

## Congress the permanent villain in Telangana's story, says KTR

Hyderabad: Reminding the people of Telangana of the long record of betrayal by the Congress party on the occasion of Deeksha Divas, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday called upon the public to renew their commitment to protect Telangana's self-respect and hard-won Statehood.

Addressing party leaders, Telangana movement veterans and citizens at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao stated that the struggle for Telangana was not just a chapter in history, but an identity that must be safeguarded every single day. Slamming the Congress leadership for attempting to degrade the importance of the Statehood movement, he questioned the legitimacy of the TPCC chief who now speaks casually about the Telangana movement and K Chandrashekhar Rao's historic hunger strike.

"During the Telangana movement, no one knew where the PCC president was. Today he talks recklessly about KCR's fast," he said, reminding Congress leaders that it was the Congress government, both in Delhi and at the State level, that pleaded with Chandrashekhar Rao to withdraw his fast as his life had become crucial for the political decision on Telangana. The hands of Congress leaders are stained with the blood of Telangana's children, he said, calling Congress the permanent villain in Telangana's story.

"Without the three letters K-C-R, there would be no Telangana," he asserted, stressing that those who ridicule Chandrashekhar Rao's historic fast must remember the price paid by an entire generation. Challenging the ruling party to prove its moral courage, he asked it to make the ten MLAs that Congress had poached resign and face fresh elections. Congress

Earlier, Rama Rao said Deeksha Divas was not just a date in history, but a day to reaffirm collective resolve. It was a moment to remember the sacrifices of martyrs, the determination of lakhs of people, and the injustices committed repeatedly by the Congress regime over six decades, from 1950 to 2025. He said the BRS had thanked Sonia Gandhi out of courtesy after Statehood, but never had called her a 'Bali Devatha of Telangana', unlike today's Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy did.



"Insult us if you wish, but we will never tolerate insults to Telangana or its movement," Rama Rao said, reiterating that the Congress had always deceived Telangana, from its suppressing leaders, to poaching elected representatives, to diluting the State's identity. Announcing that the Rajiv Gandhi statue at the Secretariat entrance would be replaced with the statue of Telangana Thalli, he said the BRS would restore Telangana's pride.

Drawing parallels to India's freedom struggle and incidents like the Quit India movement, Rama Rao described Chandrashekhar Rao's 2009 fast as the turning point in Telangana's fight for self-respect.

"On November 29, 2009, history changed. KCR's fast electrified the entire State," he said, adding that the slogan "Telangana vachudo... KCR sachhudo" had ignited every section of society, from farmers, workers and employees to lawyers, doctors, journalists and NRIs, transforming the movement into an unstoppable force. Recalling how Chandrashekhar Rao spent nearly a decade before the fast standing alone with courage and conviction and how

***BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao marked Deeksha Divas by accusing the Congress of repeatedly betraying Telangana and belittling the Statehood movement. He said K. Chandrashekhar Rao's 2009 fast transformed the agitation, and urged people to defend Telangana's identity and autonomy.***

BRS MLAs resigned repeatedly for the cause, he pointed out that Congress leaders at the same time had protected their positions and betrayed Telangana.

Stating that Deeksha Divas must be celebrated like Dasara or Diwali, not for rituals, but for the reminder of good triumphing over evil, he said Chandrashekhar Rao was the indomitable son of Telangana who rescued his

mother from decades of betrayal. Urging people to protect Telangana's autonomy from Delhi's feudal forces, Rama Rao asserted that the BRS, the party born from the womb of the movement, was the only force that could stand guard for Telangana.

"Even in silence, KCR shakes politics. Telangana will rise again with his voice," he declared.



## From ring to remote: SEC announces symbols for GP polls

The State Election Commission (SEC) has released 30 symbols, along with one NOTA (None of the above), for the upcoming Sarpanch elections. These symbols will be provided to contesting candidates by the polling officer in their respective villages.

