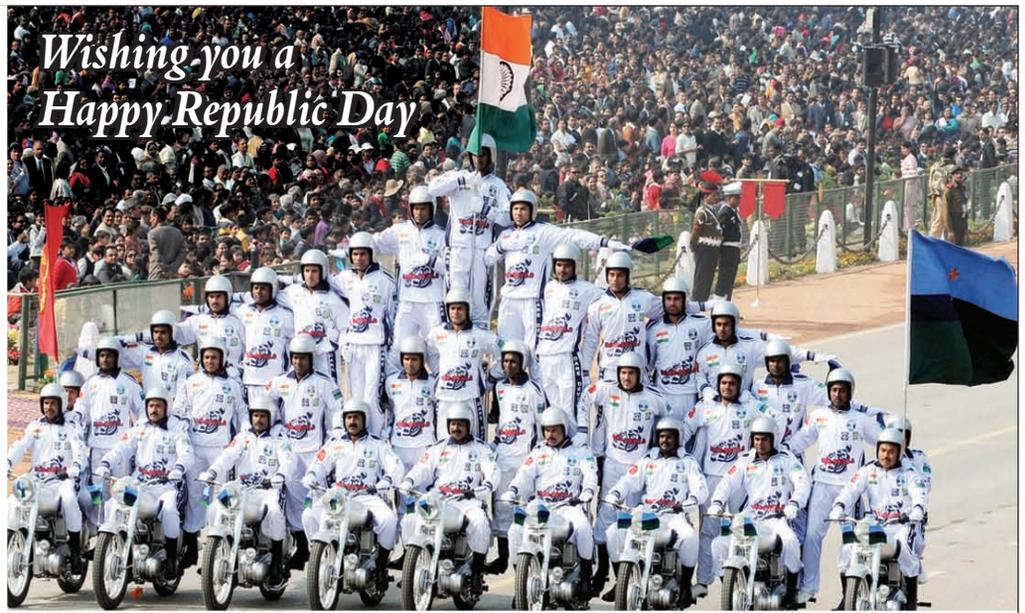


DECCAN POST

Hyderabad's Only English Newsweekly

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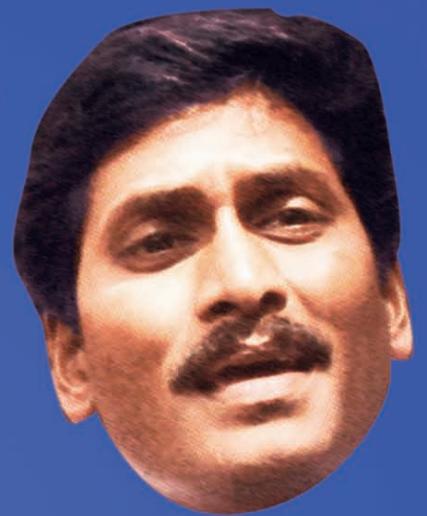
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Can they Stop



Telangana?

Crucial Week Ahead !

By Our Political Correspondent

After it almost became certain that Congress President and UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has decided for division of AP State to form Telangana state, desperate politicians from coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema, famously clubbed and called Seemandhra politician felt jittery after coming to know the stringent reactions and revelations from the senior congress leaders who are in charge of AP affairs. Reportedly, the union ministers like Vayalar Ravi and Ghulam Nabi Azad, who are deeply involved in the state political affairs have given enough hints about the imminent decision to divide the state. Ever since, the Seema-andhra politicians are now fast closing ranks to come united to stop the T-state formation process that is appearing to be moving at a faster pace than can be imagined.

Threatening, blackmailing, luring, using money bags and other tricks are being employed by desperate businessmen cum politicians from coastal Andhra; who are holding responsible positions in the state polity. It appears their single point agenda is only to prevent the birth of Telangana State at any cost by enlisting the support of all politicians in Seema and Andhra regions. Anyone who is worth his name in the political arena is now associated in the conspiracy to make a last ditch effort to scuttle the formation of Telangana state. This includes the likes of TDP chief Chandra Babu Naidu, YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the chief minister Kiran Kumar Reddy who belongs to the congress party. All are known to have opened up grapevine channels for communication.

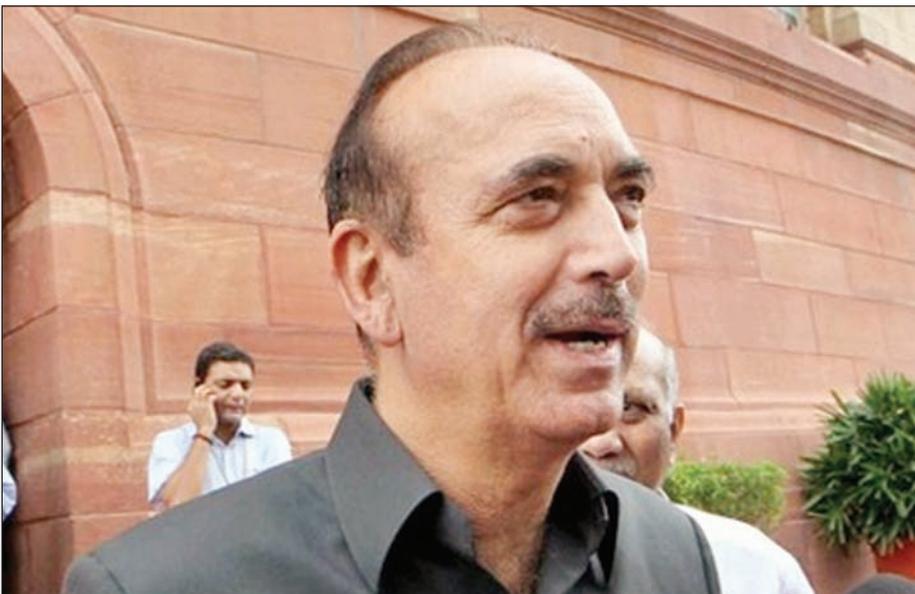


Several leading players till now lying dormant, like Rajya Sabha member KVP Ramachandra Rao and businessmen-cum-MPs Lagadapati Rajagopal, Rayapati Sambasiva Rao and Kavuri Sambasiva Rao from Coastal Andhra; others like trader-cum-minister TG

Venkatesh, Erasu Pratap Reddy, Sake Shailajanath – are out to exert all their energies against the congress high command to stifle the process of carving out Telangana from Andhra Pradesh. These efforts are backed by vested interested people ruthlessly desiring to

exploit the resources of Telangana besides continuing injustices being perpetrated since 1956.

In coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema, Jagan's YSR Congress is known to be in a





strong position and all set to sweep over there and whereas in Telangana, TRS and other pro-Telangana forces are roaring to decimate the ruling congress further pushing the Congress to a horrible political outcome whenever elections are held. So, it seems resolving Telangana statehood issue and reap the benefit of the T-sentiment is the best bet for Congress party that has been in power since 2004. Of course, many opine that Sonia Gandhi's inclination towards the formation of Telangana state is NOT borne out of commitment for people of Telangana. It is purely a matter of her own political compulsions and calculations, of winning a majority MP seats from Andhra Pradesh, which actually enabled her party to assume power in Delhi twice – in 2004 and 2009. She wants to retain the strong base that is crucial this time also for her party to remain in power again post-general elections due in 2014.

Also, with the advent of YSRCP and the rise of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy who has turned a bitter opponent of the Sonia Gandhi; things are not favorable for the congress in Andhra region that has 25 MP seats. Further, expecting any political support from him in post poll situation would be untenable. Therefore, the best possible option is to salvage the lost ground in Telangana region where if T-statehood is granted, the possibility of electoral success is grossly enhanced in the 17 Lok Sabha seats available in T-region. Besides, the congress can hope to put up a reasonably good show even in coastal Andhra after state division since it dramatically alters voting pattern affecting tremendous change in political dynamics. Otherwise, Sonia and her congress cannot hope to get even two or three

seats in this state which has a total 42 MPs.

Analyzing all these, the Seemandhra Congress leaders who had gathered in Hyderabad on 17th January, this week have decided to use all their tricks and pressure tactics as a last ditch effort to convince Sonia Gandhi not to go ahead with the impending

But, the next week beginning Jan 21, will witness rival Congress camps from Andhra Pradesh landing in Delhi and lobbying for and against the formation of Telangana state, till an official announcement from the party high command is made by the month end. All the 32 ministers, 40 MPs and 150 plus legislators of the State representing Telangana and Anti-

legislators to Delhi by a chartered aircraft on Monday (21st Jan) morning. "We want to go to Delhi together and talk to the high command in one voice," Ganta told the media after their meeting in Hyderabad on Thursday.

As many as 16 ministers, two MPs, 46 MLAs and eight MLCs turned up for the meeting held amid high security at the Ministers Quarters in Banjara Hills on Thursday. The meeting resolved to put pressure on the party high command not to grant Telangana state under any circumstances as it would lead to 'major political and law and order issues'. Senior legislator Gade Venkata Reddy (perceived to be close to YS Jagan) who attended the Dec 28 all-party meeting in Delhi prepared a draft memorandum to be submitted to Congress president Sonia Gandhi next week. The memorandum, interestingly, invoked the legacy of late PM Indira Gandhi who made a statement in Lok Sabha on Nov 27, 1971, affirming her commitment to united Andhra Pradesh.

"We are going to ask Sonia Gandhi to follow the policy of Indira Gandhi and be bold to keep this state united and put it on the path of development," Venkata Reddy told the media later. Venkata Reddy made light of Congress high command's commitment to the cause of Telangana. "They (high command) seem to be succumbing to pressures. That's all," he said. Some ministers also stated that for them the people of Seemandhra are the high command and not Sonia Gandhi. This according to some reveals the true colours of Jagan's loyalists in the congress party waiting for an opportunity to quit ruling congress and join YSRCP.



decision, which might be announced by Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde before the self imposed deadline of Jan 28. In fact, DECCAN POST sources indicate that Shinde might take everyone by surprise on the timing of this crucial announcement. Such is the secrecy built around the whole issue concerning Telangana.

Telangana interests are likely to camp in the national capital.

State's Ports Minister Ganta Srinivasa Rao who is coordinating the activities of coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema leaders against division of Andhra Pradesh has made arrangements to ferry around 80 ministers and



Though the memorandum stopped short of carrying outright threat to the high command, most of the MLAs present at the meeting made it clear that they would go to any lengths to prevent the Centre from moving and passing a Bill in the Parliament on Telangana formation. "We will announce our next steps as and when it is required," Government Whip Malladi Vishnu said. These leaders are panicked by the briefing by four ministers-TG Venkatesh, Pratap Reddy and Vishwaroop and S Shailajanath – who went to Delhi last week and called on the AICC functionaries Ghulam Nabi Azad and Vayalar Ravi to lobby against T state. But, these Seema andhra ministers were stunned to hear blunt reaction from the AICC leaders, indicating that the Centre has already made up its mind to create Telangana state.

"Unless something major occurs, like war with Pakistan, nothing might prevent the Centre from announcing Telangana state," TG Venkatesh told the gathering of Seemandhra ministers and legislators. Then some of them like Malladi Vishnu and Cooperation Minister Kasu Venkata Krishna Reddy said that: "Let us camp in Delhi till we convince the high command not to go for Telangana".

It was decided that the Seemandhra leaders would lobby at two levels. One large group of ministers and legislators would openly call on all the party top brass and submit memorandums urging not to split the State. Other compact group, would covertly operate and try to impress upon Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi the ill-effects of forming Telangana, both politically and economically.

Seemandhra leaders desperate

But, this time, Seemandhra leaders seem to have given up their hopes of stalling Telangana state, like what they did after the famous Dec 9, 2009 statement. Their use of resignations threat will carry no value this time, they know. Moreover, most of these leaders are opposing Telangana for the sake of becoming tall leaders in their respective regions.

But, indications coming from top Seemandhra leaders like KVP suggest that there is no possibility of reversal of T state process this time. In fact, KVP himself told his close friends that Telangana state appears to be certain now. If this is true, then, the pressure tactics of Seemandhra leaders delegation will carry no value.

At the same time, the party high command will be facing equal pressure from Telangana leaders too. Already, all the MPs of this region are in Delhi and they will not leave the city till Shinde makes his promised statement by Jan 28, the deadline he fixed on the Dec 28. All the dozen ministers and 25 plus MLAs from the region would be in Delhi by Monday.

"Ours is a positive mission, unlike the negative one of our Seemandhra colleagues. We will only urge Sonia Gandhi and other leaders to honor the Dec 9, 2009, statement of then union home minister Chidambaram to grant Telangana. That alone will help Congress win 16 out of 17 MPs in the region," said IT Minister Ponnala Laxmaiah and BC Welfare Minister Basvaraj Saraiah. Such confidence is not baseless.



Telangana MPs G Vivek and Ponnamp Prabhakar are coordinating the moves of Telangana Congress leaders in Delhi. These Telangana leaders are already in a celebration mode and thanking Sonia Gandhi for being positive to Telangana state formation. They are sure that no force of Seemandhra leaders can stop Telangana now. Sonia may not heed to the tricks of Seemandhra leaders this time.

All eyes on Jagan?

Ever since, the stand of the TDP and YSRCP was made known on Telangana at the All Party meeting convened by the Union Home Minister on 28th December last year, there is mudslinging going on in the Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema region. On one side, the blame game is going on where Chandrababu T-stand is being faulted by

Seema leaders; on the other side, hectic attempts are being made to tame YS Jagan, the president of YSRCP now lodged in Chanchalguda prison to surrender to Sonia Gandhi and ensure Telangana state is not formed. It is well known how much bitterness has grown between Sonia Gandhi and Jagan in the past three years. While Sonia desires that Jagan keeps away from active politics; Jagan desires to usurp all power and all alone. That's the conflict of interest between the two. The KG oil and gas basin seems to have spilled over the entire polity that the state is now like virtual "inferno".

Many observers who are well versed with politics of the state are of the opinion that Jagan can still save the division of the state if he volunteers to surrender his political ambitions and unconditionally submits to the will of Sonia Gandhi. But, the dilemma for Jagan is so funny that if elections were to be held anytime now his party can possibly sweep the coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema districts single handedly. Ignoring such a massive undercurrent visible in his favour how can he compromise and desert his political life? Many tried to convince Jagan that his father's soulmate-friend-advisor must be allowed to become the PCC president and repose loyalty and faith in Sonia Gandhi if only to ensure that all YSR supporters in the congress have a bright future. But why should Jagan sacrifice his interests? This needs to be introspected by the likes of KVP, Chandra Babu, Kiran and over enthusiastic Seemandhra sharks. So, it needs to be seen how far the Seemandhra politicians would be able to go to stall the formation of Telangana state. ♦

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DP EFFECT

Gosh! A Peaceful Friday !

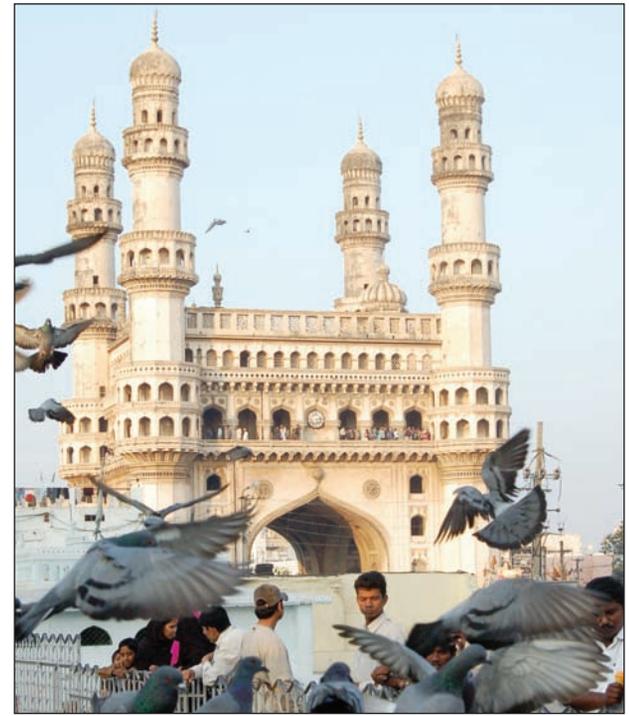
By B Shivkant

Finally the city police was successful in preventing the stone pelting which became a routine and usual affair in Charminar. Deccan Post has raised the issue of stone pelting from a sacred place like Mecca Masjid in Charminar and the failure of the police as well as the intelligence as it was completely failing in preventing the illegal, unwanted, unwarranted and unethical stone pelting on police and media personnel and setting their vehicles on fire. The culture of stone pelting or any kind of violence in any form is not acceptable in any society; only misguided elements who are not strict adherents of any religion would resort to harming others especially those who are attending their duties. After Deccan Post published the failure of the police in frisking and keeping a tab on the mobilization of crushing stones in the Charminar area, many newspapers too have raised similar concerns and

blamed it on intelligence failure and they backed the threat smelled by Deccan Post that if police cannot avert and prevent these kind of violent activities that too from a sacred and religious place then the situation can lead to escalation of violence elsewhere.

At-least now, the City Police Chief Anurag Sharma as well as the new DCP of South Zone Tarun Joshi have taken the wake up call positively and the city saw a peaceful Friday in Hyderabad after a long time. There is no doubt that all real Hyderabadis are peace lovers and nobody is going to indulge in hate activities and they have proved it this time and again. Hope the police bosses will keep the good and vigilant work of policing going on and will make the Hyderabad people feel secured and safe in all parts of the city. ♦

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Voice Test will decide Akbar's fate

The man in news for his seditious speech Akbaruddin Owaisi, MIM Leader and Chandrayangutta MLA is once again going through the toughest times of his life. It is still fresh in our memory how he got attacked while he was touring in his Chandrayangutta Constituency and how long it took for him to recover from the wounds he suffered and how much time it took for him to be healed. After being disturbed by his alleged seditious speech; many people are filing cases in all parts of the country against Akbar for his defamatory and derogatory remarks against the Hindu community in his seditious, malicious and venomous speech delivered at Nirmal meeting in Adilabad District. A lot of chaos is taking place wherever Akbaruddin is going to be presented in the courts. A mob of youth was allegedly beaten by Police authorities in Sanga Reddy of Medak District recently when Akbar was presented by the police in Sangareddy Court for another old case booked against him in 2005 but being pursued by the congress government only now. Coming to the seditious speech that threatens to jeopardize MIM's political interests; Akbar is resorting to the same old tricks adopted by men in trouble for their foot in the mouth disease.

As a twist in any Bollywood or Tollywood cinema, Akbaruddin Owaisi too denied that the voice in the CD of the seditious speech is not his and the CD produced by the police is a made up and fabricated one. He also stated that some invisible super natural forces have entered his body and mind and forced him to be aggressive in his speech against one particular community in Nirmal meeting. In reply to the same, the police have collected the voice samples of Akbaruddin Owaisi from the AP State Assembly and sent the same along with the Nirmal meeting CD to the Forensic Lab in Chandigarh to bring clarity and book for culpability. Now it appears that the fate of Junior Owaisi will be decided by the Voice test and he will be having a tough time if the samples are matched. Many legal experts are of the opinion that he will be convicted if the voice matches. On the other hand it seems the Lawyers of Akbar are trying to club all the cases filed against him and pray to the hon'ble court to conduct a uniformed trial as they are of the opinion that one person can't be tried for the same offence in different places and cases. For now, Adilabad Central Jail is the place where Akbaruddin has to rest and should not allow invisible super natural forces to enter his body and mind to play a spoilsport yet again. Akbar must pray to the same super natural force to ensure that somehow his voice should not match with the Nirmal meeting CD then only he can get relief or else its super trouble for him. ♦

B Shivkant



Danam Nagender: A minister or goon?

By Our Crime Correspondent

Recently Danam Nagender, Minister in Kiran Kumar Reddy's government and MLA from Khairatabad constituency in Hyderabad was in news once again for the bad reasons. He was allegedly indulged in beating young Telangana supporters who were opposing the Seemandhra leaders meeting in Ministers Quarters in Banjara Hills on 17th January. Previously, this minister has locked the Lord Sri Krishna Temple calling that the land is in litigation and the people in the name of temple are trying to encroach over the precious land. Before this incident, in many incidents Danam Nagender has faced the opposition of Telangana protagonists in various parts of the Telangana region. Interestingly, few pictures have been published in many news papers in which Danam is holding a police lathi in his hand and trying to disburse the mob which allegedly tried to attack him.

Danam is continuously advocating for a separate state of Hyderabad along with one more minister M Mukesh Goud. None other than these two are supporting or liking this idea as everyone knows that Hyderabad is an integral part and parcel of Telangana state and the Hyderabad people are suspecting the loyalties of both these ministers who are always in news

for wrong reasons. These ministers very rarely speak to the media leave aside debating in Assembly on key and important issues. But whenever they want to raise a controversy they do it very easily.

Danam must not forget that he is a people's representative and moreover a minister in the state council of ministers and he has the utmost responsibility of respecting the Indian constitution and abiding by it and should not act in an idiotic manner and stop chasing the agitators like a hired goon.

Its not his fault, he is just following his senior colleagues in the state cabinet as few notorious ministers from Seemandhra region like TG Venkatesh, Ganta Srinivas, Shailajanath, Kondru Murali, Kasu Venkata Krishna Reddy, etcetera are shamelessly and foolishly acting whenever there is some positive happening in Delhi for granting statehood to Telangana. They all are acting like silly guys who always wake up whenever the Telangana talk is going on. They must not forget that they are the people who are elected by the people of this state and the people of the whole state expects some decency, dignity, responsibility and maturity from them. They should not fight like the people do so in fish markets.

It seems the current day polity is lacking credibility and most of the congress ministers are aware that they are not going to win again and become ministers and that's why they are being so casual in expressing their views. In past, the people of this nation have voted number of times just for the credibility of the leaders they possessed but its pathetic to see that MLAs, MPs, Ministers are behaving so irresponsibly and baring their idiotic nature in the public. It's high time that the people should not vote these kind of stupid leaders again and elect a person who commands respect and has credibility along with clarity of understanding what matters to the people. ♦

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Referendum on Hyderabad... Absolutely No Scope



At a time when Telangana state is about to become a reality, or at least the Congress high command is about to announce a road map to fulfill the decades long aspirations of people of this region, some individuals are talking about conducting a referendum on the status of Hyderabad, the State capital of Andhra Pradesh.

But, this is wholly unacceptable to people of Telangana, as it is not valid constitutionally too. There is no mechanism in our Indian Constitution to hold referendum to sort out any public issue and there is not a single instance of deciding any issue of public importance through this method. Of course, referendum is a way of knowing public pulse, but it is not suitable for deciding the status of Hyderabad.

Surprisingly, this stupid proposal has come from Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president K Chandrasekhar Rao. Or rather he endorsed the idea, thrown at him by a politician from coastal Andhra or Rayalaseema region, who is naturally upset over the impending formation of Telangana state in the next few days.

One can understand, if a Seemandhra politician demands referendum to make Hyderabad as a common capital of both Telangana and Seemandhra regions for a fixed period or even to make the city a union territory. Seemandhra politicians are not ready to digest the fact that Hyderabad is an integral part of Telangana.

But, KCR too agreeing for a referendum on Hyderabad is dangerous proposition. This is nothing but playing into the hands of Seemandhra politicians, who are just interested in delaying or prolonging or stalling the process of T state formation. They want to create fresh litigation on Telangana formation by raising the phony issue of referendum on Hyderabad.

One should not forget the fact that Hyderabad city, now a hub of close to one crore population, is not built by the capitalists from Andhra or Rayalaseema. The city is founded 421 years ago, by the ruler of this region, first Qutub Shahi dynasty and later by Asif Jah dynasty and later by the multi-cultural businessmen of this entire erstwhile Hyderabad state that spanned into a vast area of 16 districts in three states. Eight districts of them in the present T-region and five erstwhile districts from Maharashtra and three from Karnataka were part of erstwhile Nizam's Hyderabad state. One should also not forget the fact that Mir Osman Ali Khan, the seventh and last Nizam of Hyderabad, is rated as the world's richest by Time magazine in 1941. He is again rated as the richest ever Indian in standard value of currency as recently as in 2012 which is a reflective of the abundant resources available in Hyderabad. Hyderabad city that flourished under successive rulers is a global destination way back in 1900s.

Even Moghul emperors Aurangzeb first and later by Bahadur Shah Zafar envied the prosperity of Golconda and later Hyderabad. Pearls and diamonds were traded in open streets and buyers thronged the city from all over the world. Gold and jewelry worth thousands of crore rupees were marketed here and locals filled exchequer with huge taxes.

The contribution of coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema people is very insignificant, compared to that of the Nizams and people of this erstwhile Hyderabad state till the time of its forced merger in Andhra Pradesh in 1956. People of either coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema have no right to claim anything over this great historical city, other than living here peacefully even after the creation of Telangana State. So, no referendum is neither permissible nor is possible for deciding the fate of Hyderabad which happens to be the heart of Telangana. ♦

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Akbar in the dock...

I have not only become a regular reader of Deccan Post but a fan too. Your last week's issue was wonderful and unique especially the cover page and the cover story. Everyone was discussing about the seditious speech delivered by Chandrayangutta MLA and MIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi but it was the Deccan Post who narrated the motive behind the seditious speech. It has wonderfully explained what could be the motive behind such kind of speech and how it could help the MIM party to expand its reach. It seems the MIM party has become ambitious to expand its base to other regions and it seems they want to play a role in the national politics but the plan of MIM and Akbar badly boomeranged and landed him in trouble. Once again the people have proved that there is no space for hatred in the current day society and whoever tries to rake the passions in the name of religion will not be forgiven and the judiciary will take



serious view of such illegal things and punish if found guilty in the trial. Now I do not think any national or regional party would dare to think of having alliance with MIM party. It seems the MIM is in a deep trouble and they have to change their thinking as well as their attitude in the interests of minority as well as the secular nation.

Syed Edris, Bowenpally

Greedy School Managements....

Your last week's focus page carrying a story titled 'Greedy School Managements thrive under lax Government' was excellent one. Being a parent I have come across whatever was published in your story. Nowadays, it's very difficult to find a good school which provides quality education at affordable fee is very difficult especially for the parents who migrated from other places like me. I have been to many schools and spent a lot

of money just to bring the prospectus and admission forms for my daughter and everywhere I found the education is costly. Education is the one department which is continuously being ignored by the Government and very few schools are there which cares for the middle class parents like us. It's a fact that in the name of competition, the students are overburdened with the studies and not physically growing as they should. I appeal to the government through Deccan Post to look into this serious issue and take necessary action to provide quality education to one and all.

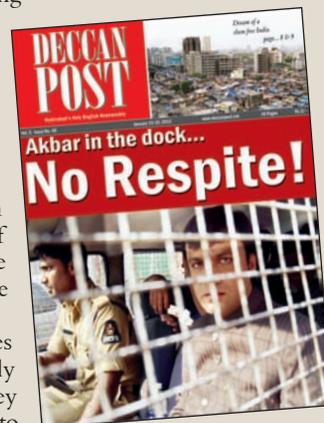
Sujata Chowhan, E-mail

Dream of a slum free India!

Deccan Post is doing a wonderful job by publishing the issues pertaining to the common betterment of the society and deserves all praises from one and all. I must congratulate Deccan Post for not only focusing on political issues but it is giving a wake up call to everyone about the socio-economic development of our country. The central and the state governments makes tall claims of their housing schemes and eradicating poverty and slums but it's not the reality. Everywhere in the country you can find people living in slums without any remedies for years together. The government should provide them with proper housing facility and look after the overall growth then only we can really claim to be a super power.

V Purushotam, Begum Bazar

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



Why such hush hush over State division?



By Sridhar Goka

Three years ago, (9th December, 2009) the then union home minister P Chidambaram made a late night announcement stating that the union government has decided to grant statehood to Telangana and he further stated that the steps for formation of Telangana state have been initiated. PC also stated that a formal resolution shall be moved in the Andhra Pradesh state assembly authorizing the central government to take things forward. In fact, the very next day, the union government also reiterated in both houses of the Parliament the intent of the congress led UPA government to bifurcate the state of Andhra Pradesh into two states that existed prior to their merger in 1956. The subsequent events are well etched in our memory and do not need any mention again. But what is intriguing is the manner in which the same dispensation that existed three years ago is going about the same issue in a secretive manner. Unlike the Nuclear deal or FDI deal, where the Congress led an aggressive campaign to woo the MPs in the Parliament to support its stand; the congress is not at all making any noise over the issue of resolving Telangana despite the fact that many political parties are supporting the state division to acknowledge the long standing struggle of the Telangana people seeking a separate state.

Why? Is the question being asked by many. It is a well known fact that many parties across the nation that have significance in both houses of the parliament

like BJP, JD-U, Akali Dal, BSP, RJD, CPI, BJD, NCP, TMC, JD-Secular etcetera have been consistently supporting the demand of the Telangana people seeking T-state formation. Many of these parties have been urging the Congress party to initiate the process

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required under Article 3 of the Indian Constitution and introduce a bill seeking to divide the state of AP so as to form Telangana State. If congress chooses to introduce the bill, it can garner more than two-thirds

of support in both houses of the parliament. Such is the overwhelming support the T-issue is getting across the political spectrum.

What makes the congress party adopt a hush-hush silence over an issue that is a subject matter concerning millions of people in both regions of the state? Why is the congress party not debating the issue at least within its own party circles? Why any sort of secrecy needs to be maintained over taking a decision which is going to impact many sections in the state? How many possibilities are there before the congress high command? How come it did not find it significant to debate it at its own party convention "Chintan Shivir" held in Jaipur? Why is the congress party trying to keep its decision a matter of great secret? What's the big deal in spelling out its stand publicly?

The people of the state are aware that only two issues merit serious consideration by the central government headed by Congress party that is presided

by Sonia Gandhi. Whether the congress party is serious about formation of Telangana State? Or whether the party wants to keep the state undivided as it is?

Even if the congress doesn't desire the division of the state nothing earth-shaking is going to happen. The only thing that may go on is the continuation of the agitation for separate Telangana state possibly resulting in many congress leaders from Telangana quitting the party and joining other parties. Of course, the worry for congress would be about getting a drubbing in the T-region whenever elections are held? Is there anything else that is concerning the party or Sonia Gandhi? Is it the possible loss of credibility for Sonia Gandhi who promised the T-people about "understanding their sentiments and assuring about taking an appropriate decision at an appropriate time". This loss of credibility can be offset by her in many ways; especially adopting political gimmickry. The BJP may on the other hand use this to their advantage throughout their campaign in the country and derive political mileage. All these are political fallouts of such compulsions. But what about transparency, and accountability in politics?

How can a national party like the congress not make its stand known and keep its decision cloaked in secrecy till the last minute when there is so much speculation? What is it seeking to achieve? If only the congress were to decide on dividing the state and forming Telangana State; why is it shying to act openly? Who is going to rebel and dislodge its government in the state? What might happen if the union government announces formation of Telangana State? If the Andhra MLAs who comprise about 175 in a house of 294 were to quit enmasse; even then a popular government can be formed and run by the congress party as it has majority even amongst the Telangana legislators numbering 53 out of the 119. The state assembly can absolutely exist if it has 10% (i.e. 30 MLAs out of 294 present in the assembly). The T-region has 119 MLAs, 99% are expected to remain in the house; therefore every sort of business can be carried on by these members for the entire state. Even a resolution welcoming the formation of Telangana state can be carried out with overwhelming majority. There is a lot of hope amongst the people of Telangana that a separate state would be announced and on the other side there is a lot of confidence and arrogance amongst the Andhra leaders that they can possibly manipulate the congress high command as they have been doing. The silence of the congress party high command over the issue is suspicious.

The decision to divide states or form new states lies with the central government and there is no guarantee that the congress will continue to head the central government forever. That means if the statehood is not granted; the people of Telangana would be required to keep their agitation or struggle alive till they achieve their goal. Since the T-movement is decades old; it is rather odd to expect it to die down dramatically especially after a thousand lives are sacrificed in the recent times just for one cause. Fortunately, it's just a matter of one week that the fate of state bifurcation and fate of congress party in Telangana region gets decided by its decision. Every one hopes that wisdom shall prevail. ♦

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Bio Generics of the world



By Jaywant Naidu

While conventional generics face competition and pricing pressures in most developed markets, Indian pharmaceutical companies have already started gearing up for the next big thing 'Biosimilars'. These are generic versions of biological medicines that depend on the same mechanism of action, and are used for the same therapeutic indication, as the innovator product.

Currently, China and South Korea dominate the biosimilars market. