

Survey shows 40.1 pc children aged 17-18 years not enrolled in colleges

Hyderabad: In a concerning trend, a staggering 22.1 per cent of the children in the age group of 14-18 years in Telangana have not enrolled in any school or college. This figure is in stark contrast to the national average of 13.2 per cent. The statistics from the Socio Economic Outlook 2024 reveals that more boys (26 per cent) than girls (17.4 per cent) in the State are out of the educational institutions.

The situation turns grave for the children aged 17-18 years, with the percentage of children not enrolled in educational institutions rising to 40.1 per cent. Among these older teenagers, 68.7 per cent work more than 15 days a month.

However, a total of 89.2 per cent of the 17-18 year olds, despite being out of the school, were found proficient in using digital technology. They excel at searching for and finding videos besides being skilled at sharing the content online, the report said citing the annual status of education report (rural) for the year 2022. As for only schools, the survey recently conducted by the School Education department revealed that a total of 16,683 children including 11,405 at elementary level and 5,278 at secondary level were out of the school. Children in the age group of 6-14 years are considered out of the school if they did not complete elementary education – either never enrolled in the school or dropped out without completing the el-



ementary education. A pupil of an elementary school absent for more than one month

is also be considered as out of the school child. As per the report, the government has

been implementing several initiatives to bridge the gaps.

ADP donates to Leprosy patients in collaboration with the LEPRA society



Hyderabad: ADP India has donated specially designed footwear to leprosy patients at an event in Rural Health centre in Narsingi on Friday. The donation event was taken up in association with LEPRA Society, a company press release said. Speaking on the occasion, ADP Senior vice president Sujnan Venkatesh said the footwear donation was taken up as a CSR initiative recognizing the struggles faced by people living with leprosy and other disabilities. The donation would include specially designed footwear for 300 persons affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis. He said ADP was actively engaged in CSR programs including a food donation campaign in which 9,00,000 mid-day meals were sponsored for one month to 37,000 children studying in government schools. ADP joins hands with Akshaya Patra to provide 9 lakh meals to 37,000 govt school students across India. The ADP has also supported building a trauma care center and provide critical medical equipment and supplies to facilitate handling emergencies of accident victims. LEPRA society FRE Suresh and other officials participated in the programme.

From Gokak agitation to 'quota for locals' Bill: A long history of language and quota movements in Karnataka

Members of Kannada Rakshana Vedike (Praveen Shetty group) hold posters of Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar Shaw during a protest against industry leaders allegedly opposing the reservation bill for Kannadigas in the private sector, in Bengaluru. The bill that was cleared by the cabinet on July 15 proposed that industries, factories and other establishments appoint local candidates in 50% of management positions and 70% in non-management positions.

Owing to strong adverse reactions from company heads and industry leaders the bill has been paused now for further deliberations. In Karnataka, the demand for reservations for locals has not been a very loud or consistent one. Sudden and in isolated spurts at best, it, however, has a history that dates back to the 1980s. The Chief Minister, Mr. Gundu Rao had two separate meetings in Bangalore on June 04, 1982 on the Gokak Committee report. The Chief Minister, Mr. Gundu Rao had two separate meetings in Bangalore on June 04, 1982 on the Gokak Committee report. | Photo Credit: HAFEEZ TAGundu Rao and Gokak agitationAfter the collapse of the Devaraj Urs-led government, R. Gundu Rao became the chief minister of the State in 1980. His three-year term was mired in controversies and among them was the Gokak agitations, the biggest language-centric movement in Karnataka till date. Rao set off a storm by imposing Sanskrit as the first language in schools and removing Kannada and Hindi from the first language groups. Strong protests followed and a committee chaired by Jnanpith awardee Prof V.K. Gokak was formed. In 1981, the committee recommended Kannada as the sole first language at the high school level and made it compulsory at the primary levels. Actor Rajkumar during Gokak movement.

The government, however, dragged its feet on implementation of the same. The protests became stronger. With Kannada movie icon Rajkumar supporting the cause, the movement gained unprecedented momentum. Police arresting the agitators who were squatting on the footsteps of Town Hall demanding the full implementation of the Gokak report, breaking the prohibitory orders in order to fill the jails in Bangalore on May 27, 1982. Police arresting the agitators who were squatting on the footsteps of Town Hall demanding the full implementation of the Gokak report, breaking the prohibitory orders in order to fill the jails in Bangalore on May 27, 1982. | Photo Credit: HAFEEZ TAJanata government comes to powerIn 1983, Janata government, the first non-Congress government in the State, came to power led by Ramakrishna Hegde. "The Janata government saw itself as a sequel to the multiple movements such as the Dalit movement, the farmers' movement and the Kannadiga movement that shaped that period," says A. Narayana, faculty at Azim Premji University. This meant that the government had to assuage the feelings of these sections, and the Sarojini Mahishi Committee was one such attempt. The committee headed



by Sarojini Mahishi, four-time Lok Sabha member from Dharwad North constituency and vice-chairperson of the Rajya Sabha between 1982 and 1984, tabled its report in 1986 and advocated for a percentage of public sector jobs to be reserved for local candidates. But how did a demand for Kannada in schools result in a committee recommending domicile-based employment reservations? Narayana explains.

"While Kannada movements were gaining strength, those were also the heydays of public sector undertakings in Karnataka. Bangalore became the epicentre of major PSUs such as HMT, HAL, NAL and so on," he says. The PSUs employed people in large numbers from outside the State. Among a section of people this stemmed a sense that locals were not getting their due in terms of employment. Mahishi report Among the 58 recommendations it made, the Mahishi report advocated for 100% reservations for local candidates in D category jobs at Central PSUs and railways. For C-category jobs 65% reservation was suggested above a certain payscale and 80% below it. The report also stated that local candidates should be employed at state PSUs, however, considering competency requirements, if local candidates were not available, then others could be appointed with the special permission of the government. For reservations in the central government PSUs, the committee also suggested constitutional amendments since it would have been against the federal principles to reserve jobs on the basis of region. Never-

theless, the report was never implemented. Emergence of private sector In the years that followed, liberalisation happened. Private sector emerged as a major player in the State.

