



Karnataka: 48 private schools in Bengaluru receives bomb

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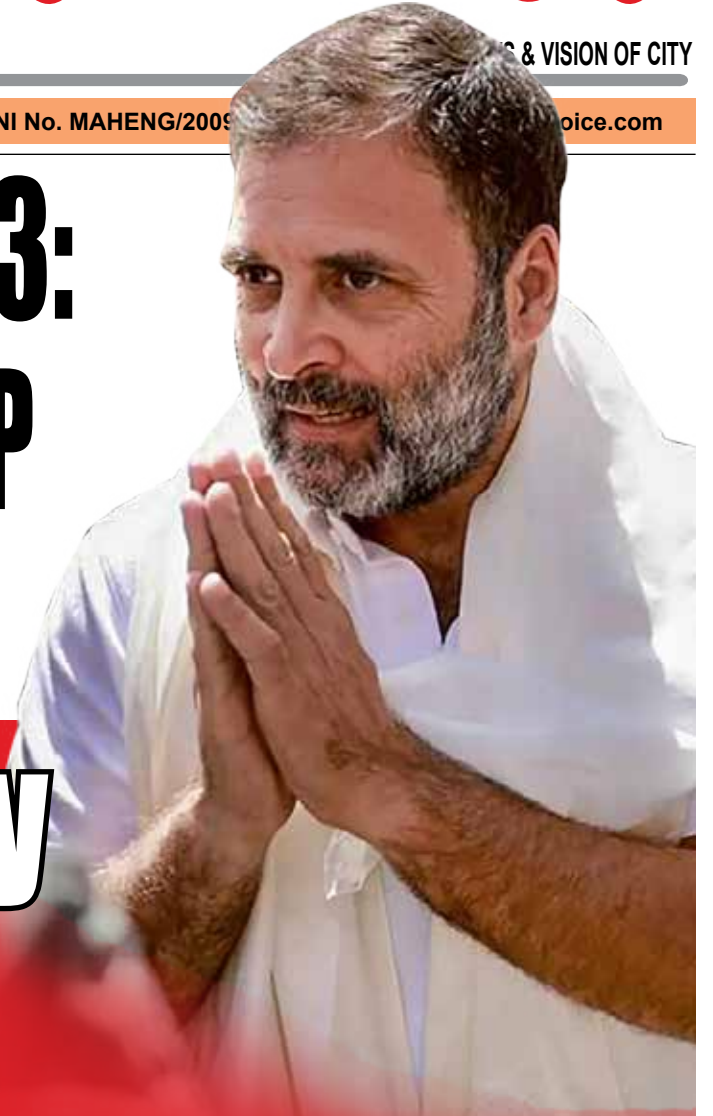


Afternoon VOICE

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Assembly exit polls 2023: Rahul Gandhi slams BJP over defeat, says

"Battle of ideology will continue"



AV Team

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday conceded the party's defeat in the Assembly elections of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, but he said that the party's battle of ideology would continue. "We humbly accept the mandate of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan - the battle of ideology will continue," Rahul Gandhi posted on X.

In Telangana where the Congress is set to form the next government, dethron-

ing BRS's 10-year rule, he said that his party will fulfil the promise of making "Prajalu Telangana". "I am very thankful to the people of Telangana - we will fulfil the promise of making Prajalu Telangana. Heartfelt thanks to all the workers for their hard work and support," the Wayanad MP posted on X. In the Assembly elections in four states- Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh- the counting of which is in the final stages, as per the Election Commission data, the BJP is leading in majority of the seats in three

States, clearly indicating that it would form governments in these states.

While in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the BJP is defeating the incumbent Congress governments, in Madhya Pradesh it has defeated the anti-incumbency in retaining the power. However, in the South Indian state of Telangana, the Congress sees a consolation as it poised to dethrone, BRS's decade-old rule. In Madhya Pradesh, as per the latest Election Commission data, the BJP is leading in 166 seats out of 230 and the Congress is lead-

ing in 63 seats.

In Rajasthan, the BJP is leading in 115 seats out of 199 seats clearly on the way to ousting the incumbent Ashok Gehlot government. The Congress is leading in 69 seats in the state.

In the Chhattisgarh election, though the majority of the exit polls predicted the Congress would retain the government, the results show otherwise. As per the latest ECI update, the BJP is leading in 55 seats out of 90 and the Congress is leading 35 seats. ANI

Biometrics technology, once a science fiction, should become a part of real life

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Maharashtra Government has given Mumbai police new progressive investigating software. They entrusted the entire task to a private firm, which has completed the work professionally. The idea of precluding crimes before they happen looks like something out of science fiction. They would compile together all the data of criminals with their fingerprints and face recognition. The company will build a database of relevant persons. For airports, it might be a watch list of terrorists and fugitives wanted by state police. Face recognition might involve keeping out individuals with a history of fraud and criminal background. With one click police will detect the entire criminal or fraudulent background of a person.

