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T- Package may boomerang on Congress?

By Our Political Correspondent

There are definite indications coming from Delhi that the Congress high command and the Congress led central government are going to announce a financial package for the Telangana region by the end of this July. This will be accompanied by setting up of a high powered committee with autonomous status for the development of the Telangana region that is seeking statehood since decades.

Contd. on page 2





Since, political advantage seems to be elsewhere, the Sonia Gandhi led Congress is trying to ditch the people of Telangana yet again by announcing a huge financial package aimed at confusing politicians agitating for Telangana.

As Governor ESL Narasimhan was seen campaigning in Delhi for maintaining the status quo on the division of Andhra Pradesh state, it was left to other congress leaders to fish in troubled waters. For those who are desperate for power, any formula or package to enrich themselves is always welcome.

A senior Congress leader D Srinivas, who lost in 2009 and 2010 from Nizamabad assembly seat becoming a MLC in 2011 was most important political solution then and now the same leader who worked as an ex-minister and also a former Pradesh

Congress Committee (PCC) president is now seen assuring the party leader Sonia Gandhi that even a package for T-people would do. D Srinivas has been camping in Delhi for several days now; it appears he may be picked up to head this committee, with the rank and powers of a cabinet minister or much more. At least a dozen of senior Congress leaders will be accommodated in the panel.

This panel and the package are nothing but substitutes for granting separate Telangana state, which is a just and popular demand of the region for over five decades. The Congress high command which raked up the statehood issue over a decade ago and has been actively playing with it since December 9th, 2009 is now trying to fool the people of this region by trying to offer some sops when BJP national

leadership is vocally talking about granting statehood to Telangana by 17th September, 2014 if they come to power in April-2014 general elections.

After the exit of two of its Dalit MPs – G Vivek and Manda Jagannath – into TRS last month, the Congress leadership has become jittery and has been trying hard to retain the other leaders who are known to be making such moves by proposing some package formula. This way, it will offer some carrots to some of its leaders, MLAs and other seniors clamouring for Telangana state. According to sources, this package and the committee will have sweeping powers and funds. Approximately, around Rs 50,000 crore could be promised to this region in the next five years. A major irrigation project like Pranahita-Chevella would be declared as national project so that its entire cost

would be borne by the Centre.

The proposed Telangana Regional Development Council will have powers to create jobs for the locals and would be entrusted with the task of monitoring recruitment in different departments too. This is almost akin to the special status offered to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region in Karnataka through a Constitutional amendment of Article 371 (J). This package formula has been pushed by Governor ESL Narasimhan for some time. Narasimhan, a vehement opponent of separate Telangana, has mobilized the support of some Telangana leaders of Congress like D Srinivas and Marri Sashidhar Reddy etc; it is Narasimhan who is being suspected of leaking it to the media, immediately after he returned from Delhi to Hyderabad last week.





The package news appeared in a section of the media in Hyderabad, even a day before Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde announced in Delhi that the talks on Telangana are going on at the highest level. Shinde as usual didn't specify whether the Centre is going to announce a road map to Telangana or just a package and a committee. But, the state governor and his circle leaked the story to media to test the waters. They wanted to see the reaction of the Congress leaders as well as people of this region to this proposal. If there is no opposition they will go ahead with it or else, they will modify the proposal and come up with some other features and sops.

But, anyway, one thing is clear that neither a development council nor an economic package will work with people of this region. It has been proved by the spontaneous reaction of a large number of Congress leaders who had gathered in Hyderabad this week, where they made it clear that nothing short of separate state would be acceptable to them. A group of senior ministers including Deputy CM Damodar Rajanarsimha and K Jana Reddy made it clear that they will not contest the next elections unless the Centre granted Telangana state. Jana Reddy made it plain that: "Even if we contest, people will not vote for us". He is right that Congress men will have no face to go to people without securing separate state.

Congress boss Sonia Gandhi is guided by a coterie that an economic package and a development council will pacify the people of Telangana to some extent. But the actual case is otherwise. "It is take it or leave it situation in Telangana. Whether you give it fully or say that you cannot give it, but there is no via media," said Damodar Rajanarsimha, after the meeting of Congress leaders. It is to be seen to what extent these T-congress leaders would withstand adverse climate in Delhi.

It's advantage BJP and TRS:

The ground situation in Telangana is fast slipping from under the feet of Congress. It is BJP and TRS, the two

parties that are growing at the expense of TDP and Congress in the region. If Congress fails to grant Telangana state and just stops at announcing a package and developmental committee, it is set to meet its waterloo in the region. Interestingly, both BJP and TRS are set to gain in Telangana if elections are held now. According to a survey held recently by an independent agency in the region, in which DECCAN POST too participated; the TRS is strong in assembly segments, but BJP is fast emerging as the main beneficiary in MP seats. At the moment, TRS on its own may bag around 60-70 MLAs in Telangana, but it cannot hope to win more than 6-7 MPs.



'Sonia and Rahul' must protect MBCs in AP: Sriram Bhadraiah

By Shivkant Bichkunda

Sriram Bhadraiah is a senior congress party leader who hails from Perika caste. Bhadraiah represented Mahabubabad Assembly seat up to 2004 elections. In 2009, Mahabubabad seat was reserved for Scheduled Tribes as such lost his seat. Through out the state of Andhra Pradesh, Perika caste is numerically significant amongst the Most Backward Classes. While, the Perika caste is represented by one TRS MLA and one TDP MLC, the congress failed to field Perika caste candidates in the successive assembly seats compelling this caste's youth to support non-congress parties. Sriram Bhadraiah is a veteran BC leader of the state and has been working to impress MBCs like Perika, Chakali, Mangali, Gangiredlavaru, Viswakarma, Satani, Vanjara, Vamsharaj, Poosala, Uppara, Arre, and a host of other most backward communities which are increasingly getting marginalized and as such struggling for their identity. Deccan Post in its exercise to elicit insiders' opinion spoke to Sriram Bhadraiah and explored many interesting facts.

What is the problem of Backward Classes in AP?

The major problem of the Backward Classes is their inability to make progress even after 60 years of independence. The BCs constitute about 50% of the state population. There is a gross neglect by the administration to uplift many castes among the BCs to even enable them to avail benefits like state accorded reservations in educational institutes and state government jobs. Except for a



handful of castes among the numerous BCs, many are most backward and do not have much chance of making progress.

Who are the MBCs and what is their struggle?

MBCs are none other BCs. Since there are more than 141 castes in the category of BCs all are not on the same footing. There are many demands by marginalized castes among the BCs for special identity as Most Backward Classes which enables them to avail benefits intended for them specifically. At present, only a handful of castes are able to utilize the opportunities provided by the reservation system. Many castes are struggling to make progress as they fail to reach a particular stage which is not possible for them in the present

system. Therefore the struggle of all such castes like Perika, Chakali, Mangali etcetera is nothing but seeking meaningful differentiation amongst the BCs. If the categorization is done on the basis of BCs, MBCs and other similar groups who stand on the same footing also classified as OBCs or something like that, it will enable people belonging to similar level of social, educational and economic backwardness to engage in fair competition. Right now, there is an undue advantage to certain sections. This needs to be corrected.

Why despite huge numerical strength, most of the BC leaders fail to win assembly seats?

Unfortunately, it is a fact that despite being numerically strong, the BCs are politically very weak. Only because of

reservations in local bodies about 27% of BCs got elected to various posts. Thanks to our leaders it has now gone to 34% in local bodies this time. Actually, there are many leaders who became ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs from various political parties; their number is not that significant in comparison to others like Reddys, Velmas, Kammass etc. All this because there is no reservation for BCs in the state assembly. Today, everyone is talking about providing party tickets to BCs in the coming elections. They might give but how can people belonging to Most Backward Classes win the elections if they are not properly projected. If they are projected well then they have a good chance of winning elections. I am sure congress would project loyal people like me.

Why should the MBCs support Congress party?

Everyone must support the congress party that is headed by Srimathi Sonia Gandhi. The congress is the only party in the country that has been working to better the lives of Aam Aadmi. It is secular and pro-poor. I have been interacting with many MBC castes and many have assured me that they will support congress party as they have highest faith in the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi who have dedicated their lives for the service of the nation, especially, the welfare of weaker sections. It has recognized the need to identify and encourage leaders belonging to the MBCs so that justice can be done to these castes which are marginalized under the TDP.

But, BJP which may not cross 20 MLAs in the region is likely to get about 6-7 MPs. This is a surprise development. But, this shows that people of Telagana are of view that only a national party like BJP can achieve

Telangana state. Not TRS, which may depend on a coalition at the centre to get Telangana state. Many expressed that TRS would probably support Congress led UPA if they have a chance; and that's why they prefer

voting for BJP in the Lok sabha and TRS in the assembly where the congress and TDP are lagging behind YSRCP in the state assembly elections in Andhra region.

As per the survey, held in one typical assembly seat in each of the five key Telangana districts, people gave different preferences for Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. In Karimnagar, 60 per cent voters preferred TRS and 10 per cent BJP for assembly polls. Similarly, in Nizamabad, their preference is 45 per cent for TRS and 25 per cent for BJP. In Warangal, it is 50 per cent to TRS and 20 per cent to BJP. In Medak, 45 per cent chose TRS and 20 per cent BJP for assembly and in Mahabubnagar, 35 per cent chose TRS and 25 per cent BJP.

But, when it came to Lok Sabha the figures are different. In Karimnagr, 50 per cent voted for TRS and 30% BJP. In Nizamabad, 35 per cent went with TRS and 45% BJP. In Warangal, 50 per cent

sided with TRS and 30% BJP. In Medak district, 50 percent voted for TRS and 35 per cent BJP and in Mahabubnagar, only 35 per cent voted for TRS and 50 per cent chose BJP. Out of the 17 Loksabha seats in T-region, except for two MP seats – Hyderabad, and Khammam, the remaining 15 MPs seat may go either to TRS or the BJP. Of them again, only Malkajgiri and Nalgonda are very uncertain while Secunderabad and Mahabubnagar are hot favorites of BJP; Medak, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Nizamabad Loksabha seats are hot favorites for TRS.

The fight will go on between the TRS and BJP and in some cases other major parties for MP seats. So any amount of economic package may not salvage the image of Congress in the elections. It is bound to boomerang on the ruling party which is facing the identity crisis even in Andhra region on account of Jagan factor. ♦

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Social Justice means...

“No Giver No Receiver”!

A successful medical practitioner with a heart for serious social service led himself to join mega-actor Chiranjeevi's PRP that was formed on social justice plank invoking Telangana sentiment ignoring a safe passage vis-a-vis Congress. Disillusioned with Chiranjeevi reverted back to serving under-developed sections of the society by raking up issue of BCs in the Supreme Court of India paving way for 34% reservations in Local Bodies in the state of Andhra Pradesh. In an exclusive chat with **Dr T Siva Prasad Reddy - Special Correspondent, Deccan Post** Dr P Vinay Kumar, a surgical Gastro-Enterologist puts out his future agenda.

After you resigned from PRP - why are you not politically active?

I have always been more of a 'society and how to develop it' oriented person, than a political one. If I was a political person, then I would have entered politics long time back, when my father Mr P Shiv Shanker was at his peak politically. In fact, a lot of politicians themselves are not aware that Mr Shiv Shanker has two sons. I have led such a low profile life. Over a period of time, while helping out poor patients by doing free service to them, I realised that if one wishes to change the society and lives for better in huge numbers, it is possible only through Political Empowerment. Since this was my only aim, one may recollect that I never appeared in media in-spite of being one of the mainstays of Praja Rajyam Party because the cause was more important to me than self projection. Chiranjeevi, during his campaigns spoke about Samajika Telangana upon my request. But after the poll debacle, when he supported Samaikya Andhra Pradesh, I resigned from the PRP and have been going about Telangana region, preparing weaker sections in such a way that as and when Telangana comes, it would justify itself by being the sort of Telangana we want, for the section of people it is actually necessary.

We know you have been organising lot of meetings since 2 years? Can you tell us - what these meetings are about? Why are you conducting these meetings in such a low profile?