"Post 1991, the state government went out of their way to placate the private sector. States were virtually competing with each other to give incentives in return for industrial investments. Something like the 'quota for local bill' would have been seen as a major disincentive then," Narayana says. Parallely, among sections of people, a simmering fear of being relegated into a minority kept growing. Although there have been no consistent long-drawn agitations in the state for job reservations, the voices for the same never really faded away either. Revised report In 2016 during the Siddaramaiah-led government, a five-member committee headed by L. Hanumanthaiah was set up to revise the Mahishi report. "The Mahishi report belonged to a pre-liberalisation era. The relationship between state and private industry was very different then. Public sector was prominent and private sector was yet to emerge as a strong force. To address this, a revised Mahishi committee report was submitted," Narayana notes. The revised report essentially extended the recommendations from the previous report to private sector. It suggested that C and D-grade jobs at all private sector companies including IT-BT, resorts, retail commerce, hospitals, entertainment units, hotels, transport, tourism, start-ups, e-commerce, educational institutions and others should be

reserved for local candidates since the state government provide these companies with facilities such as water, electricity, road, tax concessions and so on. This was recommended as one of the conditions to provide license to the companies.

The report also suggested that 80% of the higher-level jobs at these companies should be reserved for people from the state and that campus recruitment by these companies should be done only within Karnataka. Since then, multiple governments considered further actions, however, no final decision was taken on either the Mahishi report or its revised version. Activists of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (Narayana Gowda faction) during a rally over the 60 per cent Kannada sign board rules on Dec. 27, 2023. Activists of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (Narayana Gowda faction) during a rally over the 60 per cent Kannada sign board rules on Dec. 27, 2023. | Photo Credit: PTICut to present Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, formed in 1999, is one of the organisations that have been demanding the implementation of the Mahishi report. In the first week of June, the organisation members held a rally in Belagavi demanding the same. At the annual Kannada Sahitya Sammelana too, the implementation of the report has been a resolution passed almost every year. "There have been demands from time to time, however from the government's side it was only an assurance so far. This is the first time a very concrete bill has been brought up," Narayana says.

Rohit Shetty Takes the Wheel for SNICKERS® as Brand Ambassador – Action, Drama, and Humor Unleashed

Mars Wrigley India is thrilled to announce Bollywood director and action maestro Rohit Shetty as the new ambassador for SNICKERS®. Known for his high-octane films and vibrant personality, Shetty brings his signature charisma and dynamic style to elevate the SNICKERS® brand. This collaboration is an exciting installment in the iconic "You're Not You When You're Hungry" campaign promising to resonate with the audience.

Shetty's larger-than-life persona and dynamic flair energize the SNICKERS® brand. The new TVC, conceptualized by DDB Tribal, captures his legendary car stunts, seamlessly shifting gears with the brand's message. Renowned for fearless driving scenes and action-packed sequences, Shetty injects unmatched energy into the campaign, creating an exhilarating and unforgettable experience. This partnership promises an explosive blend of action and drama.

The film opens with Rohit Shetty mentoring a young boy at a HUNGAL Driving School car. As the boy struggles with tight-space driving, Shetty takes control, showcasing his signature maneuvers, and impressing the boy with his skills. The car suddenly halts, and Shetty humorously backtracks, leading them into a bustling fish market. The final twist occurs when the car ends up on a boat in the middle of the sea. The boy hands Shetty a SNICKERS®, saying, "You become Rohit Shetty when you're hungry." Shetty eats the SNICKERS® and transforms back into a calm driving instructor, highlighting the tagline's impact.

Rohit Shetty, sharing his excitement



about the collaboration, expressed, "I am excited to be the new brand ambassador for SNICKERS®. This collaboration is incredibly exciting because it aligns perfectly with my on-screen persona. The TVC was a blast to shoot, bringing together my love for cars and action. The message of SNICKERS® – that hunger can turn you into someone completely different – is something I think everyone can relate to. I'm looking

forward to sharing this fun and high-energy campaign with the audience." We are thrilled to have Rohit Shetty endorse and lend his signature swagger to the SNICKERS® brand. Rohit's authentic and adventurous personality are perfect fit with Snickers," said Nikhil Rao, Chief Marketing Officer, Mars Wrigley India. "SNICKERS® reignites its timeless and world-famous creative proposition 'You're not you when

you're hungry.' Our new campaign film with Rohit showcases high-octane drama and humor, especially connecting with our Gen Z audience across media touch points. We believe this collaboration will stand out and strengthen SNICKERS®'s position as the ultimate hunger bar. We are confident that Rohit's association with SNICKERS® is the beginning of great impactful work on the brand in India."

The welfare of Rachakonda staff is the first priority



Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudhir Babu said that all necessary measures are being taken for the welfare of the personnel working to maintain law and order in Rachakonda. As part of this, every year the Cooperative Credit Society holds a general meeting to identify their needs and work towards their solution. He said that several items mentioned in this year's agenda have been examined and orders have been issued for their implementation. It is suggested that the staff of the society

should act as a bridge between the superiors and the members and perform their duties transparently for the welfare of the staff. The Commissioner stated that YKE Innosoft Company will launch a new mobile app so that members of the society can keep up-to-date with their account information.

If we look at the new items to be implemented by this year's meeting... From this year, the amount offered for the funeral after the death of the members has been in-

creased from fifty thousand to sixty thousand. The amount given at the time of retirement has been increased from thirty thousand to forty thousand. Merit scholarships for children of members of the community have been increased departmentally.

