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BJP bigwigs lose, new faces spring surprise
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Israel widens evacuation orders in Gaza
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CHANGE OF GUARD

KCR, Revanth win comfortably in Gajwel & Kodangal, respectively

BRS leaders Harish Rao and KP Vivekanand win by huge margins

BJP's Venkata Ramana Reddy emerges giant killer in Kamareddy

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

The Congress won a decisive mandate in the country's youngest State of Telangana, wresting power from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi with its 'maaru kaavali' (change is needed) slogan after counting was completed for the 119 constituencies in the State on Sunday.

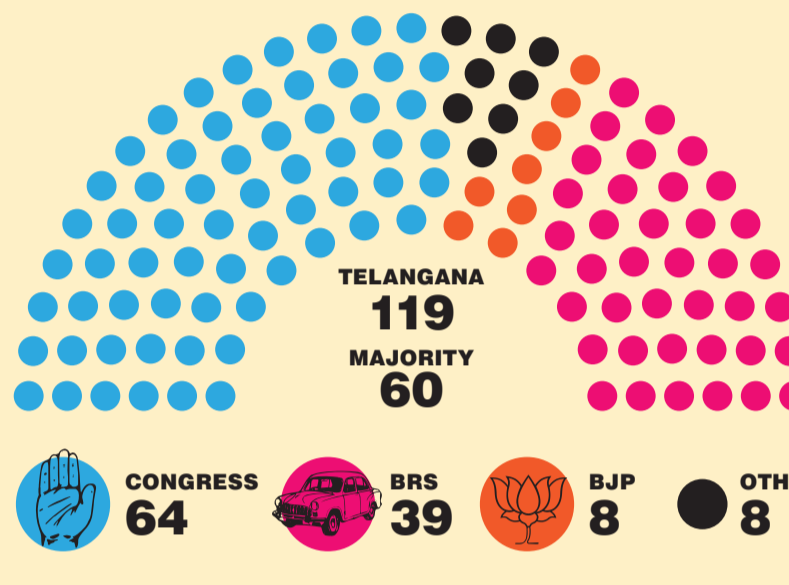
The Congress won 64 seats, while the BRS won 39. The State went to polls on November 30 and registered a polling percentage of 71.34. Counting began in 49 counting centres at 8 am on Sunday. As for the other parties, the AIMIM was declared victor in five and leading in two in its traditional strongholds in Hyderabad, with Akbaruddin Owaisi winning from Chandrayangutta by 81,660 votes. The CPI's lone candidate Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, who contested in an alliance with the Congress, won comfortably from Kothagudem, while the CPI (M) drew a nil.

The BJP, which made significant gains in comparison with its single-seat victory in 2018, won eight seats this time. These included Kamareddy where its candidate K Venkata Ramana Reddy emerged a giant killer by defeating the two biggest names of this Assembly election — K Chandrashekar Rao and A Revanth Reddy.

Chandrashekar Rao and Revanth Reddy, however, secured comfortable victories in their regular constituencies of Gajwel and

People's Mandate

CONGRESS WINS DECISIVE MANDATE IN COUNTRY'S YOUNGEST STATE. HERE'S A LOOK AT HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP



Kodangal, respectively. While Chandrashekar Rao trounced the BJP's Etala Rajendar by 45,031 votes in Gajwel, Revanth Reddy defeated BRS candidate Patnam Narendar Reddy by 32,532 votes.

Even as the Congress continued to keep its winning candidates in a close huddle at a star hotel in the city, with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar managing affairs, reports indicated that a swearing-in ceremony could be organised either on Monday itself or on December 9.