I have been trying to bring BCs, SCs, STs and minorities under a single umbrella. These sections since times immemorial have been useful to politicians only as vote banks. Psychologically, it has been ingrained into these sections that they are weaker



sections and by keeping them in such a state, it has struck in their minds that being weak is their fate and there is no way they can get out of being weak. I have been telling them that they are not weak, but are in fact the stronger section of the society. I firmly believe that rather than calling them weak, a more apt word is under-developed sections. I have taken upon myself to convert them into developed sections. I hope to succeed in this endeavour. Once I do that, inclusive growth would be automatically achieved. I have been keeping a low profile because my intention, dream, and ambition is upliftment of the under-developed sections which is their natural right and not gain publicity from it, exploit their situation towards becoming popular.

Are you advocating 'Social Justice' - what does that mean?

Social Justice is a very complex term.

It essentially means when every section of the society has developed. When every section of the society has become equal to any other section in the society. When, every section of the society is able to stand up in the society on their own and not dependent upon any other section. In today's situation, there is a line in the society; The one above the line thinks it is giving favours to those below the line, while the sections below the line keep feeling that they are simple shown certain privileges, but are never allowed to develop in life, that they cannot see any change in their lives for the better. I wish to remove that line and bring in equality in the society. No 'giver' and no 'receiver'

What do you think about Telangana State formation?

Telangana is a dream of every Telanganite. A feeling that we have been let down for decades end on, and that

patience has now run down. The only way a direct development of the region, of its peoples, of being direct beneficiaries of its natural resources is by taking up the responsibility of all this is through our own rule. It is completely similar to the state, feeling of the under-developed sections. We wish to take direct responsibility of our people's development. We have given everyone else a chance to improve our lives for decades. These 'others' have let us down in all those decades. Now, we have had enough. We wish to improve our lives by ourselves, bring in development ourselves. Enough of dependence on 'others'.

Since you fought so well to win 34% reservation for BCs in Local Bodies - what do you think about state govt's intent to implement the quota for BCs taking the state as a unit?

The government should think only one thing – We are a socially responsible government. We have been voted to power to uplift the society. Unfortunately, instead of winning subsequent elections on the basis of performance, the whole period of five years is spent in strategising “how do we continue in power? If what I do, will I win the next election?” and so on. Rather than seeing how the people in villages and rural areas are empowered so that they directly are responsible for the development of their village -- strategies are being drawn up as to how their section can be at the helm of power in spite of the reservation decided by the highest court. The only thought for these politicians is “Will it benefit my section if backward classes are given quota with state as a unit or is it better for my section if district is made a unit.” And then every strategy is directed in finally circumventing reservations and ultimately bringing their section, their own men into the helm of governance.

What are your future plans?

As mentioned above, my future plans, ultimate goal, ambition in life and eternal dream is Social Justice, Social as well as economical equality. The society has given me a name and fame as a successful Surgical Gastroenterologist of repute. Since it is the society which has given me this good name, it is my duty and responsibility to repay back to the society in whatever way I can. My life would have a meaning only if I can do that. ♦

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Manmohan Singh Government – Must stop devaluing our Rupee

This weekend is a sad moment for many Indians. Many of those who were hoping to see a strong Indian Rupee had suffered a shock of their life when the country's currency was drastically devalued vis-à-vis the US Dollar. On Thursday, Our Rupee touched the life time low of Rs 59.98 against a US dollar. But, it mildly rose and stood at Rs 59.31 by Friday evening. However that's no great relief, since the worst is not yet over for rupee valuation. Market analysts predict that it will further get deteriorated to Rs 60 against the US dollar anytime soon. This they have been predicting for over five years and in spite of the fact that the rupee was now and then getting revived and strengthened against the dollar. But unfortunately, this time round, the rupee is unlikely to recover drastically and end up below Rs 60 towards the US dollar.

What is the impact of this fall? The imports will become costlier, as crude oil, petroleum, all air conditioners, cars, mobiles, clothes, branded computers etc; all will cost a bomb affecting the common man. If the total imports of the country stood at around 450 billion US dollars (roughly Rs 2.7 lakh crore), the exports hover around Rs 240 billion US dollars (Rs 1.45 lakh crore). So, we run a trade deficit of around Rs 1.30 lakh crore. That means, our Current Account Deficit (CAD) is Rs 1.30 lakh crore. To fill this gap, we need to buy US dollars (as it is the official international currency to make payments for our imports) in the open market.

The current account is one of the two primary components of the balance of

payments, the other being capital account. The current account balance is one of two major measures of the nature of a country's foreign trade (the other being the net capital outflow). A current account surplus increases



a country's net foreign assets by the corresponding amount, and a current account deficit does the reverse. Both government and private payments are included in the calculation. It is called the current account because goods and services are generally consumed in the current period. The balance of trade is the difference between a nation's exports of goods and services and its imports of goods. A nation is said to have a trade deficit if it is importing more than it exports.

Before we try to know who is killing our rupee by drastically devaluing it and what kind of forces are at work to downgrade Indian currency in the global market, especially in the US market, we need to know what contributed to the steep fall in rupee

value against the US dollar this weekend. There is a grand conspiracy behind all this innocuous financial development. First immediate provocation is the statement of US Federal Reserve, or Fed (like our Reserve

against the US dollar. Many in the country may feel this as a failure of our Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his team of economic experts. But, it is wrong. It is 'their success' as they always wanted to weaken the rupee against the US dollar.

A powerful exports lobby led by IT industry's captains and other big business houses which have trans-national presence, have been pressing for weakening of rupee since a long time so that their profits will grow in terms of rupees as their earnings will be in US dollars. The US has been pressing for devaluing of Indian rupee so that the value of all its loans and investments in India will go up. This is their game-plan. Besides, there is hidden agenda to allow big domestic corporate involved in producing oil and gas to increase their tariffs drawing relative comparisons from the high import bill on crude oil.

Now, the real danger is ahead. This lobby, aided and helped by the economic experts, advisers and World Bank allied consultants, all with US links, want to further weaken the rupee, till it touches Rs 70 against the US dollar. This may boost the profits of these exporters and the US investors, and also allow the domestic oil producers to renegotiate their price tariffs but will certainly hit the India people and the Indian economy which are hugely impacted by the unavoidable imports. Its time India addresses its negative balance of trade which is certainly possible provided our economists think patriotically. ♦

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The Merchant of Hope Arrives....!