At present, the interest on the loan given by the society will be reduced from 9 percent to 8.4 percent. An undistributed profit of Rs.3.91 crore has been added to the member's savings amount on the member's share amount for the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24. Last

year 7.5% interest was given on the trift amount, but for this financial year 2023-24 it has been decided to give 9% interest. Auditing for the financial year 2023-24 has been completed. DCP Admin Indira, Society Vice President, Society Secretary ACP SB Sridhar Reddy, Society Treasurer K Balraj, Directors Jangaiah, Ravinder Reddy, Valaraju, Mahipal, Suvarna, Lakshmi Prasanna, Police Officers Association Presidents CH Bhadra Reddy, Krishna Reddy, Prasad Babu were present. Other community members participated in the meeting.

Three killed, two injured as car turns turtle at Shamirpet

Hyderabad: Three persons died and two others were injured when the car in which they were traveling in went out of control and turned turtle at Turkapally in Shamirpet on the city outskirts on Friday. A rash and negligent driving is suspected to have led to the mishap, police said.

According to the police, the mishap occurred when the car driver lost control of the steering in an attempt to escape hitting a heavy vehicle ahead. Three passengers

traveling in the car suffered grievous bleeding injuries and died on the spot. Two others, traveling in the car, suffered serious injuries and were shifted to a private hospital. Their condition is said to be stable.

On receiving information, the Shamirpet police reached the spot and took up the investigation. A case of negligence causing death and injuries was booked.

Olympics 2024 Medals made of Eiffel Tower: Graphic Story

Winning an Olympic medal is every athlete's dream. At the Paris Olympics, when athletes win medals, it is not just glory they take home; they also carry a piece of France's pride, the Eiffel Tower. Approximately 36,600 medals have been awarded since Athens 1896, the first modern Olympic Games. It is the first time any host city incorporated pieces of a national monument into the medals.

The medals embody the spirit of the Games, the heritage of France, and the pinnacle of athletic achievement. Discover what makes the Paris 2024 Olympic medals a true celebration of excellence. Both Olympic and Paralympic medals carry a piece of iron from the Eiffel Tower, which was recovered during a recent renovation. The iron is made according to France's hexagonal shape. This is positioned at the centre of the medal and has the Paris 2024 Games' symbol. Each medal is engraved with the name of the sport, the discipline, and the event along its edge. These inscriptions are in French on the Olympic medals and in English on the Paralympic medals, the respective official languages of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The reverse side of the Olympic medal shows the story of the Games' rebirth in Greece. It features the story designed by Elena Votsi for the Athens 2004 Olympics - the goddess of victory, Athena Nike emerging from the Panathenaic Stadium, the site of the 1896



revival of the Olympic Games. It also shows the Acropolis of Athens, a mandatory feature on Olympic medals, joined for the first time by the Eiffel Tower in the Paris 2024

design. The reverse side of the Paralympic medals features a graphic depiction of the Eiffel Tower from an upward perspective, offering a rarely seen angle of the iconic

monument. Surrounding the base of the tower are the words "Paris" and "2024" in universal Braille, paying homage to the French inventor, Louis Braille.

What is behind Rwanda's election outcome?

The story so far: On July 15, Rwanda held its fourth presidential election since the 1994 Tutsi genocide. Partial results released by Rwanda's National Electoral Commission (NEC) reveal overwhelming support for President Paul Kagame. With 79% of the votes counted, Kagame has secured over 99% of the votes. Opposition leaders Habineza Frank of the Democratic Green Party and Independent candidate Mpayimana Phillippe secured less than one per cent of the votes each.

How did Rwanda politically progress?

On 6 April, 1994, Rwanda's Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a plane crash, allegedly by the Tutsi-led armed group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Between April 7 and July 15, 1994, the state-sponsored Hutu armed group massacred over 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in revenge attacks. In 1994, the RPF defeated Rwanda's government, ended the genocide and restored law and order. The RPF took control of Rwanda and established a transitional government of both Hutus and Tutsis, which ruled from 1994 to 1995. Between 1996 and 2002, Rwanda's leadership was preoccupied with fighting Hutu armed groups in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and could not prioritise nation building.

In 2003, Rwanda adopted a new Constitution and became a semi-presiden-

tial republic. The same year, multi-party elections were held for the first time. Kagame was elected as Rwanda's President. Under his leadership, the RPF rapidly consolidated power, winning landslide majorities since 2003. In 2015, the government amended the constitution through a referendum, enabling Kagame to rule till 2034 and strengthening the RPF's dominance.

What has been the role of Kagame?

A U.S.-trained military officer of Tutsi ethnicity, Kagame joined the RPF in 1990. As the RPF's leader, Kagame led the armed group to end the genocide. Between 1994 and 2000, he was Rwanda's de facto leader, first as Vice President and then as Acting President. According to Rwanda's Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the economy grew by over eight per cent annually under Kagame's leadership. Between 2000 and 2017, his targeted social welfare schemes lifted over one million people out of poverty, while life expectancy rose from 29 to 67 years. However, Western observers criticised his government as authoritarian for suppressing opposition forces and civil liberties. In 2024, Freedom House accused his government of surveillance, torture, arbitrary detentions, and assassinations of dissents.

What were the issues before Rwanda's July 2024 elections?

According to the South African Broadcasting Corporation and Al Jazeera,

Rwanda's impressive development record under Kagame was crucial in the 2024 elections, attracting young and first-time voters to the RPF. During his massive rallies, Kagame promised to continue Rwanda's economic performance and equitable growth, which resonated with the youth's aspirations for upward mobility. Women's empowerment was another vital election issue, with women voters appreciating Kagame's role in increasing women's representation in the country's legislative assembly, the Chamber of Deputies (60% in 2023) and their participation in the labour force (55% in 2023 according to the World Bank).

