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A wasted opportunity indeed!



By Our Political Correspondent

A farcial drama is being enacted by the Seemandhra leaders for the last several weeks. On one hand, they accuse the Congress high command for not consulting them enough about the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh to enable formation of Telangana state. On the other hand, they refuse to purposefully discuss the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Bill 2013 which is before the State Legislative Assembly and the State Legislative Council ever since 12th December 2013 when it was referred by the President of India seeking the views of the State Legislature as required under the provisions of Article 3 of the Indian Constitution. Though the bill came to the Assembly six weeks ago, the Seemandhra MLAs/MLCs cutting across party lines have been creating noisy scenes and pandemonium in both the Houses, disrupting the discussion on the T-bill.

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Overcoming many obstacles the T-bill eventually got introduced in both the houses on 13th December, 2013 amidst a lot of commotion created by the Seemandhra legislators.

The Chief minister Kiran Kumar Reddy who skipped the session on 16th December due to stated illness also didn't attend any of the Business Advisory Committee meetings to chalk out a time-table to debate the T-bill. The Chief Minister who seems to be entertaining political ambitions by rebelling against the Congress Party also wrote to the President of India at the fag-end of the stipulated deadline of 23rd January seeking four more weeks time to do the same. It may be recalled that the act of the chief minister smacks of deliberate mischief. Only after the union government announced the dates of Parliament session Kiran Reddy resorted to seeking extension to discuss the T-bill till 20th of February. It may further be recalled that the Seemandhra leaders have been talking about seeking further time even during the southern sojourn of the President in Hyderabad and that too without seeking to discuss the T-bill in right earnest.

However, the President Pranab Mukherjee quickly responded but gave only one week extension to debate it further that is till January

30th, 2014. The President Pranab Mukherjee who sent the notification dated January 23rd, 2014 to the State Legislature had categorically stated that the further extension of time to discuss the bill until 20th of February as sought by the state government cannot be obliged as enough time of six weeks was already given and since the bill is required to be expeditiously introduced in the Parliament; (that is already scheduled to meet between 5th to 21st of February) however, an extension of one week was considered appropriate and such time extended till 30th of January.

This time, the President was more forthcoming on the urgency of the discussion on the bill. In his letter to the State Legislature, the President clearly stated that only one week's time is given to discuss the bill, so that it would be introduced in the Parliament in the coming 'Vote on Account' session starting February 5th to 21st, 2014.

Union Parliamentary affairs minister Kamal Nath too informed the media in Delhi on Friday night that the Centre is firm on bringing the T-bill before the Parliament next month and get it passed in both the houses at the same session. For that, if required, the session would be extended by a week or so, the

minister made it clear as if to remove any sort of doubts. The same was reiterated by the union home minister Sushil Kumar Shinde that whatever may be the views of the State Legislature—the Congress led UPA government was determined to pass it to enable Telangana to attain statehood. Even the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh is on record about his government's resolve to grant statehood to Telangana. It shows that there is every possibility of Telangana State becoming a reality by the end of February, 2014.

Seemandhra people being misled?

When the writing on the wall is appearing so clear and loud, the Seemandhra MLAs and MPs are still fooling their own people. Vocal leaders like Vijayawada Congress MP Lagadapati Rajagopal and Guntur Congress MP Rayapati Sambasiva Rao are even now talking of stalling the bill in the Parliament by creating ruckus and noisy scenes. At the same time, Rajagopal said that the Assembly should be given some more time to discuss the bill. He attacked the President and Centre for not granting more time to the Assembly and alleged that there is a discrimination against Seemandhra region in this regard. He even threatened to go on a dharna in front of the Parliament seeking more time to the Assembly to debate the bill.

All these antics being enacted by the likes of Lagadapatis and Rayapatis are all contradictory and confusing statements at best to whip up passions among the seemandhra people. On one hand, he seeks more time, and on the other hand, the Seemandhra members refuse to discuss the T-bill sent by the President by resorting to disruptions of the proceedings of the House. Instead of utilizing the opportunity to highlight the problems of Seemandhra people in view of the inevitable state division the entire acts of the Seemandhra legislators are aimed at frustrating any meaningful discussion on the bifurcation bill, with a view to delay its passage by the Parliament.

The Seemandhra leaders' game plan has been to keep the T-bill engaged within the Assembly to a maximum number of days as possible so that it can be prevented to go to Parliament during the 'Vote on Account' session expected to conclude by February 21st. This way, they felt, they probably can prevent formation of Telangana state before the next general elections. But, sadly they are thoroughly mistaken. The compulsions of the

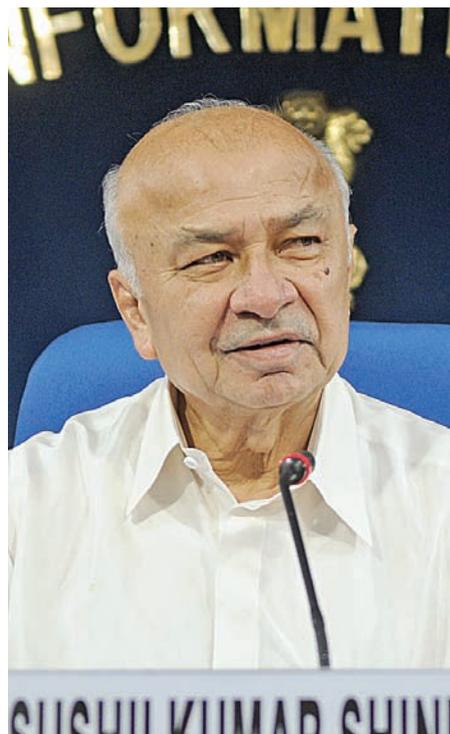
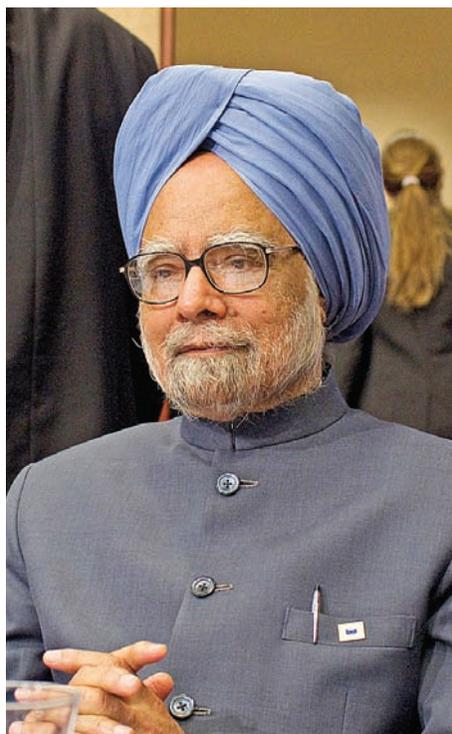
Congress headed UPA government as well as the BJP led NDA are otherwise. Both the Congress high command as well as the BJP's top leadership is equally determined to pass the Andhra Pradesh State Re-organization Bill 2013 at any cost in the next month's Parliament session and form Telangana State before the next general election in April/May. Going by the speed of the political process and the keenness of those involved, Telangana State formation appears simply unstoppable.