With the elevation of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi as its Chairman of Election Campaign Committee, the BJP led by Rajnath Singh is trying to prove that Modi is the only hope who can win the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and get power for the BJP. It's true that under the leadership of Narendra Modi the Gujarat state has developed a lot and he is the successful Chief Minister even after a lot of hue and cries. A lot of allegations leveled against Modi of being Communal and follower of hardcore Hindutva. But nothing prevented him from winning the Gujarat state for the third consecutive term. It appears that people within the BJP are jealous of the stature Modi has got these days. I suspect that there is the hand of the senior BJP leaders behind the exit of the JD (U) just to show their strength and prove that under Modi's

leadership the BJP as well as NDA will weaken. Your last week's cover story was a wonderful piece of writing and I really liked it as it discussed and analyzed the existing and future situation of Modi. I would appeal to one and all to support Modi's candidature for the post of Prime Minister and off course he deserve an opportunity to prove his mettle on national level.

Shailendra Gaikwad, Gudimalkapur

India must and should oppose PRISM

Like most of the people I also use internet to communicate with my near and dear ones. I got really shocked to see that all our conversations and data saved in social media is being monitored by the American agencies. Its pathetic to see that the Indian government has not even protested when it came to know about the unlawful surveillance. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh should stop being a puppet in others' hands and take a

strong initiative and protect the privacy of the Indian citizens. The American security agencies are spying on the private conversations in the name of security and safety of their country but it has no right to spy on others personal lives. I have heard that a case has been filed before the Supreme Court of India to stop the encroachment of US agencies and I hope that our apex court will take steps to ensure the privacy of its citizens. I am really thankful to you for publishing your excellent editorial article and raising voice of the common man and his privacy.

Nupur Bali, E-mail

Merchant of Death?

Your last week's article on focus page on Sonia Gandhi was a wonderful piece of writing. No one in this country is able to understand the silence of Sonia Gandhi over the suicidal sacrifices made by the Telangana youth. Being the Chairperson of the ruling coalition Sonia must and should appeal to the Telangana youth not to take any extreme step. The silence of Sonia is not being accepted by the agitating youth and if Sonia does not take a decision in favour of Telangana state then she would face the massive ire of the youth who are struggling for their legitimate demand of statehood for Telangana region. Sonia must awake from her deep slumber before it's too late.

N Amarnath, Chilkalguda

Readers are requested to send in their feedback to mail@deccanpost.net

Letters
TO THE EDITOR



Kedarnath's fury in full flow

By Mahesh Malekar

The floods and landslides triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Northern India came during one of India's most important pilgrimage - the Char Dham in Uttarakhand, the state worst hit by recent downpours. Thousands are feared dead in what could be India's worst ever tragedies. The defense forces are in full swing to rescue the stranded pilgrims who are virtually pacing against time seeking evacuation from the fury of another round of floods likely to begin on Monday. The Indian army and Air Force units have already evacuated thousands of people caught in the trap. The Uttarakhand government is facing an uphill task in reaching out to the people in need. The government of India headed by Manmohan Singh, as usual are struggling to call it a "national disaster". The sheer number of lives lost in the tragedy is in itself a proof of what the magnitude of the problem is. It once again explains the political mindset of those heading high positions. Instead of admitting the failure of government's policy to prevent such a man made catastrophe; the central government is loath to admit its failure and now we can see it blaming it on the gods. Will Lord Shiva take responsibility? Let's see what's this all about?

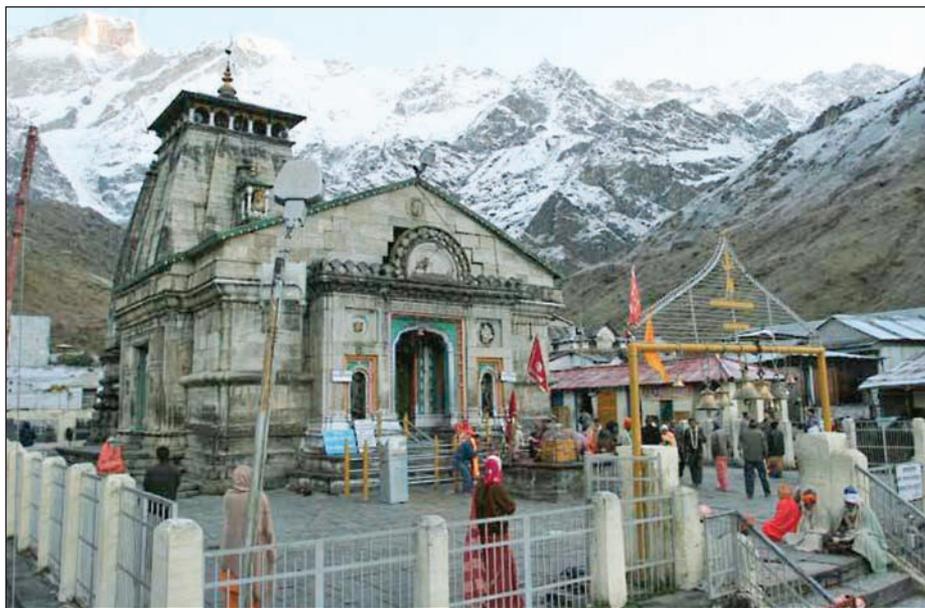
Lord Shiva manifested in the form of Jyotirling or the cosmic light. Kedarnath is highest among the 12 Jyotirlingas. This ancient and magnificent temple is located in the Rudra Himalaya range. This temple, over a thousand years old is built of massive stone slabs over a large rectangular platform. Ascending through the large gray steps leading to the holy sanctums we find inscriptions in Pali on the steps. The present temple was built by Adi Shankaracharya. The inner walls of the temple sanctum are adorned with figures of various deities and scenes from mythology. The origin of the revered temple can be found in the great epic - Mahabharata. Outside the temple door, a large statue of the Nandi Bull stands as guard. A conical rock formation inside the temple is worshipped as Lord Shiva in his Sadashiva form.

