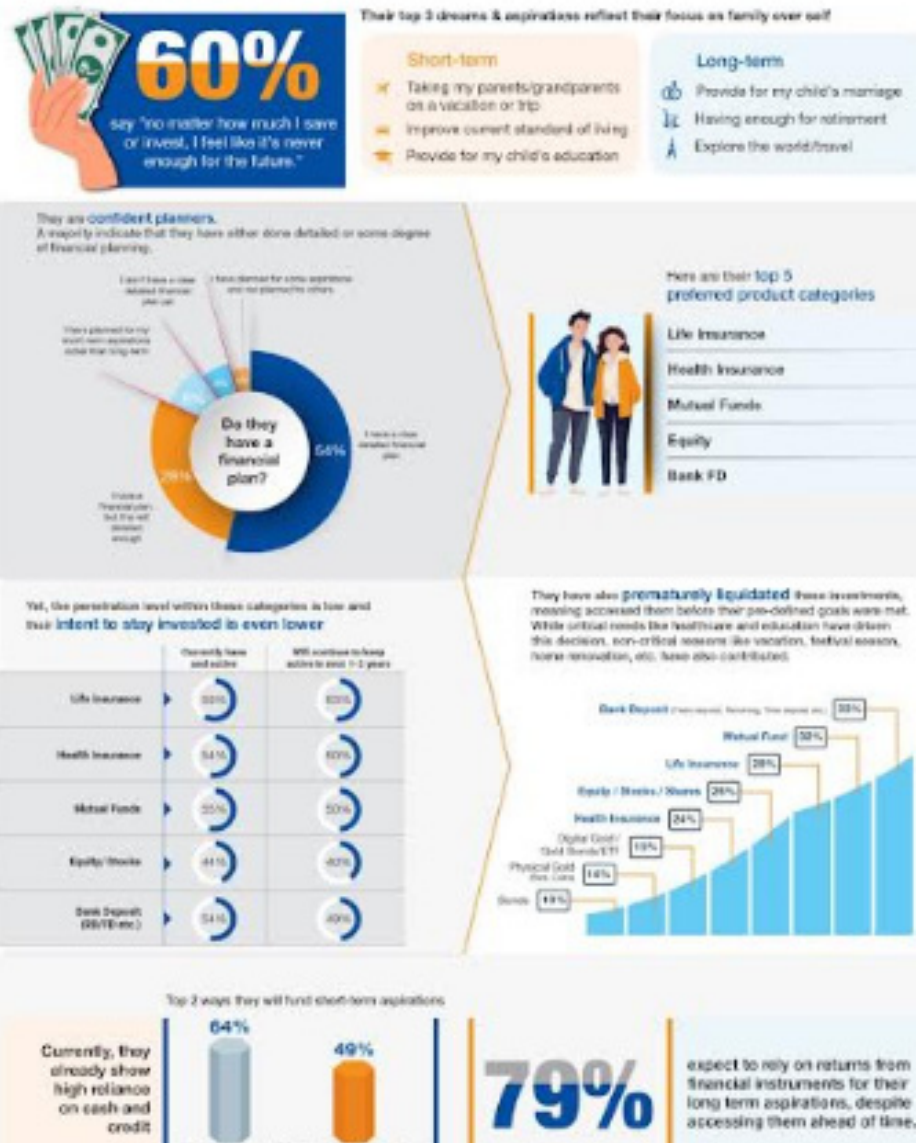
“Through our customer interactions over the years, we have closely seen how Sandwich Generation is living in a cycle of caring for their parents and children. They want to enable the essentials like healthcare and education while providing an aspirational life where ‘needs’ don’t come at the cost of ‘wants.’ This is primarily driving their financial decision making. And, in the process, they often end up relegating their own dreams to the background, leaving them feeling they are unprepared for the future.” With their duty and love for family driving financial decisions, our study indicates financial misalignment or

money dysmorphia within this generation (money dysmorphia, simply explained, is feeling unhappy about one’s financial situation). Over 50% agree with varying statements including worrying about running out of money, feeling always behind and like they are not doing well enough. “This generation knows their key aspirations and believes to be adequately planned through investments in their preferred product categories. But our study has brought up some curious facts. They display low intent on sticking with these active investments over next 1 – 2 years. They also have accessed their investments, which are earmarked for pre-defined goals, ahead of time.

No wonder they are feeling they are on shaky ground,” Rai added. Across their top 5 preferred product categories – Life Insurance, Health Insurance, Mutual Funds, Equities, and Bank FDs – less than 60% currently have active investments across categories, and even fewer expect to persist with them over the next 1 – 2 years. On further probing, the study revealed that all these product categories have been prematurely liquidated, meaning accessed before their pre-defined goals were met. While essential needs dictated this liquidation, non-critical needs like vacation, spending during festivities, and more also emerged as the drivers.

India’s Sandwich Generation

Aged 35-54, this generation is tackling dual responsibilities of ageing parents and growing children. Relying on credit, depleting income, and dipping into investments early for short-term needs, they are risking long-term security—fueling a sense of ‘money dysmorphia’, where no amount feels enough. *Money Dysmorphia, simply explained, is feeling unhappy about one’s financial situation.



Hyderabad-based Natco Pharma shares crash 19 per cent on poor financial results



Hyderabad: Shares of Natco Pharma crashed 19% in early trade on Thursday, February 13, following company’s poor third quarter show in the financial year 2024-25. The company had posted a significant decline in revenue and net profit during the period. The shares were down 18.46 per cent and were trading at Rs Rs 992.10 at 10:33am on the BSE.