Who are the affected lot?

In this scenario, who are the affected lot by the obstructionist tactics of Seemandhra leaders? Undoubtedly the people of Seemandhra, the answer goes. Had these so-called leaders who are posing as if they are defending the interests of people of their region are serious and sincere, they would have utilized the seven weeks of time provided by the President to highlight their genuine demands. A section of Seemandhra leaders like YSR Congress party is of the view that any participation in the discussion would amount to co-operating with the division of the State. Some others like AP NGOs (non-gazetted officers) too agree with this and suggest that allowing a meaningful discussion in the Legislative House is equal to helping the Centre, so they exhort, encourage and also threaten the members of both the assembly as well as Council to disrupt the proceedings.

If their intention is to disrupt the discussion and stalling any debate, what is the purpose of seeking more and more time for the discussion of the bill? Their words and deeds are contradictory. The APNGOs claim to have many problems due to the division of the State. Why can't they make their Seemandhra legislators to highlight the problems in the Assembly? So, it is clear that they have no major issues arising out of the bifurcation of the State to be debated in the Assembly. If that is the case, why cannot they allow smooth formation of Telangana which is a longfelt desire of people of this region? The Seemandhra leaders are only interested in projecting a false image of being saviors fighting for the interests of the people of their region while in reality they are defeating their democratic aspirations by expressing their genuine needs which both the Congress and BJP are keen to grant in the Parliament.





Last chance for discussing real issues:

In fact, there are certain issues concerning the Seemandhra people to be sorted out. The issues include identification of a new capital city for the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh. The current draft bill sent by the President does not address this issue. But, there is every need to specifically mention the new capital and a timeframe for its construction on a priority basis.

The Seemandhra people also have concerns for their new state reconstruc-

tion. How many universities, IITs, IIMs and other centres of excellence are going to come to their region and where? What would be the financial allocation required for their construction and who will bear the cost of building such assets? There are several issues bothering the minds of common people of Seemandhra like education and employment opportunities for their people after the state division. All these can be only addressed if the public representatives of Seemandhra, work sincerely and fight for them by highlighting the same in the debate that is taking place.

The ordinary people of Seemandhra

also want some guarantees from the Centre to construct new capital and other centres of excellence and infrastructure like super speciality hospitals, airports, ports and highways and maintenance of old irrigation projects and assured water for the proposed irrigation projects. Funds for the Polavaram project too that is being considered as a national project are an issue for the Seemandhra people in view of submergence of villages in Telangana. Some of these demands are supported by concerned Telangana activists too. But, the Seemandhra leaders are failing to utilize the golden opportunity to raise them

in the Assembly. Just by their majority and bullish attitude the Seemandhra legislators cannot prevent the Parliament from going ahead with the state division. Considering that by some means, the formation of Telangana State can be stopped; can anyone imagine the horrifying consequences? People of Telangana are at presently observing enormous restraint and patiently tolerating all that is going on with a fond hope that statehood would be attained at any cost. Can anyone expect them to keep quiet if their dreams are shattered? Every section of the society is already divided over this bifurcation issue. There is absolutely none as of now to redeem the situation if things go wrong.

Therefore, instead of seeking to obstruct formation of Telangana by cheap tricks; it is better to facilitate the formation of Telangana and earn enormous goodwill. Already a lot of time has been wasted by the leaders of Seemandhra in trying to stall formation of Telangana; it is noteworthy to see that none including the chief minister who spoke on many occasions during the debate has been able to talk about the loss to Seemandhra region and its people in view of the state bifurcation. Rather it would have been prudent for the chief minister to highlight the consequent damage after Telangana is formed. Till now, it was useless rhetoric all intended to dodge the real issues. Till about four days are left and it is expected that atleast now the Seemandhra leaders will be able to focus on real issues that could stir the MPs in the Parliament to render a huge package for the Seemandhra people. ♦

editor.deccanpost@gmail.com

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Malafide Intentions of Seemandhra leaders to scuttle Constitutional Process comes to the fore...!!!

Why Tabling and Discussion on T-Bill for six weeks if it was Incomplete?

By Dr T Siva Prasad Reddy

As the dice (Andhra Pradesh State Bifurcation Bill) rolls on and the days pass by even after the extension of time—one week (till 30/01/2014 from 23/01/2014) by the Hon'ble President of India—situation in the state—more so in the AP State Legislature remains the same. Battle lines are drawn even more pronouncedly region wise than ever before, much to the dislikes of some political parties including the ruling and opposition alike. Of course, the task of those who are supposed to wet it in Delhi for the Bill to be presented to Parliament becomes easy..! All are witness as does the country and world as a whole (thanks to the live telecast alongside exuberance of media) to the ongoing happenings in both the houses of Legislature discussing an all important Bill on state bifurcation as per Article 3 as enshrined in the Constitution of India. People are watching all the happenings in the state assembly and outside and would certainly act as the noble judges when the time of scripting the fate of many a politicians vis-à-vis political parties in the future as and when the time of reckoning arrives.

So, every issue has to be dealt on merits vis-à-vis natural resources furthering to development of human while catering to the most important aspect—Constitution of India—to which every Indian should subjugate. Are these discussions or presenting of views in the assembly or council on the T Bifurcation Bill by Members/Political Parties are in the same spirit. It would be a mixed result as those desiring T state are in conformity with some intended modifications/ sugges-

tions/amendments to the bill as sought by the Speaker while those from the other side lay in deceit, confusion leading them often to ambiguous plight -not knowing what they are really intending to do..!

Will that be a boon or bane for Seemandhra region-only time to come will decide but what if people of that region start realizing or come to know about the fallacies or contrived motives of their politicians in the very manner of their conduct throughout. As anticipated and thought about Members/Political affiliations from Seemandhra seemed to have understood the writing on the wall in the wake of decisive decision making from the concerned and continued assertions from Congress high command that come what may Telangana State would be a reality sooner than expected.