Civil society organisations raised concerns about political pluralism before the elections. During May-June, the National Election Commission barred opposition leaders and outspoken Kagame critics Victoire Ingabire and Diane Rwigara from contesting for sowing "divisionism" and inadequate paperwork. According to Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the government imprisoned around 20 journalists since 2000 on unlawful grounds. These developments reflected the country's declining democratic credentials. Since Kagame held the elections after banning multiple opposition groups, civil society organisations said the election was unfair because voters did not have a genuine choice of alternative candidates. The ongoing civil war in the DRC was another

pressing issue, with the DRC and the United Nations accusing Rwanda of supporting the M23 armed group.

What do the election results convey?

Kagame's victory conveys wide-ranging support for his programmes of economic progress and political stability. Given that Rwanda is still a developing country, Kagame's campaign resonated with the electorate's aspirations for economic freedom and reaffirmed his successful record of providing the stability needed for development. Kagame's victory demonstrates the effectiveness of his party machinery, with opposition candidates struggling to draw crowds. However, Kagame was virtually unchallenged, with opposition candidates receiving one per cent of votes combined, reflecting the RPF's efforts to suppress genuine political competition. The suppression of the candidates also reflected Kagame's authoritarian tendencies. The pro-government decisions of the National Election Commission reflected the absence of robust democratic institutions.

Does the Rwanda election hold any significance for Africa's democratic process? South Africa, Senegal, Chad, and Rwanda have completed their general elections, others are heading to the polls. While South Africa and Senegal had free and fair elections, polls in Chad and Rwanda saw incumbents controlling opposition forces.

Tamil Nadu's own Stonehenge left to rot with its potential for research

About 4000 years ago, a south Indian traveller might have taken advantage of the best navigational season to reach Sumeria. There, to write a letter home, he would have used the stylus and he might have engraved his well-being in cuneiform, the oldest form of writing, on a clay tablet. This would be baked and sent by sea to his homeland, perhaps a village in Tamil Nadu. But this clay tablet did not make its way home, but remained in Sumeria to be unearthed centuries later. In the early 20th Century, it was translated and found that the Sumerian language and the Dravidian language, the early Tamil script, had a genetic linguistic relationship. Though many can vouch for the fact that Tamil Nadu had a flourishing culture 4000 years ago, the remains that are being unearthed, other than rock paintings, only reveal a thriving culture from about 3000 to 3500 years ago. But artefacts from south India that have been unearthed in Mesopotamia point to a civilization of over 4000 years. The first astronomers

One can assume that the traveller might have taken with him objects like wood and gold to be traded. Along with his business acumen, he would have exchanged his knowledge of the stars and the moons with the Sumerians. History says the Sumerians, or the ancient Mesopotamians, were among the first astronomers, and they had come up with a solar year consisting of 365 days. After gaining new knowledge for a few years, this unnamed traveller might have returned home. It may have been possible that his home was in a village now called Ellanthankarai in Sivaganga. South India had a flourishing megalithic civilization. Potsherds, beads, and ornaments are still being unearthed from areas around Pudukkottai, Sivaganga, and Ramanathapuram. Residents like Sumathi of Kalayarkoil, which is 8 km from Ellanthankarai, say that each time someone digs up the ground for erecting a building, pieces of black and red pottery keep coming up. This claim is backed by the recent discovery of a huge burial and habitation site by amateur archaeologist Ramesh at Ellanthankarai. Assuming that the early traveller was from the region, the finding of an ancient observatory at the burial site assumes significance.

K. Balakrishnan, principal, Bharathi Matriculation School, Tiruchi, and a resource person in astro-archaeology, says this is the first astro-archaeological site in Tamil Nadu that reveals a clear observatory ground. This would then lead to a highly learned group called Tamil Arivargal who resided in the region. According to Madurai-based archaeologist Ve. Balamurali, the earliest mention of these people is in The Tholkaappiyam. These people were well versed in astronomy. They would disseminate what they learnt to others and this form of learning was called Ainthiram, the mention of which is also found in The Tholkaappiyam. Today, at Ellanthankarai, opposite the open prison, is a 70-acre land covered with thorny shrubs. Here lies the huge burial site dating back to the megalithic period. A small canal, now called the Nattarkaala, divides the burial site from the habitation

sites. This canal may have been once a distributary of the Vaigai or it may have been dug for irrigation. This stream drains into the sea on the Ramanathapuram coast. The habitation sites seem to have been built near lakes and ponds. As the region is characterised by floodplains, rain-fed agriculture might have been practised here. Numerous cairn circles, the burial site, filled with brownish granular soil, seems to be on an elevated plain. The burial ground is mostly flat, and might have been treeless, and with not much human disturbance, it would have been the perfect place for the ancient astronomers to observe the night sky. A walk through the site reveals numerous cairn circles signifying the remains of a huge population of early people. The cairn circles are a megalithic burial place. The site is marked by a circular or quasi-circular arrangement of stones with a chamber often containing the remains of the deceased, along with grave goods such as pottery, tools, and beads.