The Hyderabad-based pharma company on Wednesday reported a 37.75 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs

132.4 crore in the December quarter, hit by a drop in formulations exports. It had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 212.7 crore in the third quarter of the previous fiscal year, NATCO Pharma said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 474.8 crore as compared to Rs 758.6 crore in the same period a year ago, it added. However, total expenses were lower at Rs 487.4 crore as compared to Rs 539.3 crore in the year-ago period, the company said. Formulation exports in the third quarter were lower at Rs

285.8 crore as compared with Rs 605.6 crore in the same period of the last fiscal year. Formulation sales in the domestic market stood at Rs 96.1 crore, down from Rs 99.4 crore in the year-ago period. On the other hand, API (active pharmaceutical ingredient)

revenue stood at Rs 66.6 crore, up from Rs 46.3 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal year, it added. The board of directors declared a third interim dividend of Rs 1.50 each per equity share of Rs 2 each for the financial year 2024-25, the company said.

A thought-provoking lecture session titled “Awakening the Skills Within - With Sanatana Dharma” at G. Narayanamma Institute of Technology & Science (for Women).

Acharya Vasudev Ji from Dev-Foundation was the keynote speaker, emphasizing the importance of intelligence and resilience among women. He explained how practices like meditation, self-discipline, and spiritual wisdom help individuals overcome challenges and enhance their inner strength.

The lecture highlighted how spiritual awareness fosters emotional stability, self-confidence, and decision-making skills, which are crucial for young women stepping into professional and personal responsibilities.



The event was attended by Principal Dr.

UC and Gough Family Foundation renew MBA Leaders Scholarship Education New Zealand - Media Release

Hyderabad :UC and the Gough Family Foundation have renewed their MBA Leaders Scholarship, enhancing its uniqueness with international opportunities and leadership growth. UC's Tumu Whakarāe | Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheryl de la Rey with Gough Family Foundation founders Ben and Penny Gough at the signing of the new agreement.

Te Whare Wananga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury (UC) has announced the renewal of its longstanding partnership with the Gough Family Foundation, extending the Gough Family Foundation MBA Leaders Scholarship for a further four years, taking it through to 2030. This strategic collaboration reflects a shared commitment to empowering emerging leaders to make a meaningful impact in Waitaha Canterbury, Aotearoa New Zealand, and beyond. Ben Gough, founder of the Gough Family Foundation, emphasised the importance of this partnership in building leadership capacity that benefits both the commercial and community sectors. "Playing to the strengths and relationships of both UC and the Gough Family Foundation has enabled scholars to learn

at some of the most prestigious universities in the world, and gain access to some of the best business minds in New Zealand," Gough said. "The outcomes of this opportunity, provide positive impact to all areas of their lives, personally, professionally and to their communities through giving back, which is a key area we look for in applicants." The renewed programme has been refined to align even more closely with UC and the Gough Family Foundation's shared vision, and to further enhance the offering, feedback from previous scholars has also been incorporated. The scholarship now offers expanded access to international opportunities, providing scholars with global perspectives on leadership and innovation. Scholars will have the chance to partner with prestigious institutions such as Stanford University in the United States and Aalto University in Finland. This includes opportunities to undertake study like Stanford's renowned Design Thinking paper, fostering international networks, knowledge exchange, and leadership skills. This aligns with the scholarship's vision of "taking the best of Waitaha Canterbury to the world and bringing the best of the



world to Aotearoa, New Zealand". Another highlight of the programme is the bespoke Courage in Leadership course, offered in partnership with Outward Bound. Refined

based on previous scholar experiences, this experiential leadership course combines practical challenges with reflection, creating a transformative learning journey.

BookMyShow Foundation unveils BookAChange to democratise access to music and performing arts; pledges 500 music scholarships

BookAChange
By BookMyShow Foundation

Bridging the gap between TALENT and OPPORTUNITY!

Hyderabad :BookMyShow Foundation proudly announces the launch of BookAChange, dedicated to enriching lives of underprivileged talent through the transformative power of music and performance arts. Originally launched as BookASmile in 2014 by BookMyShow, India's leading entertainment destination, the impact-led initiative has now evolved into BookAChange, with a renewed vision to democratise access

to music and the performing arts, for individuals and communities from marginalised backgrounds. At the core of BookAChange lies a powerful pledge towards inspiring and nurturing future pioneers in music and performing arts. Beyond just music and performance skills, BookAChange encourages holistic development, fostering emotional, social and intellectual growth in its beneficiaries. This approach aims to instil quali-

ties such as responsibility, self-esteem, empathy, purpose and resilience, creating well-rounded individuals ready to make their mark on the world.

BookAChange is excited to introduce its new music scholarship program, pledging 500 music scholarships, aimed at empowering talented individuals from underprivileged backgrounds across India. BookAChange Music Scholarships will support students and street artists pursuing education in music and the business of music at accredited institutions. This includes, but is not limited to music education in fields such as Instrumental, Vocals, Audio Production, Business of Music, and Song-writing. BookAChange will offer financial assistance to students from marginalised backgrounds. The application process to avail a BookAChange Music Scholarship is now open here. Seamlessly integrated with the BookMyShow platform, BookAChange harnesses the collective spirit of millions of entertainment enthusiasts to drive meaningful change. With each ticket purchase, starting from donating just Re. 1/-, consumers are invited to be a part of something bigger - fueling a movement that touches lives through music. Direct contributions, beyond these micro-donations, are also welcome here.

Speaking about the launch of BookAChange, Farzana Cama Balpande, Head - BookAChange, said, "BookAChange marks the beginning of a new chapter where our commitment to making a difference through the arts deepens and expands. With BookAChange, we aim to amplify our impact by nurturing dreams, bridging gaps and creating inclusive access where everyone has the chance to flourish. We want to democratise access to music and the performing arts, empower marginalised individuals and communities and inspire the next generation of industry trailblazers. Our journey ahead is not just about the arts; it's about inspiration, collaboration and a relentless pursuit of a brighter world for all." BookAChange is set to launch a series of transformative initiatives across India, reinforcing its mission to make music education accessible to all. In Mumbai, 30 students from Dharavi are receiving specialised training in Rap and DJing, equipping them with essential skills under expert mentorship to showcase Dharavi Dreams, India's first-ever hip-hop musical theatre. Additionally, 125 children from Mumbai's BMC schools are currently on an intensive 10-month journey in Hindustani classical music through a specialised choir program, opening doors to advanced learning and certification.

ASF BBQ & Grill hosts special dinner for underprivileged children as part of CSR Initiative

Hyderabad: ASF BBQ & Grill hosts special dinner for underprivileged children as part of CSR Initiative. ASF BBQ & Grill transformed the venue into a lively and welcoming space, where 70 children from various NGOs were greeted with warmth and

enthusiasm. Hyderabad: ASF BBQ & Grill hosted a special dinner for underprivileged children at Road No 36, Jubilee Hills to bring joy, warmth, and a sense of belonging to them while reinforcing the company's dedication to giving back to society.

Canon India Unveils I #CANwithCanon Campaign, Celebrating Real Stories of Transformation and Impact

Hyderabad :Canon India, one of the leading digital imaging company, has launched its latest campaign, 'I #CANwithCanon', that celebrates the transformative impact of Canon's products, solutions and initiatives. The new campaign showcases inspiring real-life stories of how Canon's technology, service, and culture empower individuals, businesses, and communities to achieve extraordinary outcomes.

The campaign truly reflects Canon's unwavering commitment to fostering meaningful connections with its stakeholders and how the brand has built a legacy not just as a technology leader but also as a partner in progress for its customers, employees, and society at large. Engaging a broad audience with stories that highlight its impact across consumer, SME, enterprise, government, and social sectors, the campaign reinforces Canon's position as a trusted partner dedicated to transforming ordinary moments into extraordinary possibilities, embodying the spirit of I #CANwithCanon. Commenting on the campaign launch, Mr. Toshiaki Nomura,

President & CEO, Canon India said, "For over two decades, Canon India has been at the heart of countless success stories across the nation. I #CANwithCanon is our tribute to these partnerships and milestones, showcasing how Canon's solutions have empowered individuals and businesses to unlock their full potential. Each story featured in this campaign is a testament to our commitment to enabling excellence, innovation, and connection through our products and services." Speaking about the campaign's vision, Mr. C Sukumaran, Senior Director, Product & Communication, Canon India said, "I #CANwithCanon brings alive Canon's philosophy of enabling excellence in business and everyday life. These stories demonstrate how our solutions address real business challenges and creative aspirations. From enhancing operational efficiency for SMBs to enabling photographers to push creative boundaries, each narrative showcases the transformative impact of Canon's technology across sectors."

The first video in the campaign featur-



ing the story of Wee Prints, a trusted patron of Canon and a well-known company in the digital printing industry, showcases Canon's role in enhancing the professional printing landscape through advanced solutions. With Canon's technology, Wee Print increased their print volume from 1.5 lakhs to 2.5 lakhs, enabling them to efficiently meet growing client demands and elevate their business performance. The second video showcases Wheelzy Spot (Authorized dealer of JK Tyre) that sought more than just equipment—they needed a trusted partner to enhance their operations. Canon not only streamlined their

tasks but also provided unwavering support through a dedicated service team, enabling them to perform efficiently. Going beyond business, community development is embedded in Canon's DNA and over the years the efforts have transformed the lives of many.

Hence, the third video in the series narrates the stories of Tanu and Karina, who benefited from Canon India's Skill Development & Livelihood Program. These inspiring stories demonstrate the essence of I #CANwithCanon which revolves around real progress and growth.

Airtel Payments Bank reports revenue growth of Rs. 700 crore in Q3 FY25, up 49% YoY

Hyderabad :Airtel Payments Bank today announced its consolidated results for the third quarter ended on 31 December 2024, marking record growth with quarterly revenue crossing Rs. 700 crore, up by 49% YoY. The Bank's net profits stood at Rs. 18.5 crore, up by 70% YoY and the EBITDA grew by 66% YoY to INR 87 crore in Q3 FY25. During the quarter, the Bank's Monthly Transacting Users (MTU) exceeded well above 100 million, up by 62% YoY. The annualised gross merchandise value (GMV) close to INR 4,000 billion reflecting the growing adoption of the Bank's digital savings accounts, merchant propositions and other

products. Customer balances also saw a robust increase, crossing INR 3,332 crore, up by 42% YoY.

This growth is fueled by the strong adoption of Airtel Payments Bank's digital offerings, with more customers opting for its safe digital account for their daily transactions. The Bank is also a leader in the B2B urban transit segment, having issued over 1.7 million RuPay NCMC-enabled cards to date. The adoption of its merchant offerings, including its innovative Soundbox, continues to rise among businesses. The Bank continues to register solid uptake for its solutions in the deep rural pockets of the country.



Anubrata Biswas, MD & CEO of Airtel Payments Bank, said, "We are delighted to announce another quarter of impressive growth, reaffirming the strength of our banking model. As a fully integrated, technology-

driven banking platform, we continue to meet the diverse financial needs of both urban and rural customers. Notably, we are now India's third-largest mobile bank and the preferred choice for a secure second account."

Canon India Releases a Free PC App for Colour Matching between Remote and Main Cameras

Hyderabad :Canon India, a leading company in digital imaging solutions, announced that they will begin offering the Camera Colour Matching Application PC app free of charge as a new product added to its remote camera system. The software facilitates colour matching between the main camera, which provides the basis for colour tones, and the Canon 4K remote camera acting as a secondary camera.