But, the nefarious attitude of the Seemandhra leaders is not that easy to crack by; knowing that formation of Telangana State is inevitable—those from Seemandhra envisage a plan to confuse, dilute the presumed aspirations of T people by prescribing to the notion that T Bill is not complete and as such doesn't cater to the wishes of Legislature. As if emerging like a pack of wolves from the womb of wickedness; the trio the incumbent chief minister- the incumbent leader of the opposition since past nine and half years and the one and only one self proclaimed intellectual - stand in unison and admire their combined brilliance in exposing the "blasphemous blunder in the Bill sent by the President" .

Then what..? Seemandhra Politicians



cutting across party lines come up with a new slogan—that T-Bill should be sent back with a reference that 'it is incomplete without any objectives or financial considerations'..!? No guesses; soon after CM-Kiran Kumar Reddy's speech-views/opinion extending to three days on T-Bill after reeling out fictitious figures to state that it was Telangana and Telangana alone which developed since merger and that it would be Telangana which would suffer on all fronts post bifurcation..!? The same Seemandhra politicians including CM-KKR and others, TDP, YSR-CP didn't dare to put it across in their statis-

tical speech on how Seemandhra would get affected post de-merger or the real development it has undergone in all spheres since merger in 1956..!?

Yet again it was a typical Hyderabad-Akbaruddin Owaisi who has to remind the euphoric Seemandhra leaders about their gross combined failure to high light the plight of their region post bifurcation.

Calling the bluff of the Seemandhra leaders talking about Telangana's plight; every kind of nonsense has been countered effectively with documentary evidences by the likes of T- Legislators KT



Rama Rao (TRS-an effective presentation), Etala Rajender (TRS-justified interventions), cabinet minister K Jana Reddy (T Congress-Noble Advise), Chief whip Gandra Venkatram Reddy (T Congress-effective incursions), Revanth Reddy (T TDP-elaborative, incisive but unwarranted eulogizing of NTR.), Yendala Laxminarayana (BJP-making their stand clear), Nagam Janardhan Reddy (BJP- assertive in making everyone understand the necessity of T state), Akbaruddin Owaisi (MIM-dispelling the doubts about Hyderabad as a developed city even in 1956), Gunda Mallesh (CPI-reiterating T support while countering distorted history) etc.

So the latest Saturday (25/1/2014) drama of sending back the T Bill by Seemandhrites including CM-KKR, TDP-N Chandra Babu Naidu (CBN), Loksatta-JP (first supported T Bill..) etc on the pretext of being a draft bill and not a Bill that is fit to be sent to Parliament is seen as a counter to the effective views, counter-attack by T Legislators with documentary evidences alongside toughening UPA stand favouring T Bill as endorsed by BJP, CPI ...!? With this the political polarization is almost complete. The TDP may have to wind up after a cunning Chandrababu Naidu failed to hide his ire against the formation of Telangana. He apparently lost his composure and criticized even the President for performing his constitutional duties.

Who mandated CM-KKR and Minister C Ramchandraiah to issue notices as per rule 77 of Rules and Procedures in the State Assembly and how did TDP-CBN, JP Etc support excluding T Legislators and that too after tabling and discussion on T Bill by more than half: Post Dec 9 2009 is being repeated by the same cosy-CM-KKR, TDP-CBN, JP and the likes of YSR-CP Jagan..? Notices in Assembly and Council as per Rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of business in the AP state assembly to the Speaker and Chairman by CM-KKR and Endowments Minister-C Ramchandraiah are



any indication. They are seeking to send the T Bill back to the President after tabling and comprehensive debate by more than half of the Legislature..!? Did CM and the Minister take the concurrence of both the houses-BAC (did it include T Legislators) and the Cabinet (did T Ministers endorse) before issuing notices..?! How did TDP-CBN,JP etc supported it without affirmation by their Telangana counter parts..? Is it a ploy to deliberately delay and scuttle the Constitutional Process, so that T Bill never reaches Parliament..? If so, it would go down as one of the greatest betrayals of our Constitution while mocking at the constituent-Democratic set up wherein people of one region demanding a demerger after failed promises during merger are being permanently enslaved with strategic control over their natural as well as human resources..! But, UPA and Congress seems to have fore-

thought after their Dec 2009 episode, so this T Bill after due Constitutional Process.

T Bill to the Assembly sent by the Hon'ble President of India after Union Cabinet's endorsement of the same has duly followed the Constitutional process as per Article-3 after the GOM (Group Of Ministers) tabling in continuation with T note after unanimous resolution by UPA. History of A.P. since 2001 is replete with T happenings as reflected in the various manifestos by political parties, assertions by the leaders on the floor of Assembly, alignments, all party meetings at state and central levels. So, the T Bill is a reflection of the same after going through an elaborate process of consultations at all levels involving all the stake holders. It has close to 14 schedules with marked segregation between the regions-Telangana and Seemandhra vis-a-vis Employees, Pensioners, Courts, Colleges, Industries, sharing of river waters, power alongside financial implications on loans etc.

A Bill in toto as it has to be presented for the views of the Legislature to be followed by the tabling of the same in finality to the Parliament for further amendments as desired by the members in consonance with their regional needs and are to be accepted by the Parliament so as to enable it to be passed with a simple majority. Finally it is the financial code which would augment the needs of the respective regions by following a Constitutional Process/Procedure post tabling and acceptance of T Bill or once it is passed. Then how come these apprehensions and that too after tabling and discussion while expressing views on T Bill till 25/01/2014..?! Doesn't CM-KKR and his Seemandhra colleagues, TDP-CBN and his colleagues, JP etc understand this stated position and don't they know that any notice should be with 10 days prior notice..! Is it a blackmailing tactic ahead of Rajya Sabha nominations or a simple betrayal act desperately attempted to delay the inevitable-T State..?! ♦

tsprind@gmail.com

A Thank You from the bottom of Our hearts!!



We take great pleasure in welcoming the decision of our union government for beginning the constitutional process for formation of Telangana State. We indeed feel gratified as the cabinet note on Telangana was unanimously approved by the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and his esteemed cabinet colleagues. Although there is a prescribed constitutional procedure that is required to be followed as envisaged, we have full faith in the commitment of Shrimathi Sonia Gandhi as well as the UPA government that everything needed shall be done in due course.

We celebrated the decision of the Congress Working Committee when it officially declared its stand to grant statehood to Telangana. Despite several Satanic forces making attempts to stall the process of Telangana State, we never doubted the integrity of Sonia Ji. Today, we feel vindicated for our patience and perseverance. We feel reassured that truth and justice will ultimately prevail.

The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater opportunities and achievements that await us. Yes indeed we are brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and humbly accept the challenges of the future.

We shall indeed wait for the appointed day to come - the day appointed by destiny - when India which is a Union of States now readying to give birth to yet another new State--- the State of Telangana !!! It is going to be the 29th State of the Indian Republic. The people of Telangana would forever remain grateful for the judicious acknowledgement of their decades long struggle for safeguarding their identity, self respect and right of self rule as envisaged in the federal scheme of our great Constitution. Telangana is situated in the heart of the Deccan that connects the Hindi belt of the North and the Dravidan territory of the South.

It is a fateful moment for us in Telangana, and for the rest of our fellow brothers and sisters in India who are taking part in making a dream come true for us. A new star will arise, the star of self respect in the Deccan, a new hope comes into being, a vision long cherished waiting to materialize. May the star never set and our hope never be betrayed! Thank you for not letting us down.

Telangana Constitutional Rights Protection Forum

1-2-606/80/107, 2nd Floor, LIC Colony, Opp. Indira Park, Hyderabad- 500080, Ph: 040 30424347

Contact: tcrpforum@gmail.com



Wow! What a Humanistic Verdict by our Supreme Court

Judicial activism continues to flow from the Supreme Court of India. The landmark judgment by a three-member bench of SC headed by the Chief Justice P Sathasivan and justices Ranjan Gagoi and Shivakirti Singh on Tuesday commuting the death sentences of 15 convicts to life sentence echoes the changing ethos of humanitarian approach to the administration of justice in the Indian society. The apex court verdict can be hailed on two counts for sure: One, for providing immediate solace to the hapless family members with some hope after a long time ever since their kin were convicted to death penalty and anticipating the dreadful eventuality; two, it comes as a rap on the knuckles of the political executive both at the union level as well as the states which were treating the clemency petitions filed by the affected people as a matter of crude political convenience.

As per our Constitution, both the Governor and the President of the Republic have the extraordinary sovereign powers in commuting the death penalty to life sentence, in cases where it is felt necessary. The Constitution empowered the highest executive with the 'mercy jurisdiction power' capable of overriding the judiciary and the same power was invested in the Governors of the States and the President of the Republic to avert any unfortunate circumstances leading to suspected miscarriage of justice due to various factors including absence of enough evidence.



But, what happened in the country over the last few decades is otherwise. The delay in the convictions after a prolonged trial and appeal process is coupled with inordinate delay in sorting out the clemency petitions by the Constitutional authorities – Governor and President. Though the Governor and the President are accountable for this delay, the cabinets, both at the state and centre are indirectly responsible for this.

As per the Constitution, the Governor and President are to act based on the recom-

mendations of the council of ministers. Though the Governor and President have special powers while dealing with the clemency petitions, they generally wait for the inputs from the home ministry on the clemency petitions to sort them out. In most of these cases, the home ministry takes a lot of time in providing necessary inputs on the clemency petitions filed by the kin of the convicts. This is contributing to the delayed response from the Governor or the President. Thanks to the lethargy and other unnecessary considerations, these delays are running into

decades not just years mocking the judicial apparatus.

The Tuesday's judgment of the SC which felt that it was unfair to sit on the clemency petitions for years together, opined that if a convict is sentenced to death penalty and made to wait for the outcome of his clemency petition for a prolonged period, he or she deserves their death sentence to be commuted to life imprisonment. The Chief Justice Sathasivan led bench also overruled an earlier judgment of the SC to erase the distinction between the convicts facing death penalty in terror related cases from other normal murders. This way, the apex court has brought in parity between all convicts who face death penalty. Now, it becomes the duty of the President or Governor to dispose of clemency petitions in an expeditious manner.

This latest judgment of SC has brought cheers to the family members of 15 death sentenced convicts whose clemency petitions were rejected by President Pranab Mukherjee. Now their death sentence stands commuted to life imprisonment notwithstanding the fact that these lucky ones include dreaded sandalwood smuggler Veerappan's aides – Bilavendran, Simon, Gnanaprakasham and Madiah and others. Let's hope at least now, the clemency petitions are disposed off quickly, avoiding mental agony to the convicts and their family members. ♦

editor.deccanpost@gmail.com

Is KCR emerging as Sonia's choice for T-state CM?

I agree with your last week's cover story which analyzed the emergence of a strong leader like KCR as Sonia Gandhi's choice for the first chief minister of Telangana state. It appears that Sonia Gandhi as well as the congress think tank is searching for a potential leader who can lead their

wave in favour of congress party for creating Telangana state, the TRS leaders also seems to be in favour of the merger. As seeing from the present day situation, everyone understood that state bifurcation is already over and only constitutional process is remained which will be completed in time and they are looking ahead for their political gains. Hence I feel that both congress and KCR will be in win-win situation and will be benefitted by each other. All the best to them.

U Mahender Reddy, Ramanthapur

It's now Rahul's era in Congress

Your last week's editorial article was the mirror to the ongoing happenings within the congress party. It appears Sonia Gandhi want his son to take the charge of the party as well as become the next prime minister of India if their UPA comes back to power for the third consecutive term. The way Rahul Gandhi intervened into many important and crucial decisions like Lokpal, preventing criminals from entering into legislatures, supporting Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi to form govern-

ment, enhancement of subsidized gas cylinders etc. clearly showcases that he is going to lead the party and he is going to be the next decision maker. The congress leadership always evolved around Nehru-Gandhi family and they were strong because of this leadership. Lets hope for relief from price hike, corruption free governance, transparency in system and some good people at the helm of affairs under the leadership of young Rahul Gandhi.

Nataraj Thakur, Sultan Bazar

Long live Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

I am a fan of Deccan Post and I must say that it was wonderful to read your article on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the



true patriot of this nation. As everyone know that his contribution in the Indian freedom struggle is incomparable and the sacrifices he made are matchless and he is a true hero and inspiring personality for the youth of this country. But it was so pathetic to see that no congress representatives, prime minister or any cabinet minister were present on his birth anniversary and it was just LK Advani who paid his tributes to this great soul. The congress party must not forget that

Netaji was their President and took so many wise decisions and resolved many issues with much ease and deserves full respect and honours and hope it will not repeat its blunder mistake again in future. My respects to the great soul of Netaji.

Jasmine Bansal, E-mail

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party in Telangana region undisputedly and handle any kind of political situations with much ease and KCR perfectly fits the bell according to their long term needs. On the other hand KCR long back announced that his party will be merged into Congress party after the creation of Telangana state, thus there is a clear possibility that KCR along with his whole TRS Party will join Congress Party sooner than later. As there is a positive

Tragedy King departs from our midst

By Shivkant Bichkunda

Akkineni Nageshwar Rao was a legendary actor and producer, predominantly in the Telugu cinema. Akkineni Nageshwar Rao was popularly referred as either Akkineni by his surname or ANR in the film circles among his fans. Having survived a potential life threatening disease in the early seventies; he went on to live a full life completing 90 odd years. His death on 22nd January marks the end of a fascinating era in the lives of Telugu people and Telugu film industry.