At each turn among brambles, one can glimpse shards of black and red pottery and sometimes thick red ware pottery. Some retain their shape in the dense laterite soil and some are broken, hanging precariously in pits dug by vandals. Many of the stones show signs of heavy erosion and at some places, there are gaps revealing that they have been removed. Some of the stones are fully covered with climbing shrubs. And in the midst of this burial site, the Tamil Arivargal had an observatory. A cylinder pillar still stands. Here, these men might have hunched down to observe the sun, the moon, and the stars. The site is strewn with menhirs, large upright stones that may signify some sort of ritual or a



marker for a calendar. A very distinct menhir, shaped like an anthropomorphic figure, might have represented ancestral worship and played a major role in the celestial study. Accurate reading of axial tilt. Mr. Balakrishnan says that after making continuous reading at the site, they found that the ancient people had even got the earth's axial tilt precisely, which is about 23.5 degrees. These stones, some roughly hewn into a star shape, some hacked to reveal the first and third quarters of a moon, are in a line straight to the observatory point. He says this study of celestial movement might have been the precursor to making a calendar. The marking of seasonal changes by observing the stars was needed for the early merchants to travel to Sumeria. It would have also helped to predict the monsoonal season for the early farmers. Even today, if one observes from the pillar, the winter solstice, the summer solstice, and

the equinox are perfectly marked with the stones set in the precise location, Mr. Balakrishnan adds. "What is needed are steps to protect this site that has immense potential for research. The U.K. government has turned a similar astro-archaeological site, the Stonehenge, into a major tourist attraction. At Stonehenge, only 52 of the original sarsen stones remain, but here we have numerous menhirs, a clearly marked station stone, and laterite stones kept in a studied distance with markings reflecting their use in astronomy," Mr. Balamurali laments. Sources from the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology confirm that Ellanthankarai is a massive burial site and steps are being taken to protect it. As for its importance to astronomy, they say that more research needs to be done. Till then, the Tamil Arivargal will remain hidden in the crumbling pages of history and will have to wait for someone to unlock their knowledge of the stars.

Drugs Control Administration finds misleading drug claims violating 1954 Act

Hyderabad: Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, detected certain medicines circulating in the market with misleading claims on their labels, stating that they treat kidney stones and fever. Such claims were in contravention of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 which prohibits advertisement of certain drugs for treatment of certain diseases and disorders.

During a special drive, the Drugs Inspector, Gandipet detected Pathri Saaf Capsules and Syrup, an Ayurvedic medicine manufactured by Laborate Pharmaceuticals, Haryana with label bearing a misleading claim of treating kidney stones and seized stocks during a raid at a medical shop in Narsingi. In Khammam, the Drugs Inspector detected Ague Nil Syrup, a Homoeopathic medicine manufactured by Bhargava Phyto Labs, Rajasthan with label bearing a misleading claim stating that it treats fever and seized the medicine during the raid at a medical shop. Persons who make misleading advertisements regarding drugs for treatment of certain dis-



eases and disorders are punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both, a DCA press release said.

Meanwhile, on credible information, Drugs Control Administration officials raided the clinic of a homeopathic practitioner, Chavan Vinod at Puranapol,

How NASA, SpaceX will execute it?

SpaceX will use a powerful, souped-up capsule to shove the International Space Station (ISS) out of orbit once time is up for the sprawling lab. NASA and Elon Musk's company recently outlined the plan to burn the space station up on reentry and plunge what's left into the ocean, ideally at the beginning of 2031 when it hits the 32-year mark. Here's an outline of how they plan to bring down the space station

Why get rid of the space station?

The space station is already showing signs of age. Russia and the US launched the first pieces in late 1998, and astronauts moved in two years later. Europe and Japan added their own segments, and Canada provided robotic arms. By the time NASA's shuttles retired in 2011, the station had grown to the size of a football field, with a mass of nearly 4,30,000 kilograms. That strategy — already in place for station cargo and crew deliveries — will free NASA up to focus on travelling to Moon and Mars. The NASA could decide to extend the station's life, too, if no commercial outposts are up there yet. The agency's objective is to have an overlap so that scientific research is not interrupted. NASA figures the station will last until at least 2030. The goal is for private companies to launch their own space stations by then, with NASA serving as one of many customers

Why not bring it back to Earth?

NASA considered dismantling the space station and hauling the pieces back to Earth, or letting private companies salvage the parts for their own planned outposts. But the station was never intended to be taken apart in orbit, according to NASA, and any such effort would be expensive and also risky to the astronauts who would handle the disassembly. Besides, there's no spacecraft as big as NASA's old shuttles to bring everything down. Another option would be to boost the empty station to a higher, more stable orbit. But that, too, was dismissed given the logistical issues and the increased risk of space junk.

How will it be brought down?

Visiting spacecraft periodically boost the space station so it remains in an orbit 420 kilometres high. Otherwise, it would keep getting lower and lower until it plunged from orbit. NASA wants to ensure a safe reentry over a remote section of the South Pacific or the Indian Ocean, so that means launching a spacecraft that will dock to the station and steer it toward a watery grave. Mostly, the deorbit module will guide the space station to a designated re-entry zone over a remote area of the Pacific Ocean, often referred to as the "spacecraft cemetery" or "Point Nemo." This area is far from human activity, reducing the risk of harm from any debris that does not burn up in the atmosphere. NASA expects some denser pieces to survive, ranging in size from a microwave oven to a sedan, in a narrow debris field 2,000 kilometres long. NASA and its partners considered using three Russian supply ships for the job, but a more robust craft was needed. The call went out to industry and, in June, SpaceX won the contract for a deorbit vehicle.

What will the deorbit spacecraft look



like?

SpaceX plans to use an ordinary Dragon capsule — the kind that carries supplies and astronauts to the space station — but with a much bigger trunk housing a record 46 engines and more than 16,000 kilograms of fuel. The challenge will be creating a spacecraft powerful enough to guide the space station while resisting the tugs and forces from increased atmospheric drag during final descent. This spacecraft will require an especially powerful rocket just to get to orbit, according to NASA. The capsule would be launched one and half years before the station's planned demise. Astronauts still would be aboard as it's gradually lowered. Six months before the destruction, the crew would abandon ship and return home. Once the station is down to 220 kilometres, the Dragon would bring it down four days later. NASA gave SpaceX a USD 843 million contract to bring down the station — the biggest structure ever built off the planet. Key Considerations: Safety: Ensuring the safety of people on Earth and any remaining space assets is the highest priority. Environmental Impact: Minimising the environmental impact of the re-entry process

International Collaboration: Coordination among all ISS partner nations to share responsibilities and resource. **Technological Challenges:** Managing the technical challenges of controlling such a large structure during re-entry. Has this been done before?