The State Election Commission on Friday released the list of symbols for the upcoming local body elections. Thirty symbols have been allotted for the Sarpanch elections, including the ring, scissors, bat, football, lady's purse, TV remote, and toothpaste. For the ward office elections, 20



symbols have been released, such as frock, gas stove, gas cylinder, stool, almirah, and whistle. A "None of the Above" (NOTA) option will be available on all ballot papers. The notification issued by the State Election Commission (SEC) stated that upon the expiry of the deadline for withdrawal of candidature, the Returning Officer must prepare a list of contesting candidates in Telugu, using Form IX, separately for each Sarpanch and ward, as per Rule 14 of the conduct of election rules. This list should be published on the notice board of the Gram Panchayat office, or in a conspicuous place if the office is not available.

The list should contain the names of the candidates in alphabetical order in Telugu, as provided in their nomination papers. The arrangement of names shall be based on the first letter of the candidate's name, regardless of whether it is a given name or a surname.

The initials, if any, prefixed to the candidate's name shall be ignored for this purpose. If two candidates have the same name but different initials, their names shall be arranged inter se based on the first letter of the initial. Furthermore, if two or more candidates have the same name but different surnames, their names shall be arranged inter se in alphabetical order according to the surnames.

The notification said that if two or more candidates bear the same name and surname/initials, they should be distinguished by adding their occupation, residence, or another suitable identifier. In the list of contesting candidates, the names of such candidates shall be arranged in the order in which their nominations were received by the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer will allocate the first symbol to the first candidate in the list. The same procedure will be followed for ward offices as well.

## BJP MLA dares Congress for open debate on HiLT

Hyderabad: BJP MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy has thrown a gauntlet to Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy for an open public debate on the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation (HiLT) Policy, accusing the Congress government of large-scale irregularities and land scams.

Speaking to the media on Friday, Maheshwar Reddy said the opposition's inability to explain the HiLT policy reflects the "bankruptcy" of Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy. He questioned why the Assembly was not convened to discuss the policy if it was truly transparent.

Declaring his readiness for an open debate, he proposed a discussion at the Assembly media point at 11 am on Saturday in the presence of journalists, or at any time and venue finalised by the minister.

Maheshwar Reddy alleged that the Congress government was following the corrupt precedents of the previous BRS regime. He asked why cabinet colleagues Bhatti Vikramarka and Sridhar Babu, who had promised to expose irregularities in land transfers during the BRS era, were now silent. He accused the Con-



gress of "match-fixing" with BRS leaders.

The BJP leader further charged that 9,292 acres of industrial land worth Rs 6.30 lakh crore were being sold for just Rs 5,000 crore, calling it a massive scam. He described the Congress government's actions not as land conversion but "land looting," alleging that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was acting like a "land loot mafia don" while ministers behaved like "gangsters."

Maheshwar Reddy demanded that the GO-27 issued to implement the HiLT policy be revoked and the matter debated in the Assembly. He warned that if the government failed to act, the BJP would launch a statewide movement to repeal the policy.



## Union Ministry of Fisheries pushes eLISS

The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying inaugurated a two-day training workshop on the eLISS app software for Nodal and District Nodal Officers of the Southern Zone States on Friday at the TGIRD Training Institute, Hyderabad. The participating states include Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Telangana. The workshop will continue until November 29.

The programme was formally inaugurated by B Gopi, Director, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry, Government of Telangana, in the presence of Jagat Hazarika, Statistical Advisor, Department of Livestock Statistics, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

In his inaugural address, the Director emphasised the critical role of livestock statistical data in shaping national policies. He highlighted that accurate and timely data collection is essential for effective planning and implementation of schemes in the livestock sector.

Jagat Hazarika explained that data generated through integrated sample surveys at the village level will be systematically compiled and reported at state, national and global levels. He noted that such comprehensive data will strengthen India's livestock statistics and enhance international reporting standards.

Dr Prachi Mishra Sahu, Senior Scientist at IASRI, informed participants that the digitisation of livestock data across the country has been operational since 2023-24 through the eLISS app software. She underlined that the app has streamlined data collection, ensuring efficiency, transparency and accessibility for stakeholders. The workshop aims to train officers in the effective use of the eLISS platform, equipping them to manage livestock statistics more efficiently. With participation from multiple southern states, the initiative marks a significant step toward strengthening India's livestock data ecosystem and supporting evidence-based policy formulation.