Such advanced innovations in technology need an hour. Looking

at the state's geographical area, we already have a lack of police force. Most of the time, police are engaged in VIP surveillance, bandobast, patrolling, crime investigations and for political and cultural activities. Tracing criminals or investigating their background takes a lot of time. Now biometrics can help them speed up in crime detection.

The next phase should be to share this data among states so that any criminal who takes refuge in other states can be tracked. Cameras can optimize for angle and lighting conditions. As individuals enter a secure area, they should capture images of their faces.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Biometrics technology, once a science fiction, should become a part of real life

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A feature detection system can alert security if a match occurs. It's these instant alerts that help security professionals actually prevent crimes from occurring.

A professional could approach the person and offer customer service. By closely monitoring the potential criminal, they can prevent retail crime from ever occurring.

Facial recognition software can help check crime is by providing criminal analytics. Analytics can give insight that shows at which places and at what times the most theft, scam or violent crime occurs.

A feature detection system can alert security if a match occurs. It's these instant alerts that help security professionals actually prevent crimes from occurring. For example, if a known pickpocket enters a retail store, the alert can simply give the directive to detect. A professional could approach the person and offer customer service. By closely monitoring the potential criminal, they can prevent retail crime from ever occurring.

However, there are many chin snatchers and crime groups who visit local trains to steal mobile phones, or pickpocket purses, if their data stored in all railway stations and face detection signals shows their entry in the station the cops can prevent the theft by keeping a tight vigil on them. India needs this advanced technology for advanced security measures in housing societies to public places.

Retailers, casinos, transportation hubs, banks, stadiums and an extensive range of other organizations currently use surveillance as a means of security. But the problem is that traditional investigation systems are volatile. That they can alert security to crimes in process or aid in forensic investigations after crimes happen, but they do little to help organizations prevent crimes from happening. But face recognition can transform security by empowering security professionals to know which individuals are most likely to commit crime.

Another way that facial recognition software can help check crime is by providing criminal analytics. Analytics can give insight that shows at which places and at what times the most theft, scam or violent crime occurs. Such security provisions are a must for the banking system, super markets, safety lockers, public palaces, markets and railway stations.

Biometric technology is advancing at an almost exponential rate, and its impact on law enforcement is only going to grow. Women's safety, child abuse and senior citizens' safety can be monitored. Although biometric measures will allow police to help keep communities safer and perhaps even allow for cold cases to be solved and criminals brought to justice, there are many who believe these advancements amount to a violation of personal liberty. We're going to examine biometric security measures and look at both sides of the question of their use and potential abuse.

One of the biggest advances in biotechnology that can affect law enforcement is the use of fingerprint readers or face recognition to open devices such as computers and smartphones. When a suspect is arrested, many times police would like to search their electronic devices for any evidence that could be associated with their alleged criminal activity. Another use of biometric advances comes in the area of facial recognition software and security cameras. The newest versions of biometric facial recognition software go far beyond just the face, to being able to analyze someone's walking pattern, voice, and even just the iris of their eye.

The subject of this use of biometric advancements in law enforcement has gained media attention lately with the provision of software by Amazon, called Rekognition, to law enforcement organizations. Facial recognition is already being used everywhere. I see people open their smart phones with it. Finger and face recognition is a common feature in phones and even a lay person knows how to use it. No matter how far biometric advancements may go in helping law enforcement, departments will need the tools to share with each other the information that comes from biometrics. They should use biometrics in areas as diverse as security for businesses, schools, government agencies, borders and airports; patient identification in hospitals and blood banks; voice control of electronic devices; and criminal investigations. While many people may think of biometrics in terms of face, voice, and iris recognition, there are many other types of biometrics in use or in development as well.

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Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

Vaidehi has received several Awards like Icongokarmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road,
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

www.afternoonvoice.com
www.beyondthenews.biz
www.mumbaimanoos.com

www.newsmakers.co.in
www.nbcaward.com
www.hackers5.com

Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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Diary



**Buying a flat
a Dream come
True**



Jayanthi Subramaniam

Building a house or purchasing a flat is a dream for every youngster. Some buy a flat with their terminal benefits. If you plan ahead and purchase at an early age, then it will be ideal to repay the loan by the time you retire from services with easy instalments. Middle age is ideal to buy a flat for your peaceful stay. Youngsters shoulder the responsibility of getting married to their sisters and others have other family responsibilities. It is not ideal to carry on the housing loan liabilities even after retirement is not advisable.