ANR was best known for playing female characters, because women at that time were prohibited from acting. It is said that ANR was discovered, by chance, by the film producer, Ghantasala Balaramaiah, at the Vijayawada railway station, and cast in the film *Dharmapatni* wherein he was offered the lead role of Lord Rama in his upcoming movie *Seeta Rama Jananam*. Before that, he predominantly acted in theatre donning multiple roles. Ever since he starred in several films of various genres during his 74-year acting career and came to be known as one of the two pillars of the Telugu cinema along with another legendary N.T. Rama Rao. He acted in over 255 films, spanning the Telugu, Tamil and Hindi languages and became one of the most prominent figures in the history of Telugu cinema. A majority of his films were both commercial and critical successes.

ANR won two Andhra Pradesh state Nandi Awards for Best Actor, three Filmfare Best Telugu Actor Awards during his acting career, and is a recipient of the Dada Saheb Phalke Award in 1991, the highest individual lifetime achievement award for films in India. In 2011, he was also honored with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award, for his contribution towards Indian cinema.

Akkineni had a humble origin having been born into a poor family on 20 September 1923, the youngest of five brothers, at Ramapuram, Krishna District. His parents, Akkineni Venkatratnam and Akkineni Punnamma, were from the farming community. His formal education was limited to primary schooling due to his parents' poor economic condition. However, that did not deter him from learning many subjects besides being a proficient actor and film maker. His penchant for education was such that he advised his children and grand children to first complete their formal education before taking up any career in life.

ANR visited many countries not only for shootings of his films but he also when he was invited as a State Guest by the United States, the UK, France and Germany in 1964, and the USSR in 1972, to study film craft and theatre arts in the



respective countries. He visited Australia in 1967 leading the delegates for the Indian entry film, *Antastulu*, at the Sydney Film Festival. He also led a film delegation to Mauritius.

Among other things, ANR is credited for influencing Telugu film producers and creating a base for Telugu films in Hyderabad. The Telugu film industry, in its early days, was based out of Madras (now Chennai) in Tamil Nadu. The new state of Andhra Pradesh was carved out from the Madras Presidency on 1st November 1956 and several leaders opined that in order to create a separate identity for the Telugu film industry, it had to be based out of Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh. ANR was one of the first actors of that period who insisted on moving the Telugu film center from Chennai to Hyderabad. He established his own 22 acre production studio/house, named Annapurna Studios after his wife, in the heart of Hyderabad, to facilitate this.

Despite being a self declared atheist, ANR acted in various movies with strong religious themes such as *Vipranarayana*, *Tukaram*, *Sriramadasu*, *Sriramarajyam* etc. All through, ANR played a variety of roles ranging from a charming prince to a frustrated alcoholic lover (Devadas), from a valiant soldier to a holy saint, and from a college student to a composed government official. He excelled in mythological roles too as Abhimanyu in *Maya Bazaar*, as Lord Vishnu in *Chenchu Lakshmi*; as

Narada in *Bhookailash*; and Arjuna in *Sri Krishnarajuna Yuddham*. In rural oriented films like *Balaraju*, *Rojulu Maraayi*, and *Namminabantu*, he attained the status of Telugu cinema's first superstar. Surprisingly in comedy films too like *Missamma*, *Chakrapani*, and *Preminchi Choodu*, he made a striking mark. ANR is fondly called the "Tragedy King" of Telugu cinema, through his milestone performances in romantic dramas such as *Laila Majnu*, *Anarkali*, *Batasari*, *Prem Nagar*, *Premabhishekam*, and *Meghasandesham*.

The film *Premabhishekam* directed by Dasari Narayana Rao is one of the biggest hits in Tollywood. It had a 533-day run in Hyderabad City, the highest run in a city for any Telugu movie. *Premabhishekam* is the only Telugu film to have run for more than 365 days continuously. ANR was the first to don a double role in Telugu films, and even played nine roles in the film *Navarathri*. ANR's portrayal of an alcoholic jilted lover in *Devadasu* erected an everlasting monument to Sarath Chandra's famous Bengali character. Although that role was reprised by many in later years in several different languages, it prompted the famous Hindi actor Dilip Kumar to say, "there is only one *Devadasu*, and that is Nageswara Rao." A majority of ANR's social films like *Samsaram*, *Bratuku Teruvu*, *Aradhana*, *Donga Ramudu*, *Dr. Chakravarthi*, *Ardhaangi*, *Mangalya Balam*, *Illarikam*, *Shantinivasam*, *Velugu Needalu*, *Dasara Bullodu*, *Bharya Bhartalu*, *Dharma-*

data, *Batasari*, *Kulagothuralu* and *College Bullodu* were commercially successful films. *Sitaramaihigari Manavaralu* was released in 1991, exactly 50 years after his debut, and was a huge success at the box office, despite the influx of newer and younger stars.

A feature that won ANR acclaim from critics and art lovers was that he enacted the roles of literary and cultural icons of different regions in India, thereby making them instruments of national integration – as the great Sanskrit poet, Mahakavi Kalidas of Ujjain; as the celebrated musician saint, Bhakta Jayadeva of Odisha; as the temple sculptor, Amarasilpi Jakkanna of Karnataka; as the devotee saint, Vipranarayana of Tamil Nadu; and as the singer Bhakta Tukaram.

ANR who has accomplished in every role as an actor vowed a long time ago that he would never retire and will act till his last breath. Providentially, he fulfilled his desire by acting in 'Manam'— the last film of Akkineni Nageswara Rao, where he shared screen space with his son Nagarguna and grandson Naga Chaitanya. Although the movie is technically complete and due for release- it could be a real entertainer like many of his films; but the departure of our thespian from our midst nevertheless would always trigger a debate if at all any other actor can ever come anywhere near his accomplished personality. ♦

shivkantb9@gmail.com

By Jaywant Naidu

A cruise ship or cruise liner is a passenger ship used for pleasure voyages, where the voyage itself and the ship's amenities are a part of the experience, as well as the different destinations along the way. Transportation is not the prime purpose, as cruise ships operate mostly on routes that return passengers to their originating port, so the ports of call are usually in a specified region of a continent. Dedicated transport oriented ocean liners do 'line voyages' and typically transport passengers from one point to another, rather than on round trips. The distinction between ocean liners and cruise ships has blurred, particularly with respect to deployment.

Differences in construction remain. Larger cruise ships have also engaged in longer trips such as transoceanic voyages which may not return to the same port for months. Cruising has become a major part of the tourism industry, accounting for US \$29.4 billion with over 19 million passengers carried worldwide in 2011. The industry's rapid growth has seen nine or more newly built ships catering to a North American clientele added every year since 2001, as well as others servicing European clientele. Smaller markets, such as the Asia-Pacific region, are generally serviced by older ships. These are displaced by new ships in the high growth areas. The world's largest cruise ships are Royal Caribbean International's Oasis of the Seas and its sister ship Seas.

