

**STATE**

Tipplers gulp liquor worth Rs 750 crore in four days **page 5**

**NATION**

‘Decided to keep Ayodhya verdict anonymous’ **page 7**

**WORLD**

Israel shifts thousands of troops out of Gaza **page 9**

## Series of major earthquakes strike Japan, no casualties



Cracks seen on the ground in Wajima of Ishikawa prefecture on Monday. People were evacuated to stadiums, where they will have to stay for a few days. — Photo: AP

**TOKYO**

Japan dropped its highest-level tsunami alert, issued following a series of major earthquakes on Monday, but told residents of coastal areas not to return to their homes as deadly waves could still come.

The quakes, the largest of which had a magnitude of 7.6, started a fire and collapsed buildings on the west coast of Japan's main island, Honshu. It was unclear how many people might have been killed or hurt. The Japan Meteorological Agency reported

**ON HIGH ALERT**

QUAKES, WITH A MAGNITUDE OF 7.6, STARTED A FIRE AND COLLAPSED BUILDINGS IN HONSHU

- Over dozen quakes reported in Japan Sea off the coast of Ishikawa
- Japan Meteorological Agency lowers tsunami alert after initially issuing a major warning
- Says waters may still reach up to 10 ft; aftershocks could also slam main islands over next few days



more than a dozen quakes in the Japan Sea off the coast of Ishikawa and nearby prefectures shortly after 4 pm. At least six homes were damaged by the quakes, with people trapped inside, government

spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi said. A fire broke out in Wajima city, Ishikawa Prefecture, and electricity was out for more than 30,000 households, he further said.

People returning to get their wallets and other belongings have been known to be swept away and drowned even hours after the first evacuation warning. People were evacuated to stadiums, where they will likely have to stay for a few days. Hayashi said no reports of deaths or injuries had been confirmed from the quakes. AP

## Airport Metro, Pharma City plans stay: CM

Revanth says govt only streamlining projects

**STATE BUREAU**  
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy went back on his earlier statements on Monday and said there were no plans to scrap the Airport Metro Rail and the Hyderabad Pharma City projects proposed by the previous BRS government.

Instead, the State government would work on streamlining these projects keeping the larger public interest in mind, he said.

Revanth Reddy had earlier opposed the Airport Metro Rail and the Pharma City projects during his campaign for the Assembly polls. During a review meeting held shortly after he took over as the Chief Minister of Telangana as well, he directed officials to keep on hold both these projects. He also asked them to probe into benefits extended to the construction agency (L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited), despite not completing the proposed routes. He wanted officials to develop a new township in the huge tracts of land acquired for Hyderabad Pharma City.

**ON AGENDA**

- Former CM's camp office to be converted into State guesthouse
- Decentralisation of power with district in-charge Ministers
- To address journalists' issues within 100 days after appointing chairperson of Telangana Media Academy
- To appoint efficient officers as HoDs with autonomy to choose their teams
- Establishment of nursing colleges attached to every 100-bed hospital

**POLITICAL ACTIVITIES**

Telangana Congress executive meeting on Jan 3 to discuss Lok Sabha poll strategies  
 Nominated posts to be filled based on merit and contributions to party

the distance to the airport and the project cost as well," he said. Elaborating further, Revanth Reddy said a new metro line connecting Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) to Shamshabad Airport via the Old City was in the pipeline, linking Nagole and Chandrayangutta via LB Nagar and Owasai Hospital. The extension of Metro Rail from Miyapur to Ramachandrapuram and from Mind Space junction to the Financial District was also under consideration.

Responding to a question, the Chief Minister felt that there would not be enough commuter traffic from Gachibowli to the Airport, suggesting that it might not be a financially viable route. "The new Metro rail plans proposed by us will be more cost-effective than those proposed by the previous government," he said.

Similarly, he said the Pharma City would be developed in clusters between the Outer Ring Road and the Regional Ring Road in a phased manner, adhering to a strict zero-pollution policy. (SEE PAGE 2)

TS tops organ donations

HYDERABAD | PAGE 02

Kim vows to annihilate US, South

WORLD | PAGE 09



India eye win against Australia

SPORT | PAGE 10



**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

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Skinless .....	Rs. 218
Egg Rates (12 eggs) .....	Rs. 76

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## ISRO off to a flying start in 2024 with XPoSats launch

**SRIHARIKOTA**

Off to a flying start, ISRO on Monday ushered in 2024 with the successful launch of its first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite that would offer insights into black holes in space, making the country only the second to conduct experiment into such celestial objects.

Among the payloads that piggybacked the space agency's ever-reliable Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle was one made by women, prompting ISRO to call it an inspiration for the country.

The PSLV-C58 rocket, in its 60th mission, carried the primary payload XPoSats and deployed it in an intended 650 km low earth orbit. Later, scientists performed the orbit-lowering manoeuvre by reducing the altitude to 350 km for con-



ISRO's PSLV-C58 carrying an X-ray polarimeter satellite and 10 other satellites lifts off from Sriharikota on Monday. — Photo:PTI

ducting the POEM experiment. Speaking at the Mission Control Centre, ISRO Chairman S Somanath said "Happy New Year to all of you. So on 1 January 2024, yet another successful mission of PSLV has been accomplished. PSLV-C58 has placed the primary satellite XPoSats in the desired orbit." The main X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSats) is intended to investigate the polarisation of intense X-ray sources in space. It is the first dedicated scientific satellite from ISRO stable to carry out such research. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)

## Four killed in fresh Manipur violence

**IMPHAL**

Fresh violence rocked Manipur on the first day of the New Year with at least four people killed and 14 others injured by armed attackers in Thoubal district.