Commenting on the newest solution to the broadcasting portfolio, Mr. Bhasker Chander Joshi, Assistant Director, Frontier Business Division, Canon India, said, "The broadcast industry is rapidly shifting towards single-operator, multi-camera setups, driven by both efficiency demands and resource constraints. Our new Camera Colour Matching Application is yet another move in

simplifying the overall video production workflow, wherein what once required hours of professional setup can now be done in minutes by a single operator. Users can capture a broadcast show with multiple colour ranges with different cameras and our app handles the rest— automatically matching colours across main and Canon remote cameras. This means faster setup, lower costs, and consistent quality. Tailored to the diverse needs of educational institutions, corporate settings, places of worship and coaching centers, we strive to redefine remote production, making it more intuitive and accessible than ever before."

With the growing popularity for video content creation, the need to improve the efficiency of video production and the shortage of human resources have led to the

spread of single-operator multi-camera shooting practices using remote cameras. Along with this development, however, colour matching between cameras, which is essential for multiple camera shooting, has become an issue, as it conventionally needed to be done manually by professional staff before shooting, consuming substantial manpower and time. Canon's new "Camera Colour Matching Application" offers one solution to this problem. The app easily corrects the differences in image colour and brightness between the main camera of the user's choice and the Canon remote camera used as a secondary camera. The colour matching process is simple: first, a user captures a still image of an identical colour chart respectively with the main and sub-cameras. The app then generates a 3D LUT from the im-



ages which is applied to the cameras, completing the match.

Sudha Reddy Hosts the Grand Launch of Daum in Hyderabad at Mon Amour Palace

Hyderabad: Hyderabad's elite art and design aficionados and connoisseurs gathered together at the glamorous Mon Amour Palace to host the much-anticipated launch of Daum in Hyderabad. Luxury French crystal giant Daum. The event is being hosted by Sudha Reddy, prominent philanthropist, businesswoman, and fervent art patron. Daum, founded in 1878, is famous for its *pâte de verre* technique, a rare and intricate glassmaking process that has made the brand unique in the world of luxury crystal art. With a legacy of collaborating with some of the greatest artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, Daum's masterpieces are cherished by collectors and art aficionados around the world. The Hyderabad launch marks a milestone, bringing the brand's exquisite craftsmanship to a discerning Indian audience.

The evening was graced by an elite guest list that included prominent art collectors, architects, and design experts, all of whom were mesmerized by Daum's extraordinary creations. Among the notable attendees were Pinky Reddy, Kamini Saraf, art connoisseur Anju Modi, and architect Supraja Rao. Attendees were treated to a showcase of the brand's finest pieces, each reflecting a timeless fusion of artistry and craftsmanship. Speaking on the occasion, Sudha Reddy said, "Art has always been a part of my life, and I really appreciate the brand's commitment to preserving traditional craftsmanship while innovating at the same time. Bringing this heritage brand to Hyderabad is truly special, as I believe the city's connoisseurs will appreciate the sheer beauty and intricacy of these works."



All you need to know about: Diabetic Foot

Everyone knows that diabetes is a condition when your blood sugar levels are higher than they should be. But when these levels are consistently high over a long period of time, they begin to damage your body's tissues and organs. One of the organs that can be severely affected is your feet. With India leading the world in the number of people with diabetes, at an estimated 101 million, it is crucial to understand what uncontrolled diabetes can do to the feet and how this can be prevented.

What is diabetic foot?

Diabetic foot conditions occur when, over time, high blood glucose levels damage the nerves and blood vessels in the feet. The nerve damage, known as diabetic neuropathy, can cause numbness (loss of feeling), pain or tingling in the feet. The numbness can make it hard for patients to tell when they have any sort of cut or blister on their foot, potentially delaying treatment. People with diabetes are also at increased risk of developing peripheral artery disease, a condition in which narrowed arteries reduce the blood flow to the legs. The neuropathy and poor blood flow can increase the risk of foot ulcers (wounds or sores), and slow healing. A combination of these factors puts many diabetic patients at risk of foot ulcers that get infected and do not heal well. Left untreated, these infections can spread further, ultimately leading to tissue death or gangrene, which could result in an amputation.

How common is this condition?

A recent study by Vijay Viswanathan et al, published in *BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care*, of over 33,000 participants pan India, found that one-fourth of people with diabetes has 'High Risk' Feet. The paper also said India faces an increasing burden of foot-related problems among people with diabetes and pointed out that hospitalisation costs were significantly higher in people with diabetic foot complications compared with people with other diabetic complications.

Who is at risk of diabetes foot?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, anyone with diabetes can develop nerve damage but some factors increase the risk: Blood sugar levels that are hard to manage; having diabetes for a long time, especially if your blood sugar is often higher than your target levels; being overweight; being older than 40 years; having high blood pressure; having high cholesterol. Smoking is also a risk factor: smoking can damage blood vessels and can lower blood flow to the feet. The *BMJ* study found that 12.6% of participants were in the habit of smoking, and they had 2.3 times higher odds of having 'feet at risk' compared with those who did not smoke.

What are the symptoms of diabetic foot?

Symptoms can vary, but may include: changes in skin colour and temperature, thickened, yellow toenails, cuts/blisters that

don't heal, ingrown toenails, loss of sensation/ability to feel temperature, pain, tingling or burning, loss of hair on lower legs and feet and dry, cracked skin. It is essential to see your doctor as soon as possible if symptoms develop.

How is diabetic foot treated?