Operators of cruise ships are known as cruise lines. Cruise lines have a dual character; they are partly in the transportation business, and partly in the leisure entertainment business, a duality that carries down into the ships themselves, which have both a crew headed by the ship's captain, and a hospitality staff headed by the equivalent of a hotel manager. Among cruise lines, some are direct descendants of the traditional passenger shipping lines (such as Cunard), while others were founded from the 1960s specifically for cruising. The ships are large capital investments with high operating costs. A persistent decrease in bookings can put a company in financial jeopardy. The cruise lines operate their ships virtually 24 hours a day, seven days a

week, 52 weeks a year. A ship which is out of service routine maintenance means the loss of tens of millions of dollars. If the maintenance is unscheduled, it can result, potentially, in thousands of dissatisfied customers.

Some cruise lines have specialties; for example, Saga Cruises only allows passengers over 50 years old aboard their ships, and Star Clippers and formerly Windjammer Barefoot Cruises and Windstar Cruises only operate tall ships. Cruises operate medium-sized vessels, smaller than the 'megaships' of Carnival and Royal Caribbean — designed such that 90% of their suites are balconies. Several specialty lines offer 'expedition cruising' or only operate small ships, visiting certain destinations such as the Arctic and Antarctica, or the Islands.

Currently, the five largest cruise line operators in the world are Carnival Corporation & plc, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Star Cruises (which owns 50% of Norwegian Cruise Line, NCL in its own right is the third largest line), MSC Cruises, and Louis Cruise Lines. Louis Cruises has largely grown its fleet through purchasing older second - or third-hand ships, while the other four operators have largely constructed their own vessels and combined own the majority of the 'megaships'.

TOP CRUISE ROUTES:

Silver Sea is a luxury cruise line having six ships in its fleet, each with ocean-view suites, Bulgari bath products, Egyptian cotton linens and butler service. Worldwide destinations range from standard Mediterranean cities (Venice, Barcelona) to locations in Africa (Namibia, Cape Town). Trip to Book is a 115-day 2013 World Cruise starts in Los Angeles and ends in Fort Lauderdale. You'll see Tahiti, Hong Kong, Barbados and dozens of destinations in between.

Crystal Cruises is known for its consistent top-flight service, Crystal Cruises trains its crew to an-

tipaculate your needs and remember your preferences. Fresh flowers, nightly turndown and room service are some of the standard on-board perks. Both of the two Crystal ships offer enrichment programs; language classes, golf lessons from PGA pros and wellness seminars sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic. Trip to Book gives chance to spend 98 days exploring the Pacific Rim, visiting native temples, touring cities and spotting wildlife. The cruise starts in Auckland, New Zealand and hits Sydney, Bali, Hong Kong and Alaska (among others) before anchoring in Los Angeles.

Seabourn has around 104 to 225 suites on board, and the line's six ships are relatively small compared to those of the mammoth cruise lines. Each room's minibar is stocked with water, spirits and wine that match your preferences before you board. Shore excursions are outstanding, with options such as elephant rides in Thailand, guided walking tours of the ruins of Pompeii, and horseback riding in Chilean Patagonia.

Trip to Book also offers a 32 day Asia, India and Arabia voyage ventures to places most cruise lines don't. It starts in Hong Kong, travels through a several port cities including Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore and Mumbai before it lands in Dubai.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises has three mid-sized ships (carrying about 500 to 700 guests each) tricked out with Canyon Ranch Spa Clubs, L'Occitane bath products, private balconies and several restaurants. Guests in penthouse suites have personal butlers, use of in-room iPads and Hermes amenities. Trip to Book has a four signature Grand Crossing cruises all journey across the Atlantic Ocean. The 18-night Barcelona to Rio de Janeiro cruise hits Africa then spends three days at sea before its next stop in Recife, Brazil.

WHY CRUISE?

Cruising is not just an excellent choice for your dream vacation; it is a feast to your senses an memorable experience of true leisure, homely comfort of spacious suites and staterooms, highest quality of acclaimed world cuisines, pampering personalized service, enchanting entertainment and exploring the world with fantastic destination driven itineraries. In between visiting exciting ports of call and discovering the world, you can

Cruise Holiday for Indians



spend your days by just relaxing by the pool, or indulge yourself with rejuvenating spa treatments, energizing work outs, educate yourself with onboard lectures ranging from body wellness, world history, fine arts, politics, world famous authors and cultures or you can awaken the chef inside you by taking part in hands-on cooking classes, you will lose track of time with the onboard fun activities.

And best of all, is you explore and enjoy the world at your convenience visiting different parts of the world each day all without having to worry about packing and unpacking, making hotel reservations or catching flights. You take your hotel wherever you go; the ship is your floating hotel and magically transports you from one exotic destination to another.

Cruises offer something for just about everyone. Some people cruise just for the sheer joy of being at sea. It's a magical feeling of relaxation, ecstasy and freedom from the stress of everyday life, others are adventurous about the countless new onboard experiences and some still belong to the travel and explore groups. Cruising is for everyone: from families, couples, families re-union,

senior citizens or retirement celebrations; wedding celebrations, anniversary cruises, first and second honeymooners, single men and women who always seem to find each other; Corporate events (business and social groups), incentive programs, Annual Award celebrations and also Charters.

But over the years, cruising has evolved with so much variety; it's like several vacations in one trip that has now made it famous and appealing to all. On a cruise ship today, you are most likely to find passengers from all ages, income levels and backgrounds. In actuality, on a typical 7-night Caribbean cruise, you are likely to find the majority of the passengers in the 35-55 age range, but a good rule of thumb is that the longer the cruise, the older the average age will be.

Definitely on shorter seven to ten night cruises, you may find a younger crowd but it is just as likely to be a widely varied lot with younger and older couples, singles, families and seniors. So get set for a cruise! ♦

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Apni Biwi roye to Sir mein dard hota hai... Aur doosre ki roye to Dil mein

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And if it doesn't work,

bring the last word in the middle. !!!!

★★★★★

Boy & Girl Chatting:

Girl : What are you Doing?

Boy : I'm Talking With My Angel Now!!

Girl : Awww... Do u Know That you are So Sweet?

Boy : Yes, ohhh But My Angel Has just Signed Off, So

I'm Talking With U Now!!

Girl : U idiot:

Tirumala Nambi Utsavam Performed In Tirumala

The Tirumala Nambi utsavam has been performed with religious fervour in Tirumala on Saturday evening to pay rich tributes to one of the ardent saint devotees of Lord Venkateswara, Sri Tirumala Nambi for his selfless services. This annual event is usually performed after the completion of the 25-day Adhyayanotsavams in Tirumala. After the evening arjitha seva, Sa-



hasra Deeplankara Seva, the processional deity of Lord Malayappa Swamy accompanied by His two beloved Consorts is taken to the Tirumala Nambi temple located in the south mada street in Tirumala. Later special pujas were performed and later the deities were taken inside the Srivari temple. Jiyar Swamys, Archakas, successors of Sri Tirumala Nambi, temple officials and others were also present.



HEALTH TIPS

Some useful home remedies for Dry Skin

- Mix equal quantities of glycerin and rose water. Store this excellent dry skin lotion in a clean bottle and apply it on dry facial skin or skin of hands and feet whenever required. It is best to be applied after having bath for those who suffer from excessive dry skin.
- Always shake the bottle before use as glycerin settles down at the bottom of bottle (Mix lemon juice to this mixture if you have a mixed type of skin having combination of oily and dry skin).
- Mix equal quantities of petroleum jelly and glycerin and apply it on your dry skin of face and body and keep it overnight.
- Mix equal quantities of petroleum jelly, vitamin E oil and glycerin.
- Apply for half an hour over face and body before taking shower.
- Take plain water and glycerin in the ratio of 10:1 and apply it on your dry skin of hand and feet before going to the bed. This will give you soft skin in a few days.
- For having a special hand wash soap, mix glycerin with your liquid soap and fill it in a bottle. Wash your hands with this soap to avoid dry skin on hand.

SUDOKU 306

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

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-305

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

Answer 305: Rajani K, Nagole.

ASTRO FOCUS

Jan 26 - Feb 1, 14

Aries: Your self-esteem and confidence will be high. Any investment will prove profitable. The atmosphere at home will be congenial. There might be chance of meeting a spiritual guru who would mould your life better. You would make effort to work towards building a bright future for yourself. Students studying higher education will have a good time and get timely support for your parents.

Taurus: You should try to utilize all your abilities in learning and developing mental abilities during the week. You will be able to win over your competitors. There are signs that a deep urge to explore new horizons will raise your career graph. It would be better for you to plan strategies and implements them. There are indications of planning a short pleasure trip with partner to enjoy time together.

Gemini: You will be keeping busy in making up your future plans.

You shall be able to bring balance in family and at workplace. Some of your friends and relatives will visit your home in this week. You might fail in achieving set target as your policy of persuasive communication skills. Computer professionals, looking for an overseas career are likely to get an opportunity to realize their dream by the week end.

Cancer: The first half in particular promises a good time when you are likely to fulfill milestones. The employed will get opportunity to elevate their professional career further. Chance to get into something big. You will have to face criticism even after putting in your best for others. It would be a bit difficult for you to keep everyone happy.

Leo: You are likely to get into a big occasion for progress. Your work will give you satisfaction. Happy news from a friend or a close relative will boost your spirits and

bring cheerful moments. You can expect wonderful results in your career. Those doing job need to maintain harmony with their colleagues. Be cautious from your adversaries. Make proper use of your time. Romance would rule your heart as you find pleasure in the arms of your beloved.

Virgo: Do not share your confidential matters with people you cannot trust, or those whom you feel could disclose your secrets. Try to remain calm and composed. Travel only if it cannot be avoided. Teamwork, rather than attempting to go alone, will bring better results. You just might start thinking of new career and job options.

Libra: New friends are likely to be made this week and the good news is that they would be helpful links far into the future in both career and personal life. People would look to you for advice. Your positive attitude at work would open new avenues for you and the hard work that you do would not go un-

noticed. Any move to change the jobs may be stalled for time being.

Scorpio: Happy news from a friend or a close relative will boost your spirits and bring cheerful moments. You have a lifetime dedication for the thing that you believe in. There is bound to be subtle changes in you, both within and outside. Relationship with Love/Spouse and relatives will be cordial and you would look forward to spend some pleasurable moments with them.

Sagittarius: College students will venture into small part time jobs or short-term courses. Think with a rational mind, as it could be tested this week. A new kind of project could land in your lap. Romantic life in particular needs a special care to bloom the beautiful flower of love.

Capricorn: This week is particularly good as what you think and put into practical shape, could be the foundation stone for your changed outlook. Knowing your

real skills would enable you to improve them. On career front, you have to work hard and try to please your higher officials. Your hard efforts would yield the desired results.

Aquarius: You may get the chance to attend seminars and exhibitions that will bring you in touch with the right kind of people. You need take a tight approach towards your expenditure to maintain a comfortable cash flow position. It may give you a chance to meet someone new or bring new life to a current relationship.

Pisces: Do not let your negative thoughts make you miss some of the brilliant opportunities that will come your way. Friends and relatives would do favors and you would feel happy being in their company. Believe in yourself and put in the extra effort as by this you are sure to get out of any tricky situation. Good things will happen if you put your time and effort into what really counts.

Need of Peace & Prosperity

Dr Stephen Cohen, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, Washington DC was in Hyderabad on the invitation of the US Consulate General Hyderabad and the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI). He spoke to Deccan Post.

What is your view on the India-Pakistan conflict?

India and Pakistan should have more constructive engagements to resolve the conflict between both the nations. India should come forward with more tangible cooperation with Pakistan in different fields so that the anti-Indian attitude could reduce and thereby set the stage for a peace process. This might also reduce Pakistan's dependence on China, and would be good for India.

How do you see the feelings of people in both countries?

There are many Pakistanis who'd like to break up the peace efforts between both the countries. Similarly, many in India also do not want to see normalization with Pakistan. They see Pakistan as a failed state or collapsing state and they don't want to be associated with Pakistan. In the long run it is important for India to have good relations with its neighbours. Pakistan is also today a

nuclear state.

What are the major hurdles in the peace process?

There are many issues of disagreement, but it is essential that areas of common interests are brought to the forefront to make a breakthrough. It's very important not to have any enemies around in days where one nuclear strike can destroy the balance of a nation.

What do you think has been the role of United States of America in the bringing together of these nations?

It does not work out to de-hyphenate relations between both countries who see each other as their worst enemy. Several administrations did play a role in helping resolve the crisis. India and Pakistan have to decide what role America can play. There is no point in imposition on them.

Do you think there is a solution?

Everything has been moving in circles. There is a need for a group of strategists on each side to get together and decide that normalization is in the interest of both the nations. People should eventually go along with it. Each side wants normalization on its own terms. Or there could be peace

groups, the business communities believe in public popular pressure for normalization, or hold candle light vigils on the line of control that create pressure on politicians and strategists.