# Padma Shri. Jadav Payeng The Forest Man of India honored with Sankalp Kiran Puraskar

Hyderabad, 29th Nov, 2025: Hyderabad witnessed a grand celebration of humanitarian spirit on November 28 as the Suchirindia Foundation hosted its annual Sankalp Divas at the Mountain Heights, Shilparamam. The event, which coincides with the birthday of Lion Dr. Y. Kiron, celebrated its legacy of honoring social contributors and spreading joy among children from special schools.

This year's highlight was the \*Sankalp Kiron Puraskar, awarded to Jadav Payeng and M.Venkaiah Naidu \*Padma Shri. Jadav Payeng for his exceptional contributions to society. The event was graced by Sri. M.Venkaiah Naidu (Former Vice President of India) as the chief guest. The program also included dazzling performances by children from 50 special schools, showcasing their remarkable talents through music and dance.

Lion Dr. Y. Kiron, a humanitarian and businessman, shared his journey and the inspiration behind Sankalp Divas, emphasizing his commitment to creating meaningful impact in society.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Y. Kiron said, "Today is very special for us. Along with sharing our joys and sorrows, we will also discuss future activities. I started this Sankalp Divas with the intention of making my birthday celebration meaningful, useful for the society, and bringing light to some people's lives. Even if I am not feeling well at any time,



I get renewed inspiration by spending time with these pure-hearted children."

He urged governments and society to focus on empowering children with disabilities and emphasized the need for organic farming and village development. He also addressed the growing menace of drug abuse among youth,

urging collective responsibility to combat the issue.

Receiving the Sankalp Kiron Puraskar, Padama Shri. Jadav Payeng expressed gratitude for being recognized for his efforts and highlighted his admiration for Dr. Kiron's dedication to social service. Padma Shri. Jadav Payeng remarked, "I feel honored to receive this

prestigious award. Brother Kiron is a great person. Even before I met Kiron, I had heard a lot about his greatness. These special children are real heroes. I thank Kiron for giving me this good fortune. During the lockdown, I realized that what we do for the society gives more satisfaction than how much we earn."

## Neopolis auction shatters records: Kokapet plots touch Rs 151 cr per acre

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has earned over Rs

2,700 crore in the second phase auction for its Neopolis

lands in Kokapet on Friday. The land parcels were sold at a record price, with Plot No. 15 fetching Rs 151.25 crore per acre, and Plot No. 16 selling for Rs 147.75 crore per acre. In this second phase alone, HMDA received Rs 1,352 crore for 9.06 acres. Plot No. 15 secured Rs 609.55 crore for 4.03

acres, while Plot No. 16 received Rs 743 crore for 5.03 acres. The second phase of the auction has now concluded.

Recently, HMDA officials conducted an auction for two plots in the Neopolis Layout in Kokapet, where open plots also achieved record prices, fetching over Rs 137 crore per acre near Neopolis. HMDA officials have put up for sale 42 acres of land in Kokapet, Moosapet, and other areas of Hyderabad in this auction. In the auction held in 2023, the land parcels were sold for half the price per acre, which was Rs 73 crore. HMDA officials revealed that this time the price has increased by 87 per cent. Two months ago, lands in Turkayamjal, Bachupally, Medchal, and other areas were auctioned, but these lands did not receive much response.





# Modernisation in farming methods to help increase productivity

Nandyal: District Collector G Raja Kumari on Friday visited Gundupapula village of Dornipadu mandal as part of the State Government's flagship farmer outreach initiative 'Rythanna Meekosam', which is being conducted from November 24 to 29 across the district.

The programme is aimed at understanding the real-time challenges of farmers at the field level and ensuring effective implementation of welfare schemes.

During the visit, the Collector personally met several farmers at their residences and enquired about their issues, requirements, and benefits received under various schemes.