Doctors may treat the foot in a number of ways including removing dead skin and tissue, known as debridement, applying medication and dressing the ulcer, getting weight taken off the affected foot via special footwear, wheelchair/crutches (known as off-loading), prescribing antibiotics and managing blood glucose levels. One of the complications of diabetic foot is gangrene. This is a dangerous complication that can develop when blood supply to a tissue is cut off, causing the tissue to die. Early treatment reduces the risk of gangrene and amputation, which is why awareness about foot conditions in diabetes is important.

How do you prevent diabetic foot?

Prevention is key when it comes to diabetic foot. Checking your feet every day and taking good care of them play a vital role here. A 2016 paper, *Diabetic Foot Infection: An Indian Scenario*, in *The Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery* points out that diabetic foot infections in India are often a consequence of wounds caused by a person wearing footwear that is not sufficiently protective or that is ill-fitting or not wearing footwear at all. Delays in seeking treatment, treating the



Diabetic foot conditions occur when, over time, high blood glucose levels damage the nerves and blood vessels in the feet.

wounds/ulcers with home/herbal remedies, a lack of health-related education, no healthcare services nearby as well as a lack of financial resources all contribute to the problem.

Using well-fitted footwear, washing your feet every day in warm water, drying them and moisturising them, trimming toenails, maintaining blood flow to the feet through gentle exercises, and having your doctor check your feet during visits can all help. Diabetic foot ulcer and diabetic foot infections have long-term implications for persons living with diabetes in the form of morbidity and mortality. Early recognition, classification, diagnosis, and treatment of foot complications are needed to optimise outcomes in patients with diabetes, the paper said.

The banality of evil: learning about Gaza from Nazi history

'Neither perverted nor sadistic', but 'terribly normal' is how historian and philosopher Hannah Arendt had described Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi officer in charge of the mass deportation of millions of Jews to the extermination camps across Nazi-occupied Europe. Arendt had reported on the trial of Eichmann, and described it in her seminal work *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. The subtitle of the book has achieved independent notoriety, with the expression 'banality of evil' often being employed to describe the "innumerable men in the federal and state administrations and, generally, in public office whose careers had bloomed under the Hitler regime".

Normal people, evil deeds The expression was coined to describe the behaviour of the proverbial "cautious bureaucrat" whose "deeds were monstrous" and yet the doer "quite ordinary, commonplace, and neither demonic nor monstrous". The description was apt not merely for Nazi-era bureaucrats but also for the many "good Germans" who stood by haplessly as millions were sent to death. Furthermore, the very decade that witnessed the barbarism of the Holocaust witnessed the profound dereliction of the British government in famine afflicted India or the purges in erstwhile USSR. These were well-oiled states that allowed their individual members to acquiesce their personal responsibility to allow for the commission of crimes so vast and heinous that they beggar the imagination. What is further beleaguering is the realisation that many of the people who had to partake in these cruelties were perfectly civil and courteous in private life. By all accounts, Eichmann was a family man. His last words were reportedly: "I greet my wife, my family and my friends. I am ready. We'll meet again soon, as is the fate of all men. I die believing in God."

During his trial, half a dozen psychologists, who had examined Eichmann, had submitted that "his whole psychological outlook, his attitude toward his wife and children, mother and father, brothers, sisters, and friends," was "not only normal but most desirable". Another contemporaneous figure said that he was "a man with very positive ideas." His last moments were not the wrangling of some deranged lunatic but rather a modest drink of dry wine. Not exactly the bloodlust of a psychopath. But the 'banality of evil' was not meant to be a mere insight into one man but rather a look into what drove hundreds and thousands of administrative officials to engage in what they knew would lead to the death of millions. During his trial, Eichmann had referred back to Immanuel Kant's idea of a categorical imperative in defence of his actions, and argued that that he had always done his "duty" without reference to other considerations. Arendt was shocked at the rather tenuous use of an enlightenment concept of ethics in defence of a horrifying genocide. In Arendt's understanding Eichmann "was not stupid". It was "sheer thoughtlessness" not "identical with stupidity" that inclined him to become "one of the greatest criminals of that period". A stark contrast to Arendt's observations, in the book *Eichmann Before Jerusalem*, the German historian Bettina Stangneth explores another side to the man besides the banal,

apparently apolitical administrator, merely working as any other career bureaucrat. Through a careful consideration of the audiotapes of Eichmann's interviews by the Nazi collaborator and journalist William Sassen, Eichmann is revealed as a sworn ideologue strongly committed to National Socialist dogma. He expresses neither remorse nor guilt for his role in the Holocaust. This is no simple bureaucratic officer merely following distasteful orders but a radically extremist functionary living behind the mask of an unglamorous official. These notions of otherwise good Germans who simply followed orders takes a particularly stark appraisal in our own day and age.

The incumbent U.S. President Donald Trump has advocated for the ownership of the Gazan enclave by the Americans, and has proposed its transformation into an "international city". He has in the past made remarks about "cleaning out" Gaza and has suggested that Gazans "should not be going back to Gaza" since it has been "very unlucky for them", where they have "lived like hell". He has proposed that Gaza could be made "a good, fresh, beautiful piece of land" as it is a "phenomenal location, on the sea, the best weather", and has called it effectively a "Riviera" of West Asia that "could be so magnificent". Trump said the U.S. would play the lead role in this real estate development that would make Gaza into "an international, unbelievable place". But it would not have the Palestinians getting back to Gaza; most of them would be relocated in other countries, while "representatives from all over the world would live there". Under his plan, Trump said that Gazans "would have already been resettled in far safer and more beautiful communities, with new and modern homes, in the region". Trump's words echo the "sheer thoughtlessness" that Arendt spoke of with regards to Eichmann. It is not some sadistic act with malice writ large but rather something done with the sheer bluster of someone hoping to make their mark on the pages of history.