Meanwhile, BRS working president KT Rama Rao,

KCR tenders resignation to Govt

HYDERABAD: Accepting the verdict of the people in the Assembly polls, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao tendered his resignation on Sunday. His resignation letter was sent to Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and accepted by her. "As part of the democratic process, our Chief Minister has sent his resignation to the Governor and the due process will follow," BRS working president KT Rama Rao said. The BRS secured 39 of the 119 seats it contested in the election, with the final results awaited in a few seats.

conceding his party's defeat, congratulated the Congress on the victory in Telangana and extended his best wishes to the party. Expressing his gratitude to the peo-

ple of Telangana for giving the BRS two consecutive terms, he said he was "not saddened over the result", but "surely disappointed" as it was not on expected lines.

Rama Rao, on the personal front, secured a comfortable victory by a margin of 29,687 votes in Siricilla.

The results on Sunday, which saw quite a few BRS candidates win by huge margins, including Finance Minister T Harish Rao and KP Vivekanand, also saw six Ministers losing — right from Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Allola Indrakaran Reddy, Singireddy Niranjan Reddy to V Srinivas Goud, Koppula Eshwar and Puvvada Ajay Kumar. The Congress had some stinging losses too.

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 (CONGRESS STAKES CLAIM TO FORM GOVT PAGE 3)

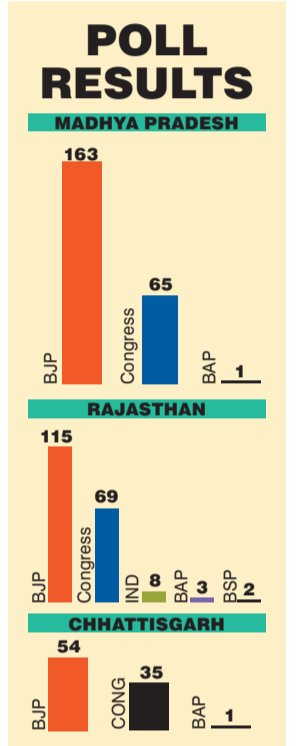
BJP wins all 3 in Hindi heartland

NEW DELHI

The BJP swept Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh on Sunday inflicting a resounding defeat on the Congress to tighten its stranglehold in the Hindi heartland, in a big boost for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and setting the tone for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Counting of votes in Mizoram will be taken up on Monday. As the BJP leadership savoured the triple victory just months after losing its lone southern citadel Karnataka, Modi said some people are already saying that the party's hat-trick in the States is a guarantee of hat-trick in the Lok Sabha polls. "We bow to the Janta Janardan. The results in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan indicate that the people of India are firmly with politics of good governance and development, which the @BJP4India stands," Modi earlier said in a post on X, after a ringing endorsement of the BJP's strategy centred on the Prime Minister's appeal and governance plank.

Ruling MP for 18 years, a well-entrenched BJP managed to stave off anti-incumbency in a shot in the arm for four-time Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and dashing the hopes of a resurgent Con-



gress helmed by veteran and former CM Kamal Nath. Winning 141 seats and leading in 24, the BJP got a simple majority and could get two-thirds majority in a House of 230. Congress bagged 45 and was leading in 19. Suspense also mounted as to who will be the BJP's CM in any of the three Hindi heartland States. Party workers and leaders attributed the win to Modi's "guarantees". PTI

Trump takes a dig at Biden

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India win thriller to clinch series

SPORT | PAGE 10



ENTERTAINMENT
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Debut novel

Huma says her book Zeba is a tribute to all misfits



'Pragathi Bhavan to be called Ambedkar Praja Bhavan'

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Dedicating the Congress victory to all Telangana martyrs, especially Srikantha Chari, TPCC president A Revanth Reddy said Pragathi Bhavan would be renamed as Dr BR Ambedkar Praja Bhavan, apart from allowing entry for all people into the BR Ambedkar Secretariat.

Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan here on Sunday, he said it was the responsibility of the Congress to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Telangana after forming the new government in the State. The Congress government would strive to restore democratic values and safeguard the rights of citizens.