Farmers Venkateswarlu and Chinna Dastagiri informed the Collector that they had received Rs 5,000 each in the first phase and second phase under the Annadatha Sukhibhava



scheme, and Rs 2,000 each under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, amounting to a total assistance of Rs 14,000 credited to their bank accounts.

The Collector assured them of prompt action in addressing any pending concerns and reiterated the administration's commitment to supporting the farming community.

Speaking on the oc-

casation, Collector Rajakumari emphasized the significance of adopting modern agricultural technologies and sustainable farming practices.

She advised farmers to utilize fertilizers judiciously, particularly urea, and encouraged them to explore opportunities provided through the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments.

She noted that modernization in farming methods would help increase

productivity and reduce expenditure.

Senior officials including the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Koilakuntla, Dornipadu Tahsildar, MPDO, Mandal Agriculture Officer, and the local Sarpanch accompanied the Collector during the visit. They stated that continuous coordination with farmers would be maintained to strengthen agricultural development and welfare initiatives in the mandal.

## Nat'l seminar about empowering rural India on Jan 29-30

Srisailam: Government Degree College, Srisailam Project is organising a two-day ICSSR-New Delhi, sponsored National Seminar on "Empowering Rural India: Role of MSMEs to Promote Entrepreneurship in the Digital Era" on January, 29th & 30th, 2026 under the aegis of the Department of Commerce.

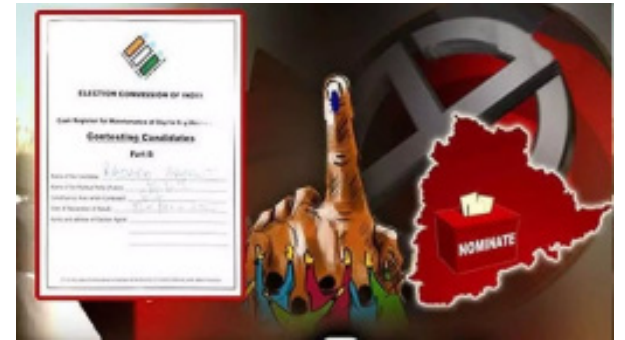
The seminar aims to explore the transformative role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in strengthening rural entrepreneurship through digital technologies.

Eminent scholars, academicians, policymakers, industry experts, and research scholars from across the country will participate and share their insights. The seminar seeks to provide a platform for meaningful dialogue and policy recommendations that contribute to sustainable rural development. TG Bharath, Minister for Industries and Commerce, will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Budda Rajasekhar Reddy, MLA, Srisailam Constituency, will join as Special Invitee.

Prof. V Venkata Basava Rao, Vice Chancellor of Rayalaseema University, Kurnool, will be the Guest of Honour.

The event is organized under the leadership of Dr P Hussain Basha, Principal & Chairman of the Seminar and Dr M Buchaiah, Head, Department of Commerce & Convener.



## Telangana: Nominations for first phase of sarpanch elections to end today

The first phase of nomination filing for the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections is set to close on Saturday, with authorities preparing for a thorough scrutiny process on Sunday. Following the scrutiny, which is expected to conclude by 5 pm, a valid list of candidates will be released.

Candidates whose nominations are rejected will have the opportunity to appeal the decision made by the Returning Officer. Appeals can be lodged either at the Revenue Divisional office or the Sub Collector's office the day after the scrutiny process.

Meanwhile, many nominations for Sarpanch and Ward Member positions have faced rejection due to incomplete information, missing documents, and lack of comprehensive details. This highlights the importance of a meticulous nomination scrutiny process in ensuring a smooth electoral procedure.

## AP Home Minister Anita reviews on Cyclone 'Ditwa', asks officials to be vigilant

In response to the warnings regarding Cyclone 'Ditwa', Home Minister Anita convened a review meeting with senior officials at the Disaster Response Organisation office. During the meeting, she emphasised the need to assess the cyclone's intensity and ensure that the affected districts receive timely alerts.



Minister Anita reached out to collectors in the impacted areas, urging them to rigorously enforce precautionary measures. She announced the dispatch of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams to assist in relief operations.

Officials reported that heavy rain is anticipated in the southern coastal districts of Kerala tomorrow.