There are many who also feel that Palestinians as a whole must pay for Hamas' crimes. This too reverberates a pernicious idea of the 'blood libel' that was affixed onto the Jews as a whole by bigoted Christians — an idea which became the fount of the hate that allowed for the callous murder of millions of innocents during the Holocaust. The doctrine of collective guilt necessarily leads to collective punishment, and with it a denial of the autonomy that individuals have in the face of social control. Human history is littered with such mass violations of innocents lives, and in all cases a political machinery manned by bureaucrats and administrators becomes requisite to eliminate those fellow human lives.

Whence and wherefore It must be noted that under international law, attempts to forcibly transfer a population from occupied territory are strictly prohibited. It must also be mentioned that 15 months of sustained fighting have left the Gaza Strip, largely uninhabitable, with nigh 50,000 people having been killed and nearly twice as many injured. It must be pointed out that it was the Democrats, who had allowed President Biden to provision Israel with massive arms sales, to



continue its war with Hamas. These observations are important to remind us that the many bureaucrats and officials working in these disparate nation states are faced with the prospect of "following orders". They can as Eichmann did, choose to further their own careers while forcing out hapless victims out of their homes in order to make way for condominiums and casinos, with the best prospect of the victims' return being in the form of factotums employed to serve the very people who forced them out in the first place. The bureaucrats and officers in charge of these programmes that are being put forth must judge for themselves how they wish to conduct in the face of these "orders" from high above.

These choices are not easy, particularly for those who still retain a conscience while being employed while still having to worry about their own survival. While the idea that so many individuals who had partici-

pated in the Holocaust were merely "following orders" came under much criticism, many could not imagine what sort of resistance a meagre bureaucrat could offer against the state, particularly a dictatorial one. Responding to the criticism in a speech titled 'Personal responsibility under dictatorship', Arendt argues that an "adult consents where a child obeys". George Sabine once wrote that "even the most despotic government cannot hold a society together by sheer force".

Arendt similarly recalls the Madisonian dictum that even the worst of tyrannies "rest on consent". Arendt argues that in such a situation it is "better to suffer than to do wrong" even when doing wrong is the law. By suffering through the rejection of a law that is evil, one might in Arendt's words recover a "measure of self-confidence and even pride" and "regain what former times called the dignity or the honour" of "being human".

Techie, PhD student from Khammam aces AI game in US, blends technology with healthcare

Khammam: Even as India is gearing up to lead the AI revolution, a young scholar from Telangana is already making significant strides in the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and medicine. Meet Venkata Sai Rahul Trivedi Kothapalli, a 33-year-old PhD student and IT professional from Khammam who developed an AI algorithm that detects wear and tear in bone with 94 per cent accuracy. It facilitates early diagnosis and optimises the timing of orthopaedic surgeries transforming patient care.

Rahul is pursuing a doctoral degree in Systems Engineering at Colorado State University, USA while serving as a Lead Senior Systems Architect at Verizon. Earlier, he worked at Moffitt Cancer Center, where he leveraged AI to advance healthcare solutions integrating technology and medicine benefiting cancer research and healthcare innovation. Venkata Sai obtained a B Tech degree from JNTU Hyderabad in 2012 followed by a Master's in 2015 from the University of Central Missouri. He served as an Assistant Professor at SBIT, Khammam before moving to the US to deepen his ex-

pertise in AI-driven medical solutions. Recognising the need for advanced diagnostic tools in orthopaedics, he developed an AI model trained on extensive X-ray datasets to detect bone degeneration with remarkable precision. His patented methodology for knee deformation detection employs Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Transfer Learning and an enhanced VGG16 model. Speaking to Telangana Today, Rahul informed that his method achieved a superior accuracy of 94.5 per cent surpassing CNN's 91.2 per cent and Transfer Learning's 92 per cent. This breakthrough holds the potential for improved surgical outcomes and reduced recovery times in knee replacements. Rahul said he also patented an AI-based wearable smart health monitoring device (Design No. 6409910, UK) that tracks exercise patterns and provides early health warnings, supporting preventive healthcare rather than curative measures. Being an advocate of collaboration between healthcare professionals and technologists he worked closely with oncologists and radiologists to develop AI models for cancer diagnosis and treatment at Moffitt Cancer Center.

Stigma, judgment, and misinformation: The bumpy road to sexual reproductive health in India

If there's one thing that instantly generates a silence and is shrouded in taboos in India, it is sexual and reproductive health. Stigma and misinformation abound, and this, combined with a lack of awareness, place significant barriers when it comes to seeking healthcare. On the eve of Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Day, which falls on February 12, experts have called for greater awareness, combating stigma, and a path forward to better health for all men and women. The scope of the problem A 2019 paper published in the Indian Journal of Community Medicine reveals that there are about 3.5 crore sexually transmitted/reproductive tract infections in India annually. "STIs/RTIs have a direct impact on reproductive and child health through infertility, cancers and pregnancy complications, and they have an indirect impact through their role in facilitating the sexual transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and thus, they also have an impact on national and individual economies," the paper states.

