



**NATION | PAGE 07**  
**Death toll in Mohali building collapse rises to two**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
**Pope calls for truce, says 'let weapons fall silent'**  
Condemns 'cruelty' of bombing schools and hospitals in Ukraine and Gaza



**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
**Mandhana, Renuka blow away WI in first ODI**

### In a nutshell

**One killed in Andhra shootout**  
**RAYACHOTI:** One person died, and another was injured in a suspected shootout in Annamayya district. Hanumanthu and Ramana, who earn a living by collecting hair, selling old silver articles, and rearing goats, informed their family members that they were "shot at" early Sunday near Rayachoti. Police said more clarity would emerge after postmortem, and a case was registered.

NATION PAGE 7

### Modi to meet Christian leaders

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Monday attend the Christmas celebrations hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) at the CBCI Centre here, his office said. Prime Minister Modi will interact with key leaders from the Christian community, including Cardinals, Bishops and prominent lay leaders of the Church, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said. PTI

### 22 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza

**DEIR AL-BALAH:** Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip overnight and into Sunday killed at least 22 people, including five children, Palestinian officials said. Also on Sunday, Israeli authorities allowed Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the leader of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, to enter Gaza and celebrate a pre-Christmas Mass with members of the territory's small Christian community.

WORLD PAGE 9

### 9 entities banned, Rs 21 cr seized

**NEW DELHI:** Markets regulator Sebi has uncovered a front-running scheme involving PNB MetLife India Insurance Company equity dealer Sachin Bakul Dagli and eight other entities, who generated illegal gains of Rs 21.16 crore. The front-running by these entities continued for more than three years. Sebi prohibited Sachin Bakul Dagli and eight other entities from the securities market.

BUSINESS PAGE 8

### CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

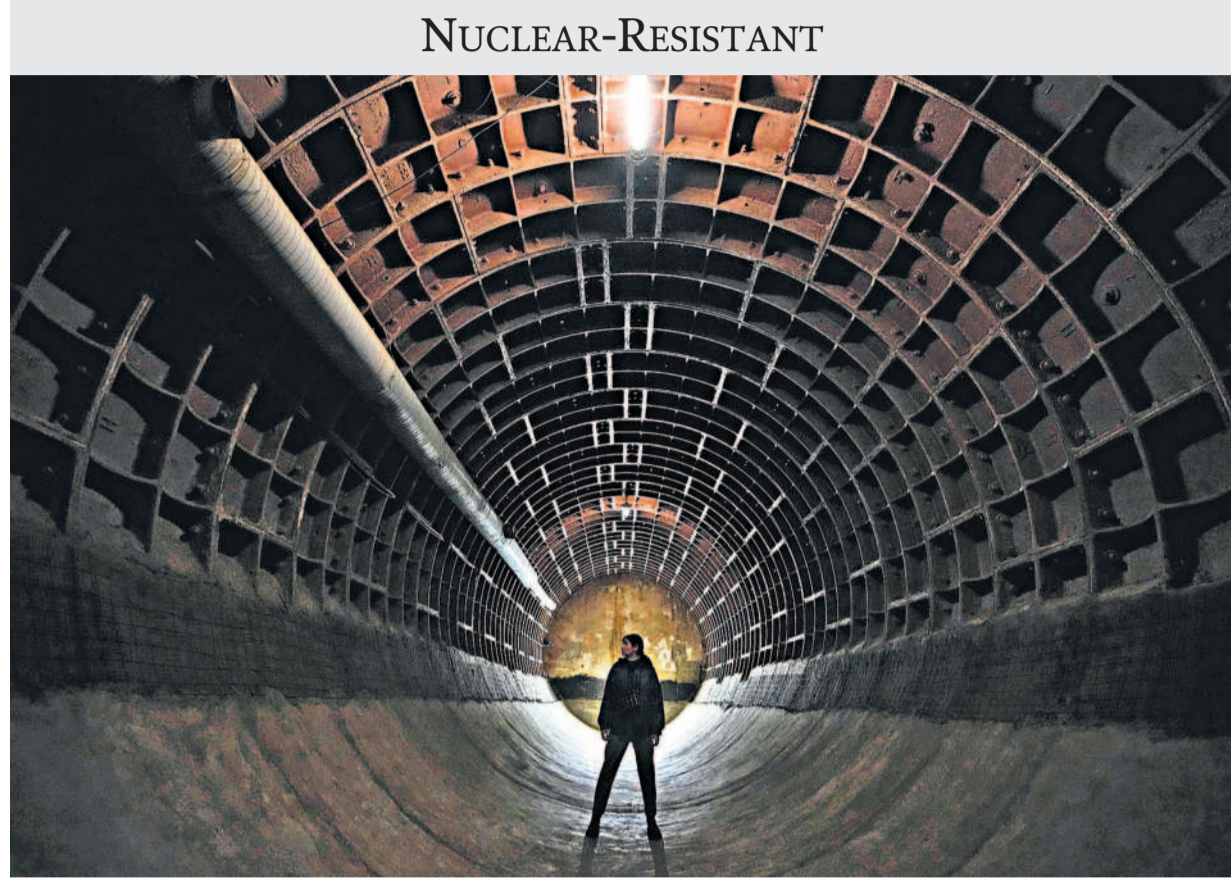
Farm.....	Rs. 91
Retail live.....	Rs. 113
With skin.....	Rs. 164
Skinless.....	Rs. 186
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 80



