

TRICITY SCOOP

A WEEKLY TRICITY RUNDOWN

April 24, 2022

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FEATURED NEWS

Women Who Moved from Pseudonyms to Brand Names

BY SONIKA SETHI

In the middle of the 19th century, when Mary Ann Evans, an established journalist took up the pseudonym 'George Eliot', her only desire was to be...

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The Universal Day of Love

BY NARINDER JIT KAUR

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Nadal's Will Power and Resilience took him to the Pinnacle

BY VIVEK ATRAY

With his 21st Grand Slam level title, the 2022 Australian Open, Rafael Nadal conquered a bastion that no man before him had ever done. Nadal outpaced...

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Let's Talk Mind!

BY AMIT ROY

When the world over the pandemic left trails of devastation and death, people who survived were fighting a different...

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Tough Toddlers: Rising Above the Pandemic

BY VIJETA BHATEJA DIXIT

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Excel the Art of Bird Photography

BY ANUJ JAIN

Bird Photography is all about capturing the right moment. So, note-worthy photographer Anuj shares some tips and tricks to excel art of bird photography! Bird...

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Find a Smile in the Worry!

BY ISHA

Stop chasing the big pleasures of life and start enjoying the little ones, firmly believes Social Media Influencer Isha who is here to give you...

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BY DIGANTA BARUAH

In 2016, I came to the beautiful Chandigarh City with dreams & aspirations in my heart. I initially worked with a few reputed companies but...

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Stay Connected to the 'Real' World

BY DR. RUBY AHUJA

There has been a big surge in digitalization in all leading companies as well as educational institutions. The pandemic has brought the world to a...

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Share Some Smiles and Prayers

BY VIVEK ATRAY

My dear friends, I hope you're staying afloat in these uncertain times. Many friends have already suffered, and some have lost their near and dear...

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Midwifery: The Key to Save lives of Pregnant Women and Newborns

BY LAKSHMANA VENKAT KUCHI ON APRIL 24, 2022



Vakati Karuna, IAS, Commissioner Health and Family Welfare and Mission, Director, National Health Mission, Govt. of Telangana

A visit to any of the Telangana government area hospitals in Hyderabad or in different districts of the state can shock you pleasantly.

The neatness, the presence of doctors, nurses and more important, the machines and medicines that make up hospitals and promise good healthcare delivery are in evidence and seem

surprisingly efficient, and adequate. And in much contrast to common perception and image people have of a government hospital, in fact.

Take for example, the Area Hospital of Vanasthalipuram in Hyderabad, a government run hospital, and the well-appointed healthcare centre it has developed into over the past few years. This centre is one of the many in the state that provide superior care for pregnant women, and among those where government is encouraging midwifery as the mechanism to reduce unwanted and unnecessary cesarean deliveries of babies.

Helping the successful implementation of the Telangana government initiative to promote midwifery to help in natural child births and save pregnant women from losing lives during birthing complications are an army of nursing staff trained in midwifery. In fact, these form part of an entirely new cadre in healthcare services delivery mechanism the Telangana government has begun with the help of UNICEF and Fernandez Foundation.

Concerned over the very high percentages of cesarean operations for childbirth, the Telangana government worked with Fernandez Foundation that has been running a very successful midwifery training programme and cut down cesarean deliveries in its hospital drastically. UNICEF too came to the aid of the Telangana government in its initiative, whose success has now prompted the central government to take it up at the national level.

Now, the entire training programme of midwifery is being funded by the National Health Mission of the central government.

The Telangana government has plans to train 1,000 midwives over the next few years and post them across the state to ensure that superior care, comfort, and dignity to pregnant women that they deserve and give them a happy birthing experience. The amount of special care, companionship and support midwives can give, cannot be replicated by doctors who do not have the time for it, said Dr Evita Fernandez, chairperson of the Fernandez Foundation. A passionate advocate of normal birthing, Dr Evita believes in the need to empower women to make choices regarding issues surrounding birth.



Dr Evita Fernandez

Of late, childbirth has almost become synonymous with cesarean operations, for a variety of reasons – from a business reason to paucity of time for doctors to unscientific Muhurtham (auspicious time) deliveries demanded by parents – which is also dangerous for the pregnant women and newborns.

India has made tremendous progress in terms of medical education, quality and standards of hospitals and health care, but there are areas that still needs our focus and immediate attention – as India is only second to Nigeria in terms of numbers of deaths during pregnancy, many of which are preventable through midwifery, she said.

She is happy that Telangana has appreciated the importance of midwifery and is glad that the government has taken it up in a big way. The success of the pilot project of midwifery training run by the Fernandez Foundation in 2017 has given birth to a national level initiative on this score.

In fact, not so long ago, in 2015 it was observed that Telangana had the highest C-section deliveries at a stunningly high 60.7 percent of all deliveries in the state. Of these, 41 percent are in government run hospitals and a whopping 75 percent in the private sector hospitals.

Another worrying statistic is that Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) remains 63 for one lakh births and an infant mortality rate of 26.4 per 100 live births.

These figures are also reflective of the situation in the country with the phenomenon of unnecessary C sector interventions being the rule rather than the exception.

Meital Rusdia, Chief Field Office, UNICEF field office for Andhra Pradesh Karnataka and Telangana believes that this initiative can be the game changer and a sustainable solution to the health personnel gap in the country. She says, "Midwifery is a proven, globally acclaimed intervention that can prevent as many as 83 percent of all maternal and newborn deaths. With this in view, UNICEF has partnered with the government of Telangana and Fernandez Foundation to launch the Midwifery Initiative in the state. The initiative has promoted respectful maternal care and 'natural births', thereby also bringing down the C-sections. Telangana has been a pioneer on this front and learnings from the state initiative have fed into the national Midwifery initiative."



Published in [Beyond Tricity](#)



Lakshmana Venkat Kuchi

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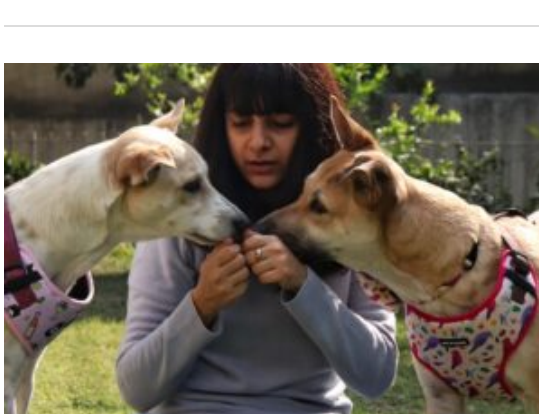
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