# Mass awareness drive launched on Rs 66.95 cr unclaimed bank deposits

Puttaparthi: District Collector A Shyam Prasad on Friday launched a large-scale awareness campaign to help citizens reclaim unclaimed bank deposits under the Reserve Bank of India's initiative, "Your Money-Your Right."

The programme was inaugurated at the Collectorate with the release of awareness posters, marking the beginning of a district-wide outreach effort.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the district has as many as 2,88,083 bank accounts that have remained inactive for over ten years, with a total of Rs 66.95 crore lying unclaimed.

These funds, transferred from various bank head offices to the RBI, belong to individuals and institutions who have not operated their accounts for a long period.

He explained that people who wish to reclaim their unclaimed deposits must visit their nearest bank branch with Aadhaar, PAN and a passport-size photograph to complete the e-KYC process.

Once the account is reactivated, the bank and the RBI will carry out a verification procedure, after



which the amount will be credited to the rightful claimant's account.

In cases where the account holder has passed away, legal heirs can obtain the funds by submitting the death certificate, a family consent letter and the required supporting documents.

The Collector directed bank officials to ensure extensive publicity across the district so that eligible citizens can make use of the opportunity.

He urged people to come forward and claim their rightful money without delay. LDM Ramanakumar and CPO Vijayakumar were also present at the event.

## Retail credit outreach campaign witnesses encouraging response

Visakhapatnam: A large number of retail and other customers from Visakhapatnam and nearby areas participated in a retail credit outreach campaign organised by the Central Bank of India, regional office Visakhapatnam here on Friday.

During the event, several customers received loan sanction letters from the executive director of

Central Bank of India MV Murali Krishna, and regional head AV Ramana Murthy.

The executive director interacted with participants, addressed their queries, and assured continuous efforts toward enhancing customer service, strengthening credit delivery mechanisms, and expanding digital banking conveniences.

# INS Vikrant and INS Udaygiri take part in IFR 2025 in Colombo



Visakhapatnam: India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, along with the indigenously built frigate INS Udaygiri, represent the Indian Navy at the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2025 being hosted by the Sri Lanka Navy in Colombo from November 27 to 29.

Hosted part of the Sri Lanka Navy's 75th anniversary celebrations, the event features participation from naval ships, delegations and observers from several countries.

The visit marks the maiden overseas deployment of both ships and underscores India's commitment to strengthening regional maritime cooperation.

The maiden participation of indigenously built and Nation's Pride INS Vikrant for an International Fleet Review highlights India's continued engagement with partner navies in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Also, it reflects India's emphasis on promoting peace, stability and security through collaboration and interoperability.

The participation of the recently commissioned INS Udaygiri further showcases India's advancing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities, expanding naval presence in the IOR.

During their stay in Colombo, the ships will participate in key IFR events including the ceremonial fleet review, city parade, community outreach activities, and professional naval interactions.

As part of public outreach initiatives, the ships will also be open to visitors during IFR 2025.

## Mega parent teachers meeting 3.0 on Dec 5

Anantapur: District Collector O Anand on Friday said that a mega parent teachers meeting 3.0 programme is being organized on December 5 across the district. Collector held a press conference at the Revenue Building of Anantapur Collectorate. Speaking on this occasion, the Collector said that two mega parent teachers' meetings have been organized in the past. He said that PTM will be organized in all government and aided schools, junior colleges, institutions, model schools, KGBV, tribal welfare and social welfare institutions from class 1 to intermediate. He said that this programme is being carried out meaningfully and effectively as per the orders of the Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh.

He said that 2.06 lakh children are studying in government, aided schools and junior colleges in the district, and their parents will participate in this programme along with them. DEO Prasad Babu, DVEO Venkataramana Nayak, Samagra Shiksha APC Shailaja participated in this programme.





# 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 raising 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 collaborate 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.





# The banality of evil: learning about Gaza from Nazi history

'Neither perverted nor sadistic', but 'terrifyingly 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 deedsThe 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 sus-



tained 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 participated 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 expertise 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.



# 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 diabetic 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 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.