### Ram Charan, Kiara flaunt dance moves

Makers released teaser of Dhop, fourth single from *Game Changer*

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### NUCLEAR-RESISTANT

A woman takes a tour of Bunker-703, a recently declassified nuclear-resistant bomb shelter built in 1961 at a depth of 141 feet for the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry archive, in Moscow on Sunday. — Photo: AP

## CWC setback for KLIS expansion plans

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Upsetting the strategic plans laid out by the BRS regime for the optimum utilisation of Godavari waters, the Central Water Commission rejected the Detailed Project Report for the add-on component of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme.

This component was intended to draw an additional one TMC of water per day from the Godavari River, increasing the existing capacity from two TMC to three TMC per day. The CWC's

### Rejects DPR for the add-on component of the project after repeated reminders and unanswered queries over the last ten months

decision, made after repeated reminders and unanswered queries over the last ten months, has temporarily halted the expansion plans of the Kaleshwaram project. The project, one of the largest lift irrigation schemes in the world, had previously enjoyed priority clearances from the Ministry of Water Resources and swift implementation by the

State government. The Congress party, which came to power one year ago, sought to prove it a failed project ever since two of the pillars in Medigadda barrage were found sagging.

The State government handed over the investigation of structural issues reported in the Medigadda barrage, generalised the concerns, and halted regular

operations at all three barrages — Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla. Consequently, water received from the Godavari and Pranahita rivers was left to flow unutilised, with the barrages deliberately drained under the pretext of investigations, leaving the ayacut high and dry.

The future of the Kaleshwaram project's expansion now remains uncertain. The DPR, created with thorough planning and accurate data, has been returned to the State Irrigation Department by the Union Jal Shakti Ministry. (SEE PAGE 2)

## People barge into Allu Arjun's house

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

A group of people, claiming to be students of Osmania University, barged into the house of Allu Arjun at Jubilee Hills and damaged flower pots, holding him responsible for the death of a woman in a stampede at Sandhya theatre during the screening of premier show of *Pushpa-2* movie.

According to reports, the attackers were Congress workers and close to the top leaders of the party. The incident happened around noon when a group of people, carrying placards, rushed into the house of the actor and broke the pots. They raised slogans against

### Drug smuggler caught during Pushpa 2 show

**NAGPUR:** Police caught a man wanted in murder and drug cases during *Pushpa 2* show. The gangster, Vishal Meshram, who was on the run for 10 months had 27 cases against him. PTI

the actor and shouted that Allu Arjun was responsible for the death of a woman, Revathi, and the present health condition of her son, Sai Teja, who is undergoing treatment at a private hospital. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

## India, Kuwait ink defence deal

Elevate ties to strategic partnership following talks

KUWAIT CITY

India and Kuwait on Sunday elevated their ties to a strategic partnership and inked a key pact for defence cooperation after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held extensive talks with Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other top leaders of the Gulf nation.