NASA's first space station, Skylab, came crashing down in 1979, with debris raining down onto Australia and the surrounding Pacific. The space agency had hoped one of the first space shuttle crews could attach a rocket to control Skylab's descent or boost its orbit. But the shuttle wasn't ready by then, with its first flight not until 1981. Ground controllers managed to send Skylab into a slow tumble, aiming for the Indian Ocean. But some pieces also

landed in Western Australia. Russia has had more experience with incoming space stations. Mir operated for 15 years before being guided to a fiery reentry over the Pacific in 2001. Before that, several Salyut stations bit the dust. Will anything be saved?

NASA wants to bring back some small items from inside the space station for museum display, like the ship's bell and logs, panels with patches and other mementos. Those can come down in SpaceX supply ships in the final year or two. Unfortunately, they can't bring home really big

stuff. China's space station, Tiangong

Tiangong is a permanently crewed space station constructed by China and operated by China Manned Space Agency since 2022. It is China's first long-term space station, part of the Tiangong programme and the core of the 'Third Step' of the China Manned Space Programme; it has a pressurised volume of 12,000 cubic ft, slightly over one third the size of the International Space Station. The space station aims to provide opportunities for space-based experiments and a platform for building capacity for scientific and technological innovation

HYLENR demonstrates world's first cold fusion technology to generate clean energy

Hyderabad: Hyderabad-based Startup HYLENR has demonstrated world's first and a ground breaking cold fusion technology to generate clean energy. This innovation has received a patent from the Government of India for its Low Energy Nuclear Reactor Technology.

HYLENR's Low Energy Nuclear Reactor is a promising alternative for power generation, by amplifying input electricity to produce heat for space application (MMRTG), steam generation for multiple applications, room heating across cold regions globally, induction heating for domestic and Industrial requirements. Also, HYLENR devices can drastically decrease the risk profile for space missions.

In a live demonstration during the launch of the product here on Wednesday, HYLENR's product successfully achieved a consistent 1.5x heat amplification (150 watts equivalent heat) from 100W electrical input.

HYLENR's reactors utilise Low En-

ergy Nuclear Reactors (LENR known as "cold fusion") by applying milligrams of hydrogen and small volume of electricity to stimulate and generate excess heat through fusion. These can produce significantly more heat than the input energy, making it a game-changing technology for power generation.

Dr. Prahlada Ramarao, Former Distinguished Scientist DRDO and currently the Chief Innovation Officer, HYLENR, said "LENR reactors utilize low-energy nuclear reactions to generate excess heat. By applying a small volume of electricity to stimulate these reactions, LENR can produce significantly more heat than the input energy, making it a potentially game-changing technology for power generation." Siddhartha Durairajan, Chief Executive Officer, HYLENR said the Team has invested the last 10 years into developing the patented technology and plan to further invest and raise funds to commercialise the product in an accelerated mode. "

The ICJ opinion on Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and its implications | Explained

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on July 19 ruled that Israel's decades-long occupation of Palestinian territory was "illegal" and should come to an end "as rapidly as possible". In a historic but non-binding advisory opinion rendered by the 15-judge panel, the U.N.'s top court found multiple breaches of international law by Israel including activities that amounted to apartheid. The opinion was issued in response to a request from the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) in 2022. While it predates the Israel-Hamas conflict, it is likely to amplify pressure on Israel to bring an end to its ongoing military offensive which has killed more than 38,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health. In a separate case instituted by South Africa, the ICJ is already considering allegations that Israel is committing genocide in its military campaign in Gaza. A preliminary ruling has already been issued, instructing Israel to prevent and punish any incitement to genocide and to enhance provisions for humanitarian aid. In May, the world court ordered Israel to halt its offensive on Rafah, a city in southern Gaza, citing "immense risk" to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians taking shelter there. However, Israel has continued its attack in defiance of the court order.

The ICJ wields dual jurisdictional powers — resolving legal disputes between member states and rendering legal opinions on matters referred to by U.N. organs and specialized agencies. While advisory opinions issued through the latter are non-binding, they carry significant legal weight and moral authority, capable of influencing diplomatic relations. In December 2022, the UNGA adopted a resolution seeking the court's advisory opinion on the "legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem." Introduced by Nicaragua, the resolution was passed with 87 votes in favour, 26 against, and 53 abstentions.

Following the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem — territories historically sought by Palestinians for their statehood aspirations. It has since built settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and steadily expanded them. While Israeli troops and settlements were withdrawn from Gaza in 2005, the expansion of settlements in the West Bank continued unabated. In recent months, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government has used its war on Gaza as a pretext to expand these settlements at a rate faster than seen in the previous decades. Although Israel abstained from participating in the proceedings, it filed a written statement contending that an advisory opinion would be "harmful" to attempts made to resolve the conflict since the questions posed by the UNGA were prejudiced. The last time the UNGA asked the ICJ for an advisory opinion on Palestine was in 2004 when the court ruled that Israel's construction of a wall predominantly within the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem violated international law. Israel was ordered to halt the construction of the wall and dismantle parts of it, while the U.N. was asked to consider additional mea-

asures to end the illegal construction. Despite the ruling, Israel unilaterally altered the wall's route. Nearly two decades later, the situation has only worsened, with the separation wall extending over 700km, and 85% of its route located inside the occupied West Bank. 'Occupation' under international law