"I thank the four crore people of Telangana for electing the Congress and



TPCC president Revanth Reddy addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday.

paying their tributes to Srikantha Chari on his death anniversary on December 3 through this verdict," Revanth Reddy said, assuring that besides the six guarantees, all promises made by Rahul Gandhi will be fulfilled. The TPCC president specifically thanked Rahul Gandhi for his support and said the Bharat Jodo Yatra,

which was conducted for 150 days covering 4,000 km, infused a lot of confidence in the Congress cadre. Time and again, both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi had reiterated that the Gandhi family's relationship with the people of Telangana was not political but a family bond, he said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

TS DGP suspended for MCC violation

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Hours after he met Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A Revanth Reddy, Telangana DGP Anjani Kumar was suspended on charges of violation of the Model Code of Conduct by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The State government issued orders posting Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Ravi Gupta as Director General of Police (Head of Police Force), with full additional charge, with immediate effect.

The most surprising development by the ECI was reported by the PTI at 5.18 pm. The DGP accompanied by several senior officers called on Revanth Reddy at his residence at 12.20 pm.

(SEE PAGE 2)

We will bounce back stronger, says KTR

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Assuring to play a constructive role in the Opposition, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao said on Sunday that the party will fight on behalf of the people and promised to bounce back stronger.

The BRS (then TRS) fought hard to achieve Telangana. Even in the role of an opposition party, it will do everything in its capacity to help in the proper transition of power to the Congress and ensure that the new government fulfils all promises made to the people, he said while addressing media persons here.

"We respect the people's mandate. The result is not what we desired and I appeal to the BRS leaders and



BRS working president KT Rama Rao speaking to media persons at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday.

cadre not to get disheartened. We will bounce back stronger," Rama Rao said.

Thanking the party leaders for putting up a valiant fight and working hard for over three months, the BRS working president said it was common to lose or win

in politics. There has to be equanimity and this verdict was just a speed breaker and a learning experience, he said. Stating that the BRS was used to facing hardships, he said it struggled for 23 years to achieve Telangana.

(SEE PAGE 2)

CRPF takes over NSP dam security

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

As directed by the Centre, the CRPF took over the security of the Nagarjuna Sagar dam on Sunday.

The Andhra Pradesh police, which occupied a part of the dam including its right canal head regulator, made a complete retreat. The police force deployed by the Telangana

government at the dam site was also recalled.

In the process of their withdrawal, police officials had a tiff with the CRPF personnel as they were disallowed from taking pictures of the CCTV cameras and other dam surveillance equipment, which were damaged by the AP police after they took control of a part of the dam on November 29.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Faulty roads causing accidents: Gadkari

GANDHINAGAR

Faulty road engineering is often the reason for five lakh accidents reported in India every year, union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said here on Sunday, urging engineers to work towards removing black spots to save lives.

Gadkari, while addressing the 82nd annual ses-

sion of the Indian Roads Congress, called for reducing construction costs without compromising on quality by using alternative materials and the latest technology and completing projects on time.

Talking about the Uttarkashi tunnel collapse, in which 41 labourers were trapped and rescued after a marathon effort of 17 days, the Minister said one cannot forget those

who went inside the tunnel and risked their lives to save the lives of the men trapped inside.

"India accounts for five lakh accidents and 1.5 lakh deaths annually, and three lakh people are injured. This caused a 3 per cent loss to the country's GDP. Like a sacrificial lamb, a driver is blamed for every accident. Let me tell you, and I observe minutely — often, the road engineer-

ing is at fault," he said. While constructing roads, one should ensure that they are engineered properly to prevent accidents, he said.

"I also suffered from an accident and was left with four broken bones. Many are dying. People in the age group of 18-34 account for 60 per cent of accident deaths, and many of them are engineers and doctors," he said.

PTI

India doesn't sign COP pact

DUBAI

India on Sunday refrained from signing the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, with sources pointing out that curbing greenhouse gas use for cooling in the health sector, which is one of the points in the document, may not be practical or achievable within the country's healthcare infrastructure in the short term.

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 8)

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

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Retail live.....	Rs. 108
With skin	Rs. 157
Skinless	Rs. 178
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 66

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