The temple, believed to be very ancient, has been continually renovated over the centuries. It is situated at an altitude of 3,581 mt. It is a 14 km trek from Gaurikund. At the approach of winters in the month of November, the holy statue of Lord Shiva, is carried down from Kedarnath to Ukhimath, and is reinstated at Kedarnath, in the first week of May. It is at this time, that the doors of the temple are thrown open to pilgrims, who flock from all parts of India, for a holy pilgrimage. The shrine closes on the first day of Karthik Maas (Oct-Nov) and reopens in Vaishakh (April-May) every year. During its closure the shrine is submerged in snow and worship is performed at Ukhimath.

Kedarnath is set amidst the stunning

mountain-scape of the Garhwal Himalayas at the head of the Mandakini River. Kedar is another name of lord Shiva, the protector and the destroyer. Shiva is considered the embodiment of all passions - love, hatred, fear, death and

mysticism which are expressed through his various forms. The shrine of Kedarnath is very scenically placed, and is surrounded by lofty, snow - covered mountains, and during summer, grassy meadows covering the valleys.



Immediately behind the temple, is the high Keadardome peak, which can be sighted from great distances. The sight of the temple and the peak with its perpetual snows is simply enthralling.

Kedarnath's Mythological Past:

There are more than 200 shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva in Chamoli district itself, the most important one is Kedarnath. According to legend, the Pandavas after having won over the Kauravas in the Kurukshetra war, felt guilty of having killed their own Kith and Kin and sought the blessings of Lord Shiva for redemption. He eluded them repeatedly and while fleeing took refuge at Kedarnath in the form of a bull. On being followed he dived into the ground, leaving his hump on the surface. The remaining portions of Lord Shiva appeared at four other places and are worshipped there as his manifestations. The arms appeared at Tungnath, the face at Rudranath, the belly at Madmaheshwar and his locks (hair) with head at Kalpeshwar. Kedarnath and the four above mentioned shrines are treated as Panch Kedar.

An imposing sight, standing in the middle of a wide plateau surrounded by lofty snow covered peaks. The present temple, built in 8th century AD by Adi Shankaracharya, stands adjacent to the site of an earlier temple built by the Pandavas. The inner walls of the assembly hall are decorated with figures of various deities and scenes from mythology.

Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the exquisitely architected Kedarnath temple is considered to be more than 1,000 years old. Built of extremely large, heavy and evenly cut grey slabs of stones, it evokes wonder as to how these heavy slabs had been handled in the earlier days. The temple has a Garbha Griha for worship and a Mandap, apt for assemblies of pilgrims and visitors. According to experienced tourists the ideal time or peak season to go for a Char Dham Yatra is from May to October, except monsoons. This is because; all the four sacred sites are perched in Garhwal Himalayas, which is prone to heavy snowfall. As a result, all the passage leading to the shrines are blocked. Moreover, during the monsoon season, there is undue threat of having landslides, which can further disrupt the journey.

In view of the precarious situation that is now staring at us, let's hope that each one of those struggling to get some relief would be rescued in time and evacuated to safety. The government of India must do everything possible under its power to save every life that is endangered. It must take help from countries that are willing to assist and use all technological skills to ensure normalcy returns to the beautiful and holy land of India. ♦

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HYDERABAD THE FUTURE ANIMATION HUB



By Jaywant Naidu

The Indian Animation industry has both 2D traditional, 3D animation, as well as visual effects for feature films. Although India's film industry has a long history, it is not very experienced in the field of animation. The first animated film from India is considered to be 'Ek Anek Aur Ekta', a short traditionally animated short educational film released in 1974 from Doordarshan's Film Division. The film is presented as a fable meant to teach children the value of unity. After its success, more shorts were produced by Doordarshan. This was the first time that original animated films from India were broadcast on National

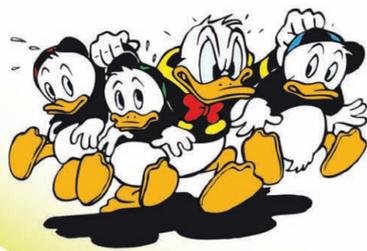


Animation society of india:

The Animation Society of India (TASI) is a non-profit organization with its head-office in Mumbai. It aims to educate about the emerging animation technologies and at the same time provide a platform for exchange of creative and technical information within the existing art and animation fraternity in India. It also hosts 'ANIFEST INDIA', the biggest annual animation festival in the Indian subcontinent, which features the TASI Viewer's Choice Awards. It also holds technical and in-depth workshops and sessions nearly every month.

Growth of animation industry in india:

The Indian animation industry was estimated at \$ 354 million in the year 2006. In 2009, the state of the animation industry in India, was growing at a Compound Annual Growth Ratio (CAGR) of 30%, is estimated to reach US \$ 1.5 billion by 2015. Animation in India is currently riding on two key factors - a large base of highly skilled labour, and low cost of production. While the industry is gaining prominence steadily, several important factors such as the government's role in supporting the animation industry, and producing original content locally are playing an important role. Animation and visual effects now have applications in e-learning, medical procedure simulators, gaming, fashion and interior designing, architecture and event management.



Some of the other estimates of the NASSCOM report on the following:

In the non-entertainment segment, the demand for animation production services will touch US \$ 14.7 billion by 2015. The global film/TV program production market will create a US \$ 17.5 billion revenue opportunity for animation production houses. The Indian gaming industry was estimated at nearly \$ 48 million in 2006 and is expected to cross a Billion dollars by 2015. The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), a premier body of Industries in and around Pune region has launched a program to catapult Pune as a global hub for animation and gaming. It has recently formed a group of professionals, training institutes and celebrities to implement the initiative, with film maker Amol Palekar has as their brand ambassador. Reliance Animation, based out of Pune, a Reliance Group Company is set to revolutionize Animation Studio concept in India. The studio's state-of-the-art cutting edge technology designed and deployed for a tested and proven pipeline handling both 2D and 3D workflow has its entire backed operations running on Linux and is completely on AMD Opteron Quad Core Processors. The studio is scaling at par with its western counterparts in terms of infrastructure and technology. The two aspects have been carefully balanced to derive the finest possible working environment available for the artists, without compromising on the security, performance and artistic values. With the right blend of expertise in traditional & technical skills and managerial abilities, the

studio is creating the next-generation animation for Feature Films, DTH and Television. Its main area of focus is to create original content and retain Intellectual Property Rights for the entire audio-visual medium relating to animation.

Hyderabad and animation:

Animation industry has of late, become a very big business with Hyderabad based animation companies working with Disney, Cartoon and Nickelodeon international channels.