Owning a flat in Mumbai or Navi Mumbai is neighbour's envy and owner's pride. But for availing a housing loan the prospects of buying a flat will be a distant dream. The sprawling skyscrapers and promising infrastructure has made these properties market alluring to one and all for investment. The housing projects here get sold out even before completion. So, the next time you see the news about property exhibition in Mumbai or Navi Mumbai remember to smile for the dream homes might have something for you as well.

One must go through the parameters before going in for an outright purchase of a flat from a builder. Find out the exact location of the flat available. Project overview is a must before purchase. Check out the common amenities provided by the builder and make sure about the open spaces available at your disposal. Play area if any is separated or not from the parking lot is to be ascertained. Club House terms and conditions are to be ascertained. Have a rough idea and try to make sure about the area of the apartment and its measurements. Before taking occupation find out the connectivity to the place and educational facilities and shopping options along with health

care support. If you are not going to self-occupy the property think of resale potential and rental demand and after doing a thorough study you can pay the advance and occupy the property when it is fully completed. Take advantage of the exhibition discounted rate of flats and check up with other builders before executing the documents of housing loan and before going in for registration.

The year 2018 has been consumer friendly and the market is eyeing the festive season for better sales after a lull in the real estate market. The estate consultants feel that the real estate is on the path of revival with RERA providing the much needed confidence among the buyers and giving the much required fillip to the builders as well. With RERA being introduced in three phases of the real estate the buyers look for a new trend in marketing of vacant flats in the city. The developers, the consumers and the consultants/Agents are breathing a sigh of relief. The defaulters would be delisted from the segment and genuine developers and will have to pay penalty in case of a delay. We hope that the buyers enjoy the full benefits in acquiring a flat in the heart of the city.

With the RERA regulatory body now in force, the realty sector is showing an upward trend. There are lots of inquiries in Thane Ghodbunder sector and it is a welcome sign. We expect 2019 will be a good one and become a boon for consumer friendly in buying and that will provide you further scope. Get ready and be prepared to have a friend to assist you at the time of documentation. But missing the deadlines will cost developers a loss and the consumer will have a say from now on.

Letters to the Editor

Founder of "Realism"

Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has passed away. He will be known globally as a political figure. Henry Kissinger, who is always opposed to communism and has no policy to bulldoze wherever he sees it, introduced realism in politics. He started to say. He believed that world peace means a system operating on our terms and conditions. Politics and military power are very important in foreign policy. Depending on this aggressive formula, the United States overthrew many regimes and killed many leaders during the Cold War, from Cambodia to Chile and from Vietnam to Afghanistan. All this was brought about by Henry Kissinger's realism, but all these were realist principles.

Humanism and idealism have no place in realism. The damage done by the communist regime in the last de-

cade is highlighted, but the world seems to be blind to how much the realism of Henry Kissinger has produced. Because Kissinger was born in Germany outside the US, he could not become president according to the US constitution, but many Henry Kissinger had a great influence in foreign policy during the tenure of the American President. From Richard Nixon to Barack Obama, his political imprint has remained.

Henry Kissinger, the father of realism, will be recorded in history as an anti-Indian political figure because of his continuous politics of hatred of India and support of China, he will be recorded as India-hater.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Brain drain

Every year, hundreds and thousands of students graduate from our universities, but most of them do not have or see a future for themselves. Many of them leave for the West in search of better opportunities than they can find at home, leading to a loss of talented and skilled individuals in our country. The government needs to provide the

people with more job opportunities in order to stem this brain drain.

Jubel D'Cruz

A Serious Matter

The linking of an Indian official to the plot to kill Khalistani separatists in a U.S. case is a "matter of concern", the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday, in its first such reaction to the charges filed in a New York court a day earlier. While the Indian official is not charged in the case in the US courts, this cannot be ruled out, nor is it beyond the realm of possibility that other Indian officials may also be drawn into the allegations. But it certainly appears to have caused a trust deficit between the security establishments of the two countries as well with other security partners, besides a massive dent in the credibility of the Indian security establishment.

MT.Farooqi

Manipur to have lasting peace

It is a historic milestone that the United National Liberation Front (UNLF),

a banned organisation, has agreed to renounce violence and decided to join the democratic mainstream of the country, after it signed a peace agreement in Delhi. It would surely serve as catalyst in establishing lasting peace in Manipur and that is what the country and people of Manipur have been fervently expecting an end to bloody and mindless clashes between the two ethnic communities in the state. It is not out of place in this context that the Congress and other INDI entities did their best to vitiate the situation, even stalling the proceedings of Parliament to score their brownie point on the Manipur issue, to tag the BJP in the process and paint it as villain.

Jahangir Ali

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Madhya Pradesh Poll results: Sena leader Sanjay Raut says, "It won't cause any rift among the members of INDIA alliance"

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday said that the outcome of the Madhya Pradesh assembly elections would have been different had the Congress shared some seats with constituents of the INDIA bloc. He also said the grand old party should revisit its outlook towards allies recalling that it was Kamal Nath who had opposed sharing of seats with Samajwadi Party during elections.

Raut, however, added that the election results would not cause any rift among the members of the INDIA alliance. "It is my clear opinion that the Madhya Pradesh elections should have been contested as INDIA alliance. Had some seats been shared with the alliance parties, such as Akhilesh's party, (Samajwadi Party), the Congress would have fared far better. His (Akhilesh's)



party has good support in some areas, including some 10-12 seats known as the strongholds of the party. It was Kamal Nath who opposed sharing of seats with him (Akhilesh)," he told reporters.

Raut said the poll outcome has a lesson to learn that the IN-

DIA alliance should contest future polls together. "Teamwork was needed. State parties cannot be ignored any longer. One cannot do politics by ignoring local parties," the Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson added. He demanded that the Congress rethink

its strategy and outlook towards the allies. "The next meeting of the INDIA bloc is scheduled on December 6 in New Delhi. Udhav Thackeray will attend it," Raut said.

The Rajya Sabha member sarcastically said that besides PM

Modi and BJP, he also wants to congratulate Central probe agencies which conducted raids on opposition parties in the states where elections were held. "The resources were stuck or seized which can be termed as the part of the election management. The BJP always contest elections like it is at war with the opposition," he added.

Raut rejected the charge that Rahul Gandhi's "panauti" remark might have hurt the outcome of the elections in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. "If that was the case, why did the remark did not backfire in Telangana? After Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh has the strong Hindutva activists for a long time. It has a good connection with Nagpur," he said. He said Shivraj Singh Chauhan's public image also played a vital role in the poll outcome. PTI

Dy CM Ajit Pawar said, "Would not be surprised if some people cry foul and put the blame on EVMs" over polls outcome



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday said he would not be surprised if some people cry foul and put the blame on EVMs for the assembly polls outcome, as counting was underway in four states. The BJP was racing towards power in the Hindi heartland states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and had a

distinct edge in Chhattisgarh while the Congress was poised to oust the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Telangana.

Speaking to reporters, Pawar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work was being appreciated by the people. "I will not be surprised if people from the INDIA alliance start blaming the EVMs (electronic voting ma-

chines) for the results," he said. It would be like crying foul, he added. "When I was in government in the past, my opinion at the time was that tampering with EVMs was impossible. Just one person cannot tamper with the EVMs on such a large scale. You need many people to do it, and when a number of people get involved in such a practice, it would have naturally come out by now," the NCP leader said.

If EVMs are to be blamed in these three states (MP, Rajasthan and Rajasthan), what about Telangana? he said. "We need to accept that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image and his work is being appreciated by the people," he said. PTI

CM Eknath Shinde says, "mann mann mein Modi' over performance in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh



Earlier it was 'ghar ghar Modi' and the BJP's impressive performance in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh shows that it's now 'mann mann mein Modi', said Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday, referring to the latest poll outcomes. The BJP was racing towards power in the Hindi heartland states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and had a distinct edge in Chhattisgarh

as votes were being counted for recent assembly elections in four states.

Shinde told reporters, "The efforts and leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's planning helped the BJP register this massive victory in these three states. People said Modi's charisma has faded. The opposition parties even conspired to defame him but people have given their verdict." PTI

Fire broke out near Girgaon Chowpatty, Two burnt bodies recovered

Two charred bodies have been recovered after a fire broke out in a four-floor building near Girgaon Chowpatty in Mumbai, a fire official said on Sunday. The blaze, which erupted on the third floor of Gomati Bhavan situated on Rangnekar Road at around 9.30 pm on Saturday, was doused after six hours, he said,

adding it was a "level-2" (major) fire. Two charred bodies were found in a bedroom and bathroom of a house on the third floor, the official said. Three people were rescued from the building, he said.

Eight fire engines and six jumpo tankers were rushed to the spot. A total of five lines was pressed into service for fire-fighting, in-

cluding two from the staircases, one each from the north and south side of an adjacent building and one high pressure line from angus ladder, the official said. The fire was doused at around 3.30 am on Sunday, he said. The cause of the fire is not yet known. An investigation is underway into the incident, the official said. PTI

Nation

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said, "People have shown their "mood" through these elections"



mission data, the BJP is leading in majorities of the seats in three North Indian states, indicating that it would form governments in these states.

While in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the BJP is defeating the incumbent Congress governments, in Madhya Pradesh, it has defeated the anti-incumbency in retaining power.

However, in the South Indian state of Telangana, the Congress saw consolation as emerged victorious dethroning BRS's decade-old rule. In Rajasthan, the BJP is leading by 115 seats out of 199 seats clearly on the way to ousting the incumbent Ashok Gehlot government. The Congress is leading in 69 seats in the state. In the Chhattisgarh election, though the majority of the exit polls predicted the Congress would retain the government, the results show otherwise. As per the latest ECI update, the BJP is leading in 55 seats out of 90 and the Congress is leading in 35 seats. ANI

After the Bharatiya Janta Party swept all three states in the Assembly elections on Sunday, registering a mega win, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the people have shown their "mood" through these elections. "The people of the country have shown their mood through these elections. We have success in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. People have supported our schemes," Gadkari told reporters here.

He said that as the Centre and

these states are going to be ruled by the same party, the BJP, the development would take place at a faster pace. "I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi. party President JP Nadda, party workers, and people of these states Now the development will happen at a faster pace here because a double-engine government will be formed," he added. In the Assembly elections in four states—Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh—the counting of which is in the final stages, as per the Election Com-

Rajasthan Assembly polls: CM Ashok Gehlot handed over his resignation letter to Governor



In a post on X, Gehlot said, "We humbly accept the mandate given by the people of Rajasthan. This is an unexpected result for everyone. This defeat shows that we were not completely successful in taking our plans, laws and innovations to the public." He said that the schemes started by him should continue in the new BJP government. "I wish the new government all the best. My advice to them is that despite working hard, we were not successful, but it does not mean that they should stop working after coming to the government. All the schemes including OPS, Chiranjeevi and the pace of development that we have given to Rajasthan in these five years should be taken forward," he said.

Ashok Gehlot also thanked the Congress workers and said, "Those party workers who worked hard in this election, I express my gratitude to them and all the voters who believed in us." ANI

As the BJP heads towards victory in the Rajasthan Assembly polls, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot handed over his resignation letter to Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra on Sunday. "Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot reached Raj Bhavan on Sunday and submitted his resignation from the post of Chief Minister to Governor Kalraj Mishra," according to a press statement from the Rajasthan

governor's office.

Meanwhile, Governor Mishra accepted the resignation with immediate effect and urged Gehlot to continue working until the formation of the new government in the state, the release stated. Earlier the Chief Minister in a post on X said that he humbly accepts the mandate given by the public in the state as BJP headed towards victory in Rajasthan Assembly polls.

Tamil Nadu: ED has written letter to Director General of Police seeking the registration of an FIR against Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Department officials

The regional office of the Enforcement Directorate in Madurai has written to Tamil Nadu's Director General of Police, seeking the registration of an FIR against those Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Department officials of the state government who searched its premises this week. Brijesh Beniwal, working as an assistant director at Sub-Zonal Office of Enforcement Directorate, Madurai, through the letter to the top police officer, alleged that the anti-corruption officials illegally conducted a search by barging into the ED office and stole sensitive documents.

In a petition to Tamil Nadu DGP Shankar Jiwai, the ED sought registration of a case

against the anti-corruption team and others alleging that the searches were not only illegal but mala fide. The central agency accused Tamil Nadu anti-corruption officials of "stealing various sensitive case records" and illegally accessing various case records and taking copies in mobile or other electronic media which could jeopardise the investigation. Tamil Nadu Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) officials on Friday afternoon began searches at the Enforcement Directorate sub-zonal office in Madurai after arresting ED officer Ankit Tiwari in connection with a bribery case and seized several incriminating documents, officials had said. ANI

Assembly Polls 2023: "The victory that we got today is for those who made supreme sacrifices for Telangana" says Revanth Reddy over victory in Telangana

After dethroning Chandrasekhar Rao-led Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), who has been in power since 2014, when Telangana was granted statehood, Congress state party chief Revanth Reddy on Sunday dedicated the party's success in the assembly election to the people who made supreme sacrifice. "The victory that we got today is for those who made supreme sacrifices for Telangana. We will take forward their ideals and will make sure to fulfil all our promises," Revanth Reddy said at a press briefing in Hyderabad.

"I also want to thank the high command on behalf of Telangana Congress party. Rahul Gandhi gave us hope from his Bharat Jodo Yatra and directed us to fight the assembly election in Telangana," he added. Reddy further urged the opposition and other winning parties to cooperate for the formation of the government. "KTR welcomed Congress' government. This spirit should continue when we (Congress) run the govt. 10 years you (BRS) were in



power and now you will sit in opposition. We value the opinion of the Opposition," he said.

Earlier in the day, ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader KT Rama Rao expressed his disappointment over his party performance and congratulated the grand old party. "Grateful to the people of Telangana for giving the BRS party two consecutive terms of government. Not saddened over the result today, but surely disappointed as it was not in the expected lines for us. But we will take this in our stride as a learning and will bounce back. Congratulations to the Congress party on winning the mandate. Wishing you Good Luck," KTR posted on X. ANI

World

Philippine blast incident: Resident blamed foreign terrorists, kills 4 people



The Philippine president blamed foreign terrorists for a bomb blast that killed four people Sunday, wounded dozens of other Catholic worshippers in the south and sparked a security alarm, including in the capital, Manila, where state forces were put on alert. The suspected bomb, which the police said was made from a mortar round, went off and hit students and teachers who attended a Mass in a gymnasium at Mind-

anao State University in southern Marawi city, Taha Mandangan, the security chief of the state-run campus, told The Associated Press by telephone.

Dozens of students and teachers dashed out of the gym and the wounded were taken to hospitals. Regional military commander Maj Gen Gabriel Viray III said four people were killed by the explosion, including three women, and 50 others were brought to two hospitals for treatment. Six

of the wounded were fighting for their lives in a hospital, said Gov Mamintal Adiong Jr of the Islamic province of Lanao del Sur, which has Marawi as its capital.

I condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless and most heinous acts perpetrated by foreign terrorists upon the Mindanao State University, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said in a statement. Extremists who wield violence against the innocent will always be regarded as enemies to our society. Marcos did not explain why he immediately blamed foreign militants for the high-profile bombing. Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr later told a news conference without elaborating there was a strong indication of a foreign element in the bombing.

Military chief of staff Gen Romeo Brawner Jr said the bomb attack could be retaliation by Muslim militants for a series of battle setbacks. PTI

Indonesia: Flash floods kills 1 and 11 others are missing



One person died and 11 others were missing after flash floods and landslides hit Indonesia's North Sumatra province, Xinhua reported, citing officials. The head of the Search and Rescue Office of the province, Budiono, said that the floods containing mud, big stones and wood came from higher grounds and hit houses and buildings in Simangulampe village of Humbang Hasundutan Regency.

Budiono, in a telephonic conversation with Xinhua, said, "Our personnel found one body today. We are still searching for the 11 other missing persons."

Moreover, heavy machinery equipment has been used to remove mud from the scene where the victims were suspected to be buried, Budiono said, according to Xinhua. Following the floods, up to 50 families were forced to evacuate as the disaster destroyed 12 houses, including one religious building and one school building, spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Agency Abdul Muhari said. According to Muhari, heavy downpours had already been flooding the regency before flash floods and landslides happened, reported Xinhua. ANI

Pakistan's Balochistan is facing climate change since the late 1990s



As the Conference of Parties-28 (COP28) concludes by highlighting climate change concerns, an expert stressed that Pakistan's Balochistan has been witnessing the effects of climate change since the late 1990s, adding that the impacts of climate change have continued to worsen over the last two decades, reported Dawn. Muhammad Tahir Khan, a climate change expert, explained why Balochistan has been vulnerable to natural calamities and how these events are reshaping the province's geography.

"Balochistan has been witnessing the effects of climate

change since the late 1990s. Now, the threat has metastasised, and people are on the receiving end," he said. Moreover, in recent years, the impact was quite evident as torrential rains and floods wreaked havoc in the entire province, according to Dawn. It was an emergency-like situation, worse than any other province due to Balochistan's diverse geographical position and huge land mass. While talking about how climate change impacted Balochistan, Khan noted that the province almost is half of Pakistan, geographically, further saying that the threat of climate change in Balochistan has diversified from 2015 to 2018. ANI

US: Former President Donald Trump said, "Biden and his radical left allies like to pose as defenders of democracy"

Former US President Donald Trump has called US President Joe Biden a "destroyer of American democracy," The Washington Post reported. While addressing thousands of supporters in Iowa, Trump said, "Biden and his radical left allies like to pose as defenders of democracy."

He said, "But Joe Biden is not the defender of American democracy. Joe Biden is the destroyer of American democracy. ... This campaign is a righteous

crusade to liberate our republic from Biden and the criminals and the Biden administration," The Washington Post reported. In his address, Trump tried to play down the criminal charges that he tried to overturn the 2020 election and from his own commitments to take revenge on his opponents if he returns to the White House, seeking to parry warnings that he poses a danger to democracy. In his address, he said that the investigations into his presidency, like the special counsel probe of

Russian interference in the 2016 election and his first impeachment for pressuring Ukraine to disparage Biden, amounted to an effort to "overthrow the duly elected President."

As candidates ramp up appearances in Iowa ahead of the caucuses on January 15, Trump, who refused to accept his 2020 election loss, compared Biden to a fascist tyrant and the campaign distributed signs reading 'BIDEN ATTACKS DEMOCRACY.' ANI

Pakistan: Around 4,02,312 illegal foreigners, including Afghans send to their homeland

At least 4,02,312 illegal foreigners, including Afghans, have so far been repatriated to their home countries in a dignified and safe manner from Pakistan, ARY News reported on Sunday. It reported that the process for repatriation of undocumented foreign nationals is ongoing in Pakistan.

"Thousands of Afghans are



returning to their homeland on a daily basis through Chaman and Torkham borders, thanking Pakistan for its generosity," Ra-

dio Pakistan reported. Further, according to ARY News, the caretaker Pakistan government has built transit camps in various districts for the temporary accommodation of undocumented foreigners and their safe repatriation from the country. A further 3,776 more 'illegal' Afghan nationals returned to their country on Friday. ANI

Expression

Condition of women in rural society



Ujjay Garg

Retired Principal Educational
Columnist Malout Punjab

Women are said to be the backbone of the rural economy. Their role is more important in developing countries. Rural women have an important contribution in the agricultural sector all over the world. They are meaningful parts of family, society and community. Which strongly influences the nature of the society. Because women have equal importance as men in the development of the nation. Seventy percent of our country's population still lives in rural areas. Most of them depend on agricultural activities. This is the reason why rural women, along with taking care of housework and children, also help in farming work. It is noteworthy that the contribution of women in India's GDP is only seventeen percent, which is less than half of the global average of thirty-seven percent.

Yet, according to a World Bank report, if women's contribution to labor increases, India's growth rate will double. With this, poverty can be reduced rapidly. Rural women contribute sixty to eighty percent of the total labor in India's agricultural sectors of. While if we look at the data of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the contribution of rural women in the total labor in the agricultural sector is forty-three percent, whereas in some developed countries this figure is seventy to eighty percent.

A research conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and DRAW in nine states shows that women's participation in the production of major crops has been up to seventy-five percent. Not only this, this figure is up to ninety-nine percent in horticulture and fifty-one percent in post-harvest operations. women in animal husbandry Participation is up to fifty-eight percent and ninety-five percent in fish production. That is, it can be said that almost half of the farming work in developing countries is done by women and India is no exception in this matter. Yet strategies for agricultural development are mainly made keeping



men at the center. Barely five percent of the resources are spent keeping women in mind and no efforts are made in this direction. This also causes huge loss to agricultural production.

According to a study by the Food and Agriculture Organization And if women get equal resources like assets, raw materials and services as men, then agricultural production in all developing countries can increase by two and a half to four percent. With this, the number of hungry people can be reduced by twelve to seventeen percent. This would also increase the income of the people, which would also increase the standard of living and life security. According to the Economic Survey 2017-18, due to migration of men from villages to cities for employment, the role of women in agricultural work is increasing. Therefore, women's participation in agricultural work increased. At the same time, the contribution of women in preventing and managing today's current challenges such as climate change and degradation of natural resources cannot be denied. Women have been playing a multifaceted role in agriculture.

They are involved in all the processes from sowing to transplanting, weeding, irrigation, applying fertilizers, plant protection, harvesting, storage etc. Apart from this, they are engaged in other agriculture related businesses like cattle rearing, fodder collection, dairy and agriculture related allied activities like beekeeping, mushroom production, pig rearing, goat rearing, poultry etc.

She is also active in India. It is clear that if women get good opportunities and facilities, they can take the country's agriculture towards the second green revolution and can also change the scenario of the country's development. On one hand, while urban women are engaged in the development of the country by working shoulder to shoulder with men in schools, colleges, offices, factories etc. On the other hand, rural women continue to make their invaluable contribution to the economic development of the country by working in the fields. Despite this, women are considered inferior to men in the society. history of this is a testimony to the fact that women have always been neglected in terms of their rights as compared to men, that is why there has been exploitation, injustice and oppression against women in every society.

Women, especially in rural areas, are even more neglected. About seventy percent of the country's total population resides in rural areas, which suffer from extreme illiteracy, superstition and stereotypes. There is a need to ensure participation of women of rural India in the development of the country. If more than half of this population of women in India is not developed. If this happens, then the country and society cannot develop. It is true that India's situation in terms of women empowerment is very unique in many ways. Here one third of the seats in Gram Panchayats are reserved for women. There are preparations to make similar arrangements in the

Assemblies and Parliament also. Yet this political empowerment has generally not brought about substantial changes in the socio-economic structure of rural women. This is the reason that despite women's participation in agricultural enterprises, they do not get the respect they deserve from the society and the state are entitled.

They are victims of neglect in every respect. In other words, men still dominate the rural socio-economic structure. Health and nutrition are the biggest concerns. Women cook food for the entire household, but they usually remain hungry. The incidence of malnutrition among women in India is almost as high as the incidence of food crisis in some African countries. They are paid less wages than men for equal agricultural work. The ownership of land also generally belongs to men. This is the name.

Most of the decisions related to farming are taken by men. It is worth noting that the entire social system is such that for every work done by a woman, she is told that her labor is not 'labour' but mere domestic help and this is the reason why most of the women who work in agriculture They are involved, even they themselves admit that they do not do any work. To save the villages of India, it is necessary to save farming, and to save farming it is equally necessary to empower women.

According to government rules Currently, only those who have land in their name are considered farmers, hence many women are deprived of being recognized as farmers. Statistics also show that if women farmers get equal rights in agricultural work, then production can increase by up to forty percent. Besides, they will become financially self-reliant and will also be able to take the society forward. It is said that when you make a woman in the village socially and economically empowered and prosperous, that woman not only helps her family, her village, but so It strengthens our country. This becomes the basic reason for the country's development and improvement in the economy. In such a situation, strong political will is needed.

Entertainment



Blake Lively is all praise for singers Beyonce and Taylor Swift Taking to Instagram, The Gossip Girl alum shared a carousel of photos from Beyonce's recent London premiere of her concert film, Renaissance: A Film by Beyonce. Lively and Swift both made appearances to support the "Cuff It" singer.

In the post's caption, Blake Lively penned a powerful message on the importance of supporting women. "When I grew up, women were always pitted against one another. It took me until adulthood to see that the instinct for women to lift each other to their highest potential is the norm, not the exception. Most of my best friends are women who would've been packaged to me as threats or competition. It's our job to show younger generations the power in aligning rather than dividing," she wrote. She continued, "All this to say, @beyonce and @taylorswift neither of you have to be threatened by my pop stardom. There's space for us all. Renaissance: A Film by Beyonce. In theatres now ...And even better than you can imagine." **ANI**

Actress Blake Lively pens a special message over women empowerment

'The Boys' season 4 unveils its teaser



Makers of the action series 'The Boys' season 4 have unveiled the show's official teaser. The Emmy-nominated anti-superhero drama series revealed its first look at the CCXP fan convention in Brazil on Saturday. Taking to Instagram, OTT platform Amazon Prime Video dropped the teaser which they captioned, "Season 4 is a riot. Strap in lads, coming your way 2024." In Season Four, the world is on the brink. Victoria Neuman is closer than ever to the Oval Office and under the muscly thumb of Homelander, who is consolidating his power. Butcher, with only months to live, has lost Becca's son as well as his job as The Boys' leader. The rest of the team are fed up with his lies. With the stakes higher than ever, they have to find a way to work together and save the world before it's too late. **ANI**

Animal: Actor Bobby Deol expressed his gratitude to the audience for showering love on the film



Bobby Deol, the man of the moment, has been reciprocating the love pouring in from different corners of the world over his performance in 'Animal', which hit the theatres on December 1. On Saturday, he was clicked by the paps in Mumbai, and he did not forget to express his gratitude to the audience for showering love on the film, especially his menacing character of an antagonist.

"Guys thank you so much. God has been very kind. Itna pyaar mila is film ke liye. Aisa lag rha hai main sapna dekh raha hun. (The film is receiving a lot of love...It feels like I am dreaming," he said with folded hands. He was also spotted getting teary-eyed as he sat in his car, perhaps reflecting on the journey and the film's success. **ANI**

Ranbir Kapoor's violent crime drama 'Animal' enters Rs 100 crore club



The craze for actors Ranbir Kapoor and Bobby Deol's action thriller film 'Animal' doesn't appear to be going away anytime soon. The film has now entered Rs 100 crore club in India in just 2 days. After a massive opening, 'Animal' has minted RS 58.37 crore in Hindi language on its second day which took the film's total Hindi language collection to Rs 113.12 crore Nett in India. In all languages (Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam) the film has minted Rs 131.07 crore Nett in India.

Taking to Instagram, Trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared a post which he captioned, "ANIMAL' IS A BOXOFFICE MONSTER...#Animal goes WILD on Day 2 [Sat]... Metros, non-metros, mass pockets - the response is OUTSTANDING, takes the 2-day total to over Rs 100 cr... Day 3 [Sun] biz will place it amongst the biggest *opening weekend* scorers of all time... Fri 54.75 cr, Sat 58.37 cr. Total: Rs 113.12 cr. #Hindi version. Nett BOC. #Boxoffice. #Animal [South Indian languages] Fri 9.05 cr, Sat 8.90 cr. Total: Rs 17.95 cr. Nett BOC. #Boxoffice ALL LANGUAGES TOTAL: Rs 131.07 cr Nett BOC."

"Animal" has raised Rs 236 crore gross at the global box office, the makers said on Sunday. Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga of "Kabir Singh" fame, "Animal" released on Friday. **ANI**