Under international law, "occupation" refers to a situation when during an international armed conflict, a territory, or parts thereof, comes under the effective provisional control of a foreign power, even if it is not met with armed resistance. The most widely accepted definition of an occupation has been codified in Article 42 of the 1907 Hague Regulations. The provision stipulates that a "territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army. The occupation extends only to the territory where such authority has been established and can be exercised". However, an occupation must be temporary and cannot entail any transfer of sovereignty to the occupying power. Once a territory is seized, the occupying power assumes specific obligations toward individuals within the occupied territory, as outlined in the 1907 Hague Regulations and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 alongside norms of customary international humanitarian law. These obligations include ensuring that provisions of food and medical care are extended to the population of an occupied territory and prohibition on the use or threat of force against civilians. Court's findings "This advisory opinion holds immense importance as it declares the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories unlawful under international law", Dr. Basak Çali, professor of international law and director of the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School, Berlin told The Hindu. "The court reached this conclusion by finding that Israel abused its position as an occupying power by annexing Palestinian territories, asserting permanent control over them and consistently denying the Palestinian people their right to self-determination".

The opinion highlighted that a wide array of Israel's military measures such as the building and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the use of the area's natural resources, the annexation and imposition of permanent control over lands contravened "the prohibition of the use of force" under international law. "The court also found that Israeli laws and policies constitute systemic discrimination, based amongst others on race, religion and ethnic origin in violation of three human rights treaties ratified by Israel — the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1954 (ICESCR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1954 (ICCPR), and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965 (ICERD)", Dr. Çali added.

In recent years, international human rights groups have asserted that the Israeli military's administration of the West Bank and East Jerusalem has transitioned into apartheid. They have cited the presence of separate courts for Israelis and Palestinians, as well as the implementation of a



residence permit system and segregated roads exclusively for Palestinians, to substantiate their claims. Concurring with this, the judges underscored that such policies maintain "near-complete separation" between the settler and Palestinian communities in clear violation of Article 3 of the ICERD which prohibits racial segregation and apartheid. Accordingly, the ICJ called upon Israel to bring an end to this unlawful occupation "as rapidly as possible", cease new settlement activities and make reparations to all affected civilians. It also outlined that the U.N. and its principal organs such as the UNGA should consider additional modalities to ensure Israel's compliance with this directive. Notably, other member states were ordered to neither recognise the occupation as lawful nor aid or assist it — a directive with profound implications for Israel's allies.

What lies ahead?

According to Dr. Prabhash Ranjan, professor at the Jindal Global Law School, the opinion is bound to intensify international pressure on Israel. "This decision

vindicates the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and rebukes Israel's continued occupation and its policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. While it might not immediately halt the military offensive in Gaza, it significantly dents Israel's credibility", he said. However, Dr. Ranjan pointed out that since Israel has already refuted the court's findings, it is unlikely to reconsider its stance without increased diplomatic pressure from the Western powers. Israel rejects the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that was published today regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Highlighting the potential impact of the opinion on other cases before the ICJ and the International Criminal Court (ICC), Dr. Çali noted, "While the temporal context, subject matter, and factual analysis of this advisory opinion differ from other ongoing proceedings related to the conflict, the court's findings are so significant that all parties involved in those proceedings will undoubtedly take careful note of them."

Apple Safari enhances protection of users' personal data

New Delhi: As millions of people remain concerned about the safety of their data when they browse the web, Apple has revealed how data tracking is still all-pervasive and browsers can expose users to it without their permission — tracking their behaviour for advertising purposes. The threats are multiple — data companies can track you across multiple websites, your location data can be collected without your permission, web extensions can violate your privacy and even if you go into private mode, your protections are limited.

In contrast, according to Apple which has released a new film on browser safety, Safari prevents cross-site tracking; helps you protect your location data; has privacy-preserving web extensions; and a state-of-the-art Private Browsing mode with real protections. Some websites include 100 or more trackers from different companies on a single page. Data companies are also constantly evolving new techniques to track

people, so Apple has gone beyond just blocking cookies by creating 'Intelligent Tracking Prevention'. The company uses machine learning to learn which domains are used to track you, and then it immediately isolates and purges the tracking data from your device. "If you want to see what Intelligent Tracking Prevention is protecting you from, you can look at the Safari Privacy Report," according to the tech giant. Safari also hides IP address from known trackers. "This is important, because your IP address can be used to identify you across websites and sessions, and it can reveal your precise location," according to Apple. However, new techniques known as fingerprinting even go so far as to track your system configuration, your fonts and your plug-ins that have been installed. Even your screen resolution can be used as part of a fingerprint. This allows them to combine these characteristics of your device to create a "fingerprint" to track you online.

A visionary who brought Kannada theatre from Udupi to Hyderabad

It was financial difficulties that compelled Karody Gundu Rao to relocate to Hyderabad from Udupi in coastal Karnataka in 1950. But his first love — Kannada theatre — stayed with him. In the place he relocated to, he not only rebuilt his livelihood, but also a new world of Kannada theatre. A recently released biography of the theatre maker by his son Karody Niranjan Rao, *Full Many a Gem*, chronicles this unusual journey. It looks back at how Gundu Rao came to be known for building an audience who participated in and admired Kannada theatre in Hyderabad. Gundu Rao managed to draw an audience of 800-1000 for his plays in Hyderabad. Gundu Rao's theatre journey in Hyderabad started under the banner Kannada Natya Ranga, which he founded in 1968 and he ran it until he died in 2010, says Niranjan Rao. His book brings alive days and moments in the 50-plus glorious years of his theatre journey. An early start: Starting his theatre journey at the age of 12, Gundu Rao was the grandson of popular Udupi-based theatre and Yakshagana artiste Karody Subba Rao.