Many coaching institutes and studios have come up and companies like DQ Entertainment, Game Shastra, Electronic Arts, FX Labs and Green Gold Animation are having major plans for the city. With a healthy Compound Annual Growth Ratio (CAGR) of 23% in the last five years, the business is expected to reach the US \$ 1 billion mark in the next few years. City animation companies too have been making their presence felt on global platforms with several international collaborations to boast of, one such company is DQ Entertainment. DQ Entertainment is working on projects like The Jungle Book, The New Adventures of Peter Pan, Robin Hood, Little Prince and Iron Man in 3D.

Hyderabad is something like a hub for animation in India, with more than 50% of international jobs coming to the country being handled by companies here.

Oscar winning work at hyderabad:

Ang Lee's 'Life of Pi' bagged the Best Visual Effects accolade at the 85th Academy Awards and Rhythm and Hues (R&H), the

American VFX firm that worked on the same has talented visual effects (VFX) artists who worked in their Hyderabad office.

Nearly 150 artists worked from the city for a year to generate most of the animals seen in the movie, including the 'Tiger' Richard Parker, the orangutan and the zebra that accompany the protagonist 'Pi Patel' on his rough sea adventure. Their efforts first culminated in a BAFTA award and later the Oscar. The movie went on to set new standards in hyper-realism and grossed more than US \$ 500 million at the box office. Artists described the movie a challenge as it was shot for 3D viewing and relied heavily on visual effects for sustaining the narration. In more than 80% of the shots with the tiger, the animal was computer generated. The scenes on the sea which account for 70% of the 90-minute movie were also computer generated. All aspects of VFX like modelling characters, animation, preparation of background for the characters to be placed and composition, which is putting together computer generated animation and the real footage, was done in the city. Along with the raw shots of the actor Suraj Sharma (who plays the role of Pi) in a large tank, the waves, the surf cones and all the details both above and the below the water were computer generated.

Plans of government of andhra pradesh:

The Andhra Pradesh Government will be developing a 'Media City' in Hyderabad with the ultimate objective of making Hyderabad the 'Animation capital of the world'. The vision of the Andhra Pradesh Government is to develop a futuristic digital city that will serve as an epicentre of research and

development as well as production of animation and gaming-related technology in the Indian subcontinent.

The most valuable part of Animation City will be to serve as an incubator/springboard for developing an entertainment technology-based eco system. The proposed Media City would be spread across 30 acres at Raidurg, close to the Hi-Tech City. It would be in line with international media cities in Manchester (United Kingdom), Montreal (Canada) and Dubai (UAE). It would have academic institutions, an incubation centre, where state-of-the-art "walk to work" and "plug and play" built-up office space would be provided to first-generation technocrat entrepreneurs.

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Jyesthabhishekam At Tirumala

The ongoing three day Annual Jyesthabhishekam in Sri Vari Temple, Tirumala, the temple priest performed Snapana Tirumanjanam (celestial bath) to the processional deities of Lord Malayapaswamy and His consorts amidst Vedic hymns on Friday. Later in the evening, Processional deity of Lord Malayappaswamy along with His consorts adorned with Muthangialankaram (famous pearl-studded armour) were taken out in procession around four mada streets.

TTD Chairman Sri K Bapi Raju, TTD EO Sri LV Subramanyam, Deputy EO Temple Sri Chinnangari Ramana, Peishkar Sri Selvam, Parupattedar Sri Doraswamy Naik and other officers took part in the festival.



ASTRO FOCUS

June 23 - 29, 2013

Aries: Some challenging project will see you express your skills in a very different way. The important decisions taken by you during this week could result in a major breakthrough in your career. If required, you should not hesitate to take the opinion of an expert or an experienced person in the relative subject or field. Spouse and children will be a source of immense happiness.

Taurus: Your creative mind will be at its best, so make the most of it. Some of you will get a lucky break in career. Position you always wanted will be offered with better benefits. You are required to proceed with caution as far as your work is concerned. Financial gains are evident through investment. Relationship with Love/Spouse and relatives will be cordial and you would look forward to spend some pleasurable moments with them.

Gemini: You will be working on several brilliant ideas and one of them will click soon. Reorganizing and completing your pending jobs should be the focus of attention this week. The elderly in the family will be helpful in sorting out a part of your financial problem. A recent association with a person of the opposite sex could become more intimate and meaningful.

Cancer: This week you should take advantage of your high spirits and meet new people and see new places. With determination and persistence you will be able to go ahead in accomplishing all your tasks. Past investments will reap benefits and fresh investment is recommended. You will call someone for direction and advice. A new romantic alliance might develop for some of you.

Leo: This is the time to focus your energies and spend time on completing your work. On job front, some of your close colleagues will come to your rescues at time of need. You may learn new technique to enhance your profit in a proper way. Your quest for knowledge and learning will awaken your desire to read and attend seminars/exhibitions. You're going to have to face deep feelings to make romance work now.

Virgo: An assignment abandoned earlier for some reasons will come up for your consideration again. Those planning for a merger or partnership will be successful. You will receive good offers that you can accept to improve your financial position. You will be able to share your workload and responsibilities with others. You will spend most of your time with your sweetheart.

Libra: This week you will find yourself bubbling over with enthusiasm and energy. You might be richly rewarded with a promotion, or an increase in income further and adulation. Selective speculation will bring favorable results. Some of you are likely to travel overseas for study or work. Your hard work shall definitely yield positive results. Some of you are going to be married and others would find their matrimonial partners.

Scorpio: New business ventures will prove profitable provided you invest your money on long term basis. You will succeed in improving your work and business prospects. Teamwork is likely to bring better results than attempts to go it alone. Proper exercise and diet will be important to maintain regular good health.

Sagittarius: Professionally you will continue to grow and will keep coming across new opportunities one after another. A positive approach will be very helpful. Your business sense will be upbeat and new ideas will bring you fresh gains. Some of you will receive good news or more money and recognition in your work. Those planning a holiday with their beloved will set out during this week.

Capricorn: Those in creative fields might be commissioned for a prestigious project. You would be able to achieve more through your routine work and sustained efforts. Old payments will finally show up and the business should also pick up suddenly travel will be helpful in building new friendships and seeking important information. Love life is fine with your sweetheart springing surprises on you.