Besides the Emir, Modi held separate talks with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah with a focus on giving new momentum to the overall bilateral ties. The two sides signed four agreements, including



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred with Kuwait's highest honour, 'The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer', by Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence. The other pacts will provide for cooperation in areas of sports, culture and solar en-

ergy. In their delegation-level talks, the two prime ministers discussed a roadmap to strengthen the strategic partnership in

areas of trade, investment, energy, defence, security, health, education, technology, cultural, and people-to-people ties, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The MoU on defence will provide for cooperation in the areas of defence industries, supply of defence equipment, joint exercises, training, exchange of personnel and experts and collaboration in research and development, Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary (Overseas Indian Affairs) in the MEA, said at a media briefing. In a post on X, Modi described his talks with the Kuwaiti counterpart as "fruitful". (SEE PAGE 2)

## Temple desecrated at Moinabad

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Unidentified persons allegedly desecrated a temple and damaged Hanuman idol at Moinabad late on Saturday. According to the police, the miscreants entered the temple premises located at Tulkatta Gate and damaged the idol.

The incident came to light on Sunday morning after the locals noticed it and alerted the police. The police reached the spot and sealed the area. The clues team arrived at the place and assisted the police in identifying the offenders. The police are checking the footage of CCTV in the surroundings for clues. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Crime rate up 41% under Congress rule

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Hyderabad city witnessed an abnormal increase in crime rate from a mere two per cent in 2023, to a whopping 41 per cent in 2024.

Incidentally, during the BRS regime in 2022, a total of 24,220 cases were reported. The following year, 24,821 cases were registered, there by recording an increase of two per cent

In 2024, the Hyderabad Police registered 35,944 cases. The total bodily crime cases registered were 8,447 this year, while last year, 5,098 cases were booked. Also, 5,328 property crime cases were registered this year, compared to the previous year when 3,551 cases were booked. Although an



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We are maintaining a zero-tolerance policy for any crime. Cases are registered for cell-phone-snatching and even small crimes

— CV ANAND,  
CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER

abnormal increase, City Police Commissioner CV Anand attributed the rise in numbers to the police registering the First Information Report (FIR) in all offences and investigating it. "For every small crime a case is booked and investigation

done. We are maintaining a zero tolerance policy for any crime," said CV Anand. The police official said all the wings of the city police are seriously following the cases. "Cases are registered for cell phone snatching and even small crimes. Dedi-

cated teams are apprehending and arresting the offenders. Organised crimes have come down in the city and activities of all the rowdy sheeters are under surveillance and control," said CV Anand. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

## Hyd CP warns bouncers

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Police warned agencies providing the services of bouncers of strict action if they are found violating laws. Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand said the police have been coming across instances of bouncers misbehaving with the public at gatherings during the visits of celebrities and politicians.

"In fact, the bouncers are pushing the police personnel who are on duty and themselves trying to take control of the security. There is law and order police for the job, and such things will not be tolerated," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Tributes paid to Kargil informant

LEH

The Ladakhi shepherd, Tashi Namgyal, who played a crucial role in alerting the Indian Army about Pakistani intrusion in the Kargil sector in 1999, was given a hero's farewell at his funeral on Sunday.

The Fire & Fury Corps of the Army said on X, "Final Farewell To A Hero - Shree Tashi Namgyal Fire and Fury Corps extends heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Tashi Namgyal - The first informant of Kargil intrusion leading to the War. Immediate assistance has been provided to the family and continued support assured. Shree

Tashi Namgyal is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. Army shall remain indebted to his contribution to the Nation and his selfless sacrifice shall forever be remembered."

### Bunkers

Tashi Namgyal created history while searching for his missing Yaks in May 1999. He spotted Pakistani soldiers in Pathani attire digging bunkers atop the Batalik mountain range in early May 1999. Realising the gravity of the situation, he promptly informed the Indian Army, a timely warning that played a pivotal role in shaping India's military response. IANS