Infections apart, unplanned pregnancies are also an issue. According to National Family Health Survey-5 data, the unmet need for contraception in the country stood at 9.4%. In India, says Simi Chatterjee, a doctor who has worked in the area of family planning and women's sexual rights in Jharkhand and West Bengal, many women do not have the autonomy to choose contraception. "Women in our country still have to give birth in order to prove their fertility after marriage. Underage marriages are still common, and they can lead to teenage pregnancies. To avoid legal action, families often give a false age for the woman at the hospital, and all of these factors can contribute to bad health outcomes for the mother and baby. In many families, it is still the husband, and sometimes the in-laws who decide if the woman can avail of contraception." Dr. Chatterjee also cited instances where ASHA workers - frontline healthcare workers -- have faced violence from a woman's family for allowing her to opt for contraception. Even now, she says, it is common for men to not participate in awareness drives for contraception and family planning, because reproduction is considered "a female subject," and this hampers access to information. For young people, the lack of access to the right kind of information can have detrimental consequences: often, teenagers undergoing hormonal changes end up making unsafe sexual choices, armed with information that is incomplete or erroneous -- this can lead to unwanted pregnancies, STIs as well as mental and physical trauma, says a doctor who works in the area of teen pregnancies. Doctors also point out that patients often do not disclose their STI status, and if they then have unprotected sex, the infection is transmitted to others. "None of these subjects however, are part of everyday conversations in the society we live in and this makes it harder for people to seek treatment, open up about their experiences, problems and needs, and they suffer without help," a doctor says.

However, patients point out that even when they do access care, medical professionals sometimes do not share appropriate information or shy away from having an open conversation about sexual and reproductive



health. A 31-year-old woman from Tripura, Kriti Roy says that when she began having issues with her menstrual cycle at the age of 18, a doctor prescribed a few medicines and assured her that the situation would get better when she gets married. "There was no discussion about my medical condition. Another time I visited a doctor, who, without any examination, was sure I was suffering from PCOD. Months later, I found out it wasn't PCOD, but endometriosis." Such experiences reflect a larger issue where patients are not provided with adequate medical information to deal with their conditions, which can lead to prolonged suffering and delayed diagnoses and treatment. The absence of conversations about their condition apart, patients often also feel judged about their choices by medical professionals. Take the case of Julia Salgas, a French citizen working in Chhattisgarh, as a digital project manager. "I have gone to five doctors for my urinary tract infection (UTI), but most of them were judgmental about my sexual activity sans marriage and prescribed repeated antibiotics without tests, which led to added health issues," she says. Many doctors, she adds, have even suggested to her that she should not have a partner, which led her to believe for some time that her infection was her fault. "A majority of the doctors I consulted did not give me any information on my medical condition or the correct course of action, but there was a constant shaming of my personal choices."

Absence of non-judgmental information Leeza Mangaldas, sexual educator and author of 'The Sex Book' told The Hindu that the complete absence of credible and non-judgmental sources of information about sexual health for young adults was a major cause of concern. "Pornography becomes the main source of information, which has too much information but none of it is credible or balanced. Telling fact from fiction is a problem in such cases." The silence in Indian society around the topic of sex adds

to the problem, she points out: this silence, she says, sends a message that this issue is taboo, and should not be spoken about in the open. This makes people more susceptible to misinformation and harm. Most people, she says, do not look for information on sexual and reproductive health until there is a personal crisis. It is a 'hush-hush' topic that is generally seen as "something that happens to others, not me." This opens up avenues to spread misinformation, and can

cause panic, trauma, and may even lead to catastrophic ends. The stigma and lack of awareness around sexual reproductive health in India continue to be a roadblock to proper healthcare, bodily autonomy, safe practices and life choices, point out experts, leaving people, vulnerable to multiple issues. While progressive and inclusive voices are emerging, there is a long way to go in the road to normalising conversations around this subject.

The Wellness Compass: Health essential to happy, natural living

Hyderabad: "Health is Wealth" is an old maxim that's relevant even today in this modern age. It's a fact that health is very essential to happy and natural living. And without good health, one does not have a feeling of stamina, suppleness and well-being. Today, nobody wants to be sick & physically distressed to spend their hard earned money on doctors & medicines and that is why people all over the world have become much health conscious then they were a few years back. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease. Since there is an intimate connection and interaction between mind and body, most of the times a physical disease causes some symptoms of ailment in the mind and vice versa. And to treat it, there are many systems or 'pathies' as we call them. Usually, the doctors give medicine so that the symptoms of the disease disappear or, at most, the disease in its present form disappears. However, there are only very few systems who feel really concerned with the eradication of the causes of the disease and with the restoration of health. In fact, various systems define 'disease' and its causes differently and their philosophy of health and

disease is very different from that of the other systems. For example, the Allopathic system of medicine is based on the philosophy that it is the virus which causes a disease and hence allopaths consider viruses as living microorganisms. They also think that there are many diseases which are caused by bacteria if not by viruses. So, their system attempts to kill these viruses or bacteria in order to help the body to recover from their attack. But the hygienist school of thought or the nature curists say that viruses are not living entities and they consider viruses as the proteinaceous debris of spent cells that create a condition of intoxication, called toxemia or toxicosis. They say that which is called 'Virus' is always dead; it never shows any signs of life, such as metabolism or control mechanisms. As to the bacteria, they say that bacteria have always been with us because they are our symbiotic partners. So, according to the nature curists, the real culprit is the accumulated toxic matter and hence they consider a disease not as a result of attack by virus or bacteria but the result of the toxic matter, generated within or taken from outside, and also the result of the body making an attempt to throw this toxic material out of it.

Unlocking women's workforce potential in India

India's quest for high economic growth and social equity hinges on an obvious but underrated lever — its women's workforce. Despite significant progress in education and health care, the country lags in enabling women's economic participation. A staggering 60% of India's women of working-age remain outside the labour force, depriving the economy of their contributions. A new study by the writers, titled "Unlocking Women's Workforce Potential in India: Quantifying the Labour Market Impact of Formalising Part-time Employment and Gender Equality in Unpaid Care Work", published by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), delves into two key barriers to women's labour force participation: the unequal burden of unpaid care work and the lack of formal part-time employment opportunities. The findings provide actionable insights for policymakers to unlock India's untapped workforce potential. India's female labour force participation rate (LFPR) stands at 37%, well below the global average of 47% and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average of 67%. The reasons are multifaceted, stemming from multifaceted barriers faced by women. A key barrier relates to unpaid domestic responsibilities that women carry disproportionately, such as child-rearing, elder care, and household chores. According to the Time Use in India Report 2019, Indian women devote more than twice as much time to unpaid care work as compared to men, leaving them with limited opportunities for paid employment.