Police said that the incident occurred at Lilong Chingjao, where armed attackers opened fire at people following a quarrel over the forcible collections from the people. Among the injured, many were stated to be critical. Reports said that the attackers, wearing police uniforms and armed with sophisticated weapons, came in four vehicles and opened fire on people, mostly Muslims.

The three people died on the spot and another person succumbed to his injuries on the way to a hospital. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Genetic ancestries of warriors traced

**CITY BUREAU**  
Hyderabad

In a ground-breaking study in analysing genetic ancestry, geneticists from the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology and researchers from across the country have concluded that the Nairs, Thiyyas and Ezhavas from Kerala, and Bunts and Hoysalas from Karnataka are genetically closer to populations of Northwest India.

Dr Kumarasamy Thangaraj, JC Bose Fellow, CCMB, who led the high-throughput genetic study, which was published recently in the journal Genome Biology and Evolution, said: "Our genetic study revealed that the Nair and Thiyya warrior communities share most of their ancestry from ancient migrants of Northwest India, and have enhanced Iranian ancestry, similar to Kamboj and Gujjar populations." The Southwest coast of India is one of the regions of high genetic and cultural diversity resulting from millennia of migration, settlements and admixture of human populations. Earlier studies on the recent migrants, who are inhabited in South-west India, including Jews, Parsis and Roman Catholics reveal the existence of the rich genetic heritage of this region. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Won't accept ad-hoc panel, says WFI chief

**NEW DELHI**

Indian wrestling teetered on the edge of a deeper crisis with Sanjay Singh, president of the suspended Wrestling Federation of India, on Monday declaring that they will soon organise the national championships and insisting that they neither recognise the suspension of their newly-elected body by Sports Ministry nor the ad-hoc panel. Three days after the WFI held its polls, the Ministry suspended the sports body citing several violations of rules on Dec 24.

On the request of the government, the IOA then formed a three-member panel to manage the day-to-day affairs of the body. The panel announced that it will host senior national championships from February 2-5. (SEE PAGE 2)

## DKS-backed media house gets CBI notice

**BENGALURU**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has issued a notice to Kerala-based media house Jai Hind Communications Private Limited, seeking details regarding the investment made in it by Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. The CBI had served the notice and asked the Managing Director of the 'Jaihind TV' channel BS Shiju to appear before them on January 11 with all details in this regard, sources confirmed on Monday.

The notice has been issued under CrPC Section 91 to the Jai Hind Commu-

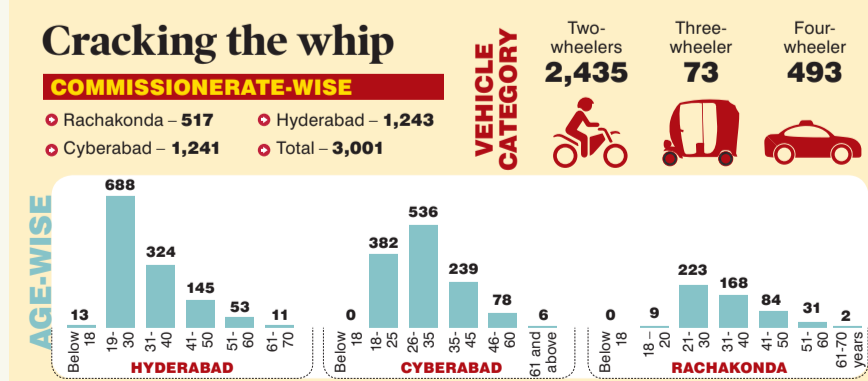
tions Private Limited media house which runs Jaihind news channel in Kerala. Sources said that the CBI has asked for the submission of details of investment by Shivakumar and his wife Usha Shivakumar. It also sought details of profits paid to them, money transactions in their names, agreements and ledger references regarding money transactions. The agency also wants details of investments by the son of Shivakumar and other family members. Reacting to this, DK Shivakumar said that the BJP leaders were trying to finish him off politically. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 8)

## 3,000 booked for drunk driving on NYE

**CITY BUREAU**  
Hyderabad

The traffic police of the tri commission-erates of Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda booked around 3,000 cases of drunk driving on Sunday night. The Hyderabad Police booked 1,243 cases, Cyberabad 1,241 and Rachakonda booked 517 cases.

The police booked 2,435 cases against two-wheeler riders for driving in ebriated condition while 493 cases were booked against four-wheeler drivers and the remaining 73 against three-wheelers.



Among those caught were two women and two trans-genders. The traffic police conducted checks at important stretches in the city and outskirts all

through the night. Senior officials of the traffic police supervised the checks aimed at preventing road accidents during New Year's Eve. Officials said

all those caught will have to appear before the court concerned and attend counselling at the Traffic Training Institutes in the city. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Gold worth Rs 3 cr seized at RGIA

**CITY BUREAU**  
Hyderabad



In separate incidents, the customs officials at the RGI Airport, Shamshabad, caught four passengers, including three women while smuggling gold. All the passengers arrived from Dubai. The officials seized around 4.5 kg of gold worth Rs 3 crore from them. In the first case, the officials caught

two women passengers who had concealed 16 gold bars weighing 1.865 kg valued at Rs 1.18 crore. In the second incident, the officials seized 1.100 kg of gold chains worth Rs 69.85 lakh from a man while in another case, the officials seized 1.632 kg of gold from a woman passenger who had concealed it in her inner garments. The gold was seized and an investigation is on.