Aquarius: It will be a hectic week, Limited time and so many important places to visit. New status brings new responsibility. Growth opportunities will develop through interaction with influential people. Several opportunists will try to jump on to your bandwagon for personal gains. Your efforts would get noticed and appreciated by your seniors. You will have to take the initiative at striking an intimate relationship.

Pisces: A stable period of growth and prosperity sees you shine with new confidence and enthusiasm. There is a strong chance of some kind of Jackpot. There will be some dramatic positive change in career. It is advisable for you to

SUDOKU 275

	6		1	4			8	9
8	5	4	2		9		7	
						2		6
				2	6			8
2	1				4	9	6	
6	8		5		1	4		2
5		1		8		3		
4	7			9	5			
	3		4			8	5	7

How to play : Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

ANSWERS Sudoku-274

6	8	4	2	1	3	5	9	7
9	1	3	5	4	7	2	8	6
5	2	7	6	9	8	4	1	3
3	5	8	1	6	2	7	4	9
7	6	9	4	3	5	8	2	1
2	4	1	7	8	9	6	3	5
1	7	6	9	2	4	3	5	8
4	3	5	8	7	1	9	6	2
8	9	2	3	5	6	1	7	4

Answer 274 : David, East Maredpally

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Laugh out loud

Teacher: What is half of 8??
Rajnikant: 4...
Santa:
Depend karta hai agar horizontally aadha karo to '0'
Aur vertically kaato toh '3'.
Santa rocked.
Rajnikant shocked\=D/
★★★★★★
Extraordinarily Khatarnak Student
Teacher: "Do you know Avogadro's Number?"
Student: "Avogadro Ladka Tha Ya Ladki?"
Teacher: "Ladka"
Student: "Sorry Dude, Mai Ladko Ke Number Nahi Rakhta" ;) :p
★★★★★★
Sir: "Samajh tujhe 10 laddu diye.."
Student: "Mujhe..???"

Sir: "Samajh na tere baap ka kya jata hai..."
Usme se 5 laddu maine le liye to tere pass kitne bache...?
Student: "20"
Sir: "Kaise..??"
Student: "Samajh na tere baap ka kya jaata hai..."
Teacher shocked...Student rocked
★★★★★★
3 boys proposed a girl
CHULBUL: "Mai tumhare liye apni jaan de sakta hu"
Girl: "Wo to sab kehthe hain"
ROWDY: "Mai tumhare liye chand taare tod kar la sakta hu"
Girl: "Purana dialogue hai"
PAPPU: "Main tumhari ACTIVA me Roz 1 ltr Petrol dalwaunga"
Girl: "Ankho me ansu k sath Pagal

itna chahta hai mujhe!!!!
★★★★★★
Santa knocks the door.
Banta: kaun hai??
Santa: mai hoon.
Banta: mai kaun??
Santa: Abe pagal khud ko hi bhool gaya tu
★★★★★★
A man for post of Security Guard was interviewed:
"We want someone with a suspicious mind, always on high alert, wanting to attack, strong body, high sense of hearing & most importantly Killer instinct.! Do u think u are eligible?"
Man: "No Sir! But can my Wife apply? :D"

Believe in yourself

Ritu Kumar, A well known Fashion designer has been awarded the Padma Shree for the year 2013, for distinguished services in the field of Fashion, Textile and Craftsmanship. She spoke exclusively to Deccan Post.

Let us know about the beginning days of your career?

I began my career in the year 1969 with just four hand block printers and two tables in a small village near Kolkata. We source the finest fabrics with great craftsmanship from across the country, thereby contributing to revival of Indian textiles and providing employment to hundreds of artisans. We in turn create employment in underdeveloped areas. I have a background in art history and museology, therefore ancient designs and innovative use of traditional crafts bring in creativity in Fashion.

What are the major crafts that have been involved in your works?

I have worked with the embroiders of Ranihati, settlements based outside Calcutta and provided them with a workspace in their own environment. Gradually the craft of Zardozi, which had once flourished in the great workshops of Mughal emperors, was revived to produce bridal outfits and evening wear of great beauty. In contemporizing these skills, I blended pattern, fabric and gold embroidery.

How has your brand progressed so far?

In 1999, I published a book 'Costumes and Textiles of Royal India' which chronicles the history of textiles and art design in India. In 2002, we launched a sub-brand Label 'Ritu Kumar', headed by my son Kumar. This label uses the established forte of traditional Indian aesthetic to create fashion oriented international products. The brand's charter involves



pushing boundaries and forging alliances with design talent across the world to create a unique, sophisticated product. This is aimed at the young, global Indian women with a contemporary lifestyle.

Who are your major patrons?

Ritu Kumar as a brand has been admired and worn all over the world. Its patrons include Indian stars such as Vidya Balan,

Aishwarya Rai, Priyanka Chopra, Lara Dutta, Dia Mirza to name a few and international celebrities such as the Mischa Barton, Anoushka Shankar and Anna Ivanovic. Since 1994, our brand has also designed the wardrobes for the Femina Miss India contestants for their participation in international beauty pageants such as Miss Universe, Miss World and Miss Asia Pacific. Our outfits have also been patronized by style icons such as Late Princess Diana and Jemima Khan.

How did it feel to win the Padma Shree award?

I have been awarded the Padma Shree Award for the year 2013, the country's fourth highest civilian award for my exceptional and distinguished services in the field of fashion, textile and craftsmanship.

Any unique experiences for you?

I have designed wardrobes comprising swimwear, evening wear, traditional Indian wear, casual wear and formal evening gowns. Former Spice Girls singer Mel B wanted me to design 'Tie and Dye' design for the band member's clothes for one of their shows. I also designed costumes for a wedding sequence in Deepa Mehta's 'Midnight's Children', based on Salman Rushdie's Booker Prize winning novel of the same name. Also we did designs for films like 'Love Breakups Zindagi' and styled Freida Pinto for a few of her scenes in the Oscar winner 'Slumdog Millionaire'.

Your advice for the youth in the field?