A second barrier that women in particular face is the absence of formal part-time work options. Unlike in advanced economies, where part-time employment is legislated, well-regulated and socially accepted, Indian does not have formal provisions for part-time work. Women who seek flexibility to balance professional and domestic duties often end up in informal, precarious jobs, with no job security or social benefits. This dual burden of paid and unpaid work not only limits a woman's career prospects but also affects her ability to contribute to India's economy. The writers conducted a study to quantify the increase in female labour force participation rates (LFPR) when these two barriers are addressed. They used the McCall-Mortensen job search model to simulate the impact of formalising part-time employment and redistributing unpaid care work between men and women. They found that addressing just two barriers faced by women could raise the female LFPR by six percentage points, from 37% to 43%. The study identifies two key interventions. First, formalising part-time employment: introducing formally recognised part-time work contracts with pro-rated wages and benefits would offer women the flexibility they need. Globally, 57% of women in part-time jobs cite flexibility as a key factor. In India, however, the lack of formal recognition for part-time work means that women often face exploitation and uncertain employment prospects. Second, redistributing unpaid care work: gender equality in caregiving responsibilities is crucial in enabling women to participate in the labour force. This requires both policy measures, such as paid parental leave and

public investment in childcare infrastructure, and cultural changes that abandon traditional gender roles. The study highlights best practices from advanced economies that India could adapt. For instance, Scandinavian countries have robust policies for part-time work, parental leave, and subsidised childcare, which have significantly boosted female workforce participation. In France, part-time workers receive the same protections and benefits as full-time employees, ensuring equitable treatment. The European Union's directives on part-time work, adopted in the late 1990s, mandate equal pay and social security for part-time workers. India's labour laws, by contrast, remain silent on these issues, perpetuating systemic inequalities.

Policy recommendations The paper's findings underscore the need for a multi-pronged policy approach. First, formalising part-time work: India must define and formalise part-time employment. This includes setting hourly minimum wages (the smallest unit for defining minimum wages in India is per day and not per hour), ensuring job security, and providing access to social security benefits. Formalising part-time work would create a structured pathway for women to enter the workforce while balancing caregiving responsibilities. Second, investing in care infrastructure. Public and private investment in affordable childcare and eldercare facilities yield many benefits to private companies and the macroeconomy, as international studies have shown (Council of Economic Advisors, U.S.). Such measures would not only reduce the caregiving burden on women but also create new employment opportunities in the care economy. Third, promoting gender equality in caregiving. Policies such as paid parental leave for both parents and tax incentives for shared caregiving responsibilities can help redistribute unpaid care work. Awareness campaigns to challenge societal norms and promote gender equity are equally important.

Fourth, flexible work policies. Employers should adopt flexible work arrangements, such as remote work and adjustable schedules, to support employees with caregiving responsibilities. This move would also be in the self-interest of companies because their output and productivity can be expected to increase. Boosting female labour force participation is not just a matter of gender equality, but is also an economic imperative. Research by the International Monetary Fund estimates that closing the gender gap in labour force participation could increase India's GDP by 27%. Higher female LFPR would lead to greater household incomes, improved standards of living, and enhanced economic productivity. The ripple effects extend beyond the economy. When women participate in the workforce, it shifts societal perceptions of gender roles, inspiring younger generations and fostering a culture of equality. Moreover, women's financial independence contributes to better health and education outcomes for their families, creating a virtuous cycle of development. Challenges to implementation While the benefits of these interventions are clear, their implementation poses significant challenges. Deeply ingrained cultural norms often resist change,



making it difficult to redistribute caregiving responsibilities. Employers may be reluctant to adopt flexible work policies without government regulation. Additionally, the informal nature of India's labour market, where over 80% of workers are employed, complicates the formalisation of part-time work. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts from policymakers, employers, and civil society. The government must take the lead by formalising labour reforms and investing in care infrastructure, as is common in many advanced economies. Employers should recognise the business case for diversity and flexibility, which have been shown to improve employee retention and productivity. Civil society organisations should continue to play a crucial role in rais-

ing awareness and advocating for gender equality. As the country aspires to become a developed nation by 2047, harnessing the potential of its women's workforce is essential. By formalising part-time employment, redistributing unpaid care work, and promoting gender equality in its society, India can unlock a brighter, more inclusive path for its society today and for future generations. The time to act is now. Aakash Dev is an Associate Fellow in the Center on Gender and the Macroeconomy (CGM) at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), India. Ratna Sahay is a Professor at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), India and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Growth and Development, Washington DC

GMR Aero Technic, Liebherr-Aerospace ink strategic agreement



Hyderabad: GMR Aero Technic, India's leading maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) provider, has entered into a landmark agreement with Liebherr-Aerospace, a global leader in aircraft systems manufacturing and servicing. This partnership marks a significant step forward in advancing MRO capabilities for the Indian aviation sector. Under this agreement, GMR Aero Technic will col-

laborate with Liebherr-Aerospace to offer comprehensive repair services for heat exchangers. The collaboration will leverage Liebherr's technological expertise and GMR Aero Technic's infrastructure and skilled workforce to provide high-quality, cost-effective repair solutions to airlines operating in India and the surrounding region, a press release said.