Gundu Rao wrote his first play in 1934, a children's play titled *Draupadi Swayamvara*. He organised the play by roping in all his cousins and playmates. He wrote another children's play, *Muppina Maduve*, in early 1935. As a child artiste, he acted in a social play titled *Seva Sadan*, presented by the neighboring village's graduates. Gundu Rao grew up in an atmosphere imbued with music and theatre. He listened to the soulful *natyasangeet* of Bal Gandharva, Baburao Pendharker and other well-known luminaries of the Marathi stage. His son says he had a good singing voice and had learnt Hindustani music as well as instruments such as tabla from his grand-uncle, Karody Madhava Rao, who stayed at Kuthupady, Udupi, for many years and learnt the harmonium from his father, Karody Narasinga Rao. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Niranjan Rao said of the circumstances under which the family moved to Hyderabad and what happened there, "We were a family of six, but when we moved to Hyderabad, it was just my parents, my brother and I. Our father decided to move to Hyderabad due to financial issues. Though we had some agricultural land, it did not yield much. He wanted a new start, and when we were contemplating moving to Bombay (now Mumbai) or elsewhere, he decided to move to Hyderabad. He took up many different jobs there, but parallelly did theatre, introduced Kannada theatre to Hyderabad and eventually started his own troupe."

Gundu Rao assumed a different role in Hyderabad, initially becoming a teacher. His wife also pursued teaching after completing her post-graduation. However, the death of his father in 1968 temporarily halted these activities. But Gundu Rao picked it up again soon, starting an amateur troupe. Until then, serious theatre, apart from the occasional one-act Kannada play, was virtually nonexistent in Hyderabad. It was a chance remark from an acquaintance that inspired Gundu Rao to embark on an ambitious theatre journey, producing full-length plays complete with songs,



verses, and technical details. Although he initially faced challenges in assembling his cast, including female artists, he successfully launched *Kannada Natya Ranga* on July 27, 1968, at Ravindra Bharati, with Telugu cinema icon Akkineni Nageswara Rao inaugurating the event before a large audience.

Initially, it was hard for Gundu Rao to find Kannada-speaking actors or Telugu-speaking actors who could also speak Kannada. "For his first Kannada play in Hyderabad, my father had asked his friend G.N. Rao to recruit actors, but he could not find even a single one. He ascribed this to the language barrier. This was the situation in 1968. Hyderabad then had upwards of nearly a lakh Kannadigas. Most of them belonged to the erstwhile Hyderabad Karnataka area. Their Kannada was a mixture of Kannada, Telugu and the Deccani Urdu." Most schools offered Hindi and Telugu as additional languages to be learnt under the three-language formula. It became clear that getting Kannada-speaking actors was going to be an uphill task. "Father began to tap his vast circle of friends for potential talent. Back then many Kannadigas were serving in the branch offices of banks that originated in Karnataka. Having been educated in Karnataka, many of them could read, write and speak Kannada with ease. But would they have the commitment and dedication to undertake lengthy rehearsals and stage a play was the question. Soon, he found a 25-year-old banker who fitted the bill, and that is when he directed his first play in 1968 titled *Bahdur Ganda*, written by Parvatavani," narrates Niranjan Rao. No looking back

Gundu Rao went on to direct and compose music for a total of 41 plays, such as *Roopa Chakra*, *Akshayambara*, *Mamatheya Mane*, *Gampara Gumpu*, *Kurudu Kanchana*, *Devyani*, *Tippu Sultan*, *Kittoora Huli*, and *Sanmaana Sukha*, which was his last play in 2010. Niranjan Rao says there was never a problem getting an audience for his father's Kannada plays despite performing them in a state that did not speak the language. "Hyderabad has at least 3-4 lakh Kannadigas. Though not everyone is involved in social events like dramas, we managed to attract people. The tickets when we started were priced at not more than a rupee or two. Surprisingly, most of our dramas had an audience count of 800-1,000 people easily. The majority of our plays happened at Ravindra Bharathi, which is equivalent to Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru, and we managed to have houseful shows in such a huge space." "On the day of the first show, around 9 p.m., we were ready and nervous, wishing we could dream away the next few hours. The theatre had started filling up, heightening our tension. By 9.15 p.m., it was jampacked. There was not a single vacant seat, either in the hall or in the gallery. Quite a few were standing at the gate and in the aisles. Almost every other show was like this whenever we performed. So, pulling an audience for a Kannada play in Hyderabad was never an issue," he says. Gundu Rao went on to direct numerous plays with a strong command of production elements. He was involved in makeup, lighting, and music as well.

Sharing his experience working with the late theatre maker, Ramachander Rao

V., who acted in Gundu Rao's plays, says he was a very dedicated director. "He was my school teacher, and later on, his son was my boss. When Niranjan told me that his father was directing a play and was looking for Kannada-speaking actors, I told him I was interested. Rao sir was very dedicated, and was a perfectionist, if he took up something he would work on it till he succeeded. "His forefathers were from Karnataka, but he was raised in Hyderabad. "Though I knew Kannada, Telugu was a language I was fluent in, and it had become my mother tongue as I was raised here. I did not know how to read Kannada, so I would ask someone to read the script for me, and I would write it down in Telugu or English for the rehearsals," recalls the 68-year-old.

Another actor, Devasena Atheya, says Gundu Rao was a father figure to her. "My journey with Gundu Rao sir, my guru, started when I was just 16 or 17. I was invited to dance in his play, and eventually, they asked me to act also. I was afraid that my parents would object, but later, my mother agreed to let me act ... Be it taking care of us or teaching, everything reminded me of my father. He was a father figure to me." Being a native Telugu speaker, she only knew a bit of the language because her neighbours were Kannadigas. So she, too, would write her dialogues in Telugu and learn them by rote. "Later, Gundu Rao sir would patiently teach me intonations," she adds. Over time, Gundu Rao trained more than 200 actors, including many like Devasena, who did not speak Kannada. His son Niranjan Karody and daughter-in-law Sumathi Niranjan continue his legacy in Hyderabad.