How do you see the reactions of the public at large in Pakistan and can business interests improve the situation?

The scene has changed enormously over the past ten years. Most Pakistani civilians want a good relationship. India is no more a devil. Business interests can change the situation as long as there is trust in issuance of Visas and trade is encouraged. There is the issue of Kashmir also.

What are the future threats?

One cannot see the full-scale war between the nations. But the insurgency in Kashmir or the Mumbai attacks could trigger suspicion and create disharmony. Communal tensions in both countries also bring a suspicion on each other's involvement. But I desire peace everywhere be it India or Pakistan and people of both the nations should not be suffered at any cost. ♦

- JAYWANT NAIDU
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Disha showcases her beauty everywhere?

To make it big in film industry, shout as high as possible in the language you know. For some sexy ladies, it is glamour that speaks a lot and they make it speak. Will that help them really?

For example take the case of this sexy lady named Disha Pandey who debuted in Tollywood with the movie 'Race'. Later she acted in the movie 'Moksha' and yesterday her latest flick 'Manasunu Mayaseyake' got released. Keeping the fate of these flicks aside, Disha maintains a thing throughout while attending press meets. She always manages to give a naughty feast of her sexy curves while gracing before press photographers. This hot Delhi lad gives lot of stuff for lensmen to click. Sometimes a navel show, sometimes a cleavage show or both, at times a thigh show is what Disha offers.

Hoping that these attractions will make her a talk of town in tinsel town such that she will get more chances, the hot lady is proceeding. For now she became talk of town with these hard efforts, so we have to see what she will get rewarded.



Madhuri set the stage on fire!

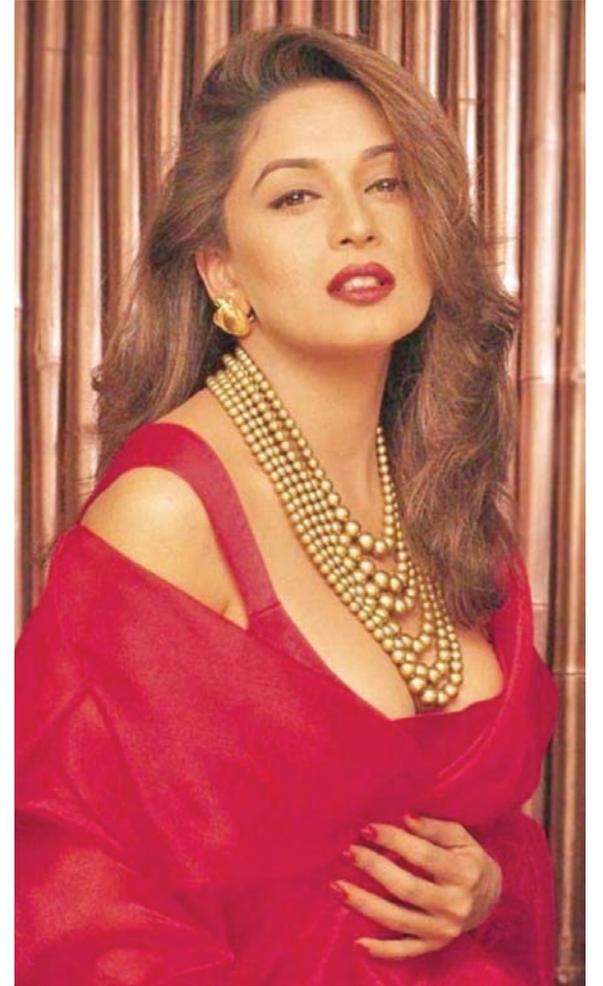
Even the best of the best dancers step aside when Madhuri Dixit graces the dance floor with her grace and aura. The ever graceful and vivacious diva managed to woo the audience at the 59th Idea Filmfare Awards with her 'Latkas and Jhatkas', with her mujra performance on her eternally classic number from Devdaas, Maar daala. Then after that, she danced to the tunes



of her latest flick Ataria from Dedh Ishqiya much to the delight of the audience.

And to add to the entertainment factor Salman Khan, Shahid Kapoor, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh performed on their respective famous numbers. The evening of the Award show was surely one of the most memorable moments of the year. After all, where else do you see the stars of Bollywood coming together and celebrating their success..?

-DP Desk



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Market turns cautious at all-time highs

By V Sundar Raja

Stock market after remaining firm for several days, near the long-term resistance levels of 21,500, it turned weak on Friday, with a strong reaction, indicating a possible short-term weakness.

There is no follow-up buying is seen at the higher levels, in the last few months and hence market could not break-out of the major long-term resistance levels. Selling pressure at these levels is witnessed in the last few days, as the strong hands the FIIs (foreign funds), were seen cautious.

However, technically on the charts, the overall major trend is still positive. There are fresh concerns that the Reserve Bank of India may increase the banking lending rates, in its next meet on 28th January.

Sector wise speaking, the software segment continues to be the leader and is seen strong even at higher levels. But a technical correction is due as the sector is in overbought position. The media stocks after a strong run-up in the last few weeks, it is now seen in a reactionary trend. The pharma stocks are in consolidation mode after an earlier run-up.

The public sector banks are seen continuing the correction, while the mid-cap and small-cap stocks are witnessing selling pressure. The real-estate and the infrastructure



stocks are seen in a correction trend, and are eagerly awaiting the forthcoming interest rate decision.

Crude Oil has made a strong rebound

from 5,700 levels, in the MCX commodity market, with the next resistance at 6,300. It has to sustain above this barrier, to indicate a further short-term uptrend.

The precious metal Gold made a steady recovery and has the next barrier above at 31,000 levels in the commodity market. Silver is also seen firm at current levels, but has to sustain above the next barrier of 46,000, to indicate a further short-term uptrend. The leading Base metals are in a minor recovery path, but are seen mixed. However, the Indian Rupee after a long consolidation at 61.5, against the Dollar, is showing signs of weakness, which could be a major factor for the market's trend.

The quarterly financial results of the companies are flowing in, which are nearly in line with the market expectations. Market is also awaiting the rest of the performance that could have an impact on the equities.

Market is now keenly waiting for the RBI monetary decision which is likely to be the next major trigger for the short-term direction of the market. Technically on the charts, Sensex has the next major support below at 21,000, which is a recent bottom. It has to sustain above this support, for a positive indication. But in-case of any failure at this crucial support, then it indicates a short-term correction, for the short-term investors to be cautious. ♦

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

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Addicted to Alcohol or Drugs?

Test for self-assessment of Substance Use Disorder

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- Do you need to use drugs/Alcohol to relax or feel better?
- 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?

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