Fashion needs lot of patience and commitment. Get into it if you are serious and want to make it your profession. ♦

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Anushka in a historical flick

It is known that Anushka is playing the title role in Gunasekhar's upcoming historical movie "Rudrama Devi". The film is said to be India's first 3D historical film. Anushka Shetty is reprising the role of queen Rudhramadevi, who was one of the popular women leaders of the Kakatiya dynasty. The movie hit the floors on 18th April and the shooting is currently progressing in and around Hyderabad. The makers have been erected huge sets for the film shooting. The makers erected a huge and costly arena set at Gopanally, where the Charminar set in 'Okkadu' was erected. Now Veyi Sthambala Gudi and Ranga Mandapam are being erected at Annapurna Studios 7 Acres in Hyderabad.

Rana plays the role of Chalukya Veerabhadra, a prince. Rebel Star Krishnam Raju will be playing the character of Ganapathideva Chakravarthy and Prakash Raj will be seen as Mahamantri Sivadevayyaya. Nathalia Kaur as Annambika, Hansa Nandini as Madanika, Prabha as Somamba, Ajay as Prasaditya, and Nagababu as Nagadevudu will enthrall us.



Mallika Sherawat turns a village damsel

hot &
SPICE



Mallika Sherawat will be seen in a desi look for the first time in her upcoming flick The Dirty Politics. The sex symbol of Bollywood, was last seen on the big screen in Kismat Love Paisa Dilli (2012) where she was paired opposite Vivek Oberoi. The film didn't do any good amount of business at the box office and collected just Rs 2 crores on the opening weekend.

But, the hot actress looks all set to enchant us again with her new flick The Dirty Politics. She's playing a village girl in the movie and her look in the movie is pretty interesting. The movie The Dirty Politics is reportedly based on nurse Bhanwari Devi, who was gone missing from Jodhpur and was found killed in 2011. The film as of now is under production. The film also stars Jackie Shroff, Anupam Kher, Om Puri, Atul Kulkarni and Ashutosh Rana along with Mallika.

-DP Desk



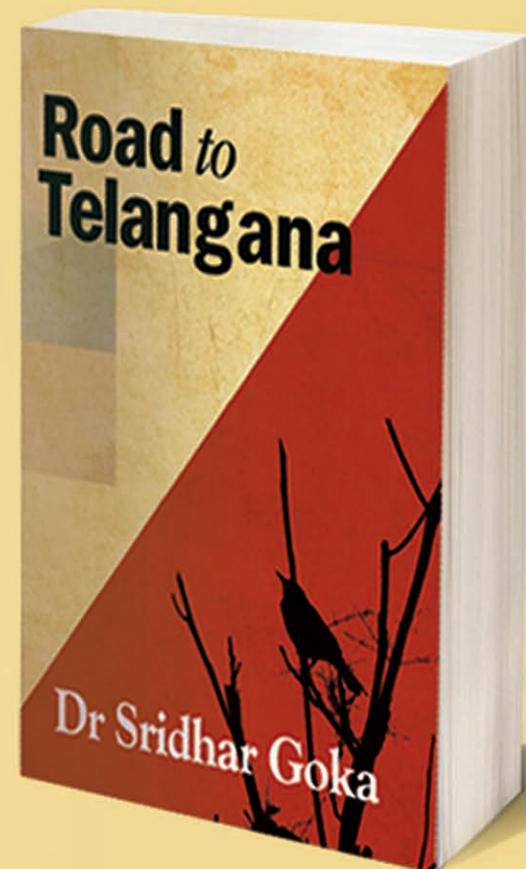
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Market declines strongly

By V Sundar Raja

The stock market sentiment turned bearish as the performance indicator has accelerated its earlier weakness. Stock market slumped sharply due to various global and domestic factors.

Foreign Institutional Funds have sold several thousands of crores in the equities while domestic investors have turned massive sellers in the market, causing panic and fears to the small investors. The Reserve Bank of India last week in its meeting, has kept the banking lending interest rates unchanged which has disappointed the market. This has led the banking stocks into deep losses, while the other interest rate sensitive stocks like Automobiles, Real Estate, Infrastructure etc. too joining the declining trend. Markets have been expecting a nominal cut in the interest rates as the economy is witnessing a slowdown. Lower borrowing interest rates could lead to more demand of goods and services in the country, which could effectively lead to more production and growth in the economy.

The American stock market too has turned negative with heavy losses after an earlier several months of bullish trend, leading to fresh concerns. There are reports that the American Federal Reserve would slower its buying support program later in this year, as the American economy is showing strong



signs of recovery. The recent IIP data (Indian Industrial Production) also shows that there is no recovery seen in the Indian economy, and many analysts believe that it can take few more months for the economy to recover.

The Indian Rupee has continued its

declining trend as against the American Dollar for the record seventh week. Now 60 rupees make one Dollar, and the Dollar appreciation makes imports very costlier. India is a major importer of Petroleum products and Gold and hence the heavy outflow of Dollar Reserves has been a major worry now. However, many

experts believe that Rupee can now appreciate from 60 levels, in the next few weeks. The Crude Oil is at record highs of 5,800 Rupees and has been on the rise continuously in the last few weeks from 4,700 onwards. Technically on the charts, both the Dollar and the Crude Oil are now in the overbought position and can cool-off in the short-term. Technical support for crude is seen at 5,600, and only in-case of any failure to sustain at this key level, it indicates a short-term weakness for the traders to be cautious in the MCX commodity market.

The precious commodity Gold after an earlier minor uptrend from 25,500 levels, it failed to sustain at 28,000 levels, and is exhibiting signs of a short-term weakness. But technical major support is seen below at 25,000 levels, for the investors to be alert. Silver is still seen weak, and has the next major support below at 40,000 levels, and only in-case of any breakdown below this crucial support would mean further weakness. Stock market is likely to witness further weakness, for the short-term investors to be cautious. It has the next major support below at 18,000 where a recovery is possible. ♦

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Note - Investors should be aware of risks in the stock market.

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- Do your friends or family members complain or worry about your drug/Alcohol use?
- Do you hide or lie about your drug/Alcohol use?
- Have you ever done anything illegal in order to obtain drugs/Alcohol?
- Do you spend money on drugs/Alcohol that you really can't afford?
- Do you ever use more than one recreational drug/Alcohol at a time?

If your answer is "yes" to one or more of the questions, you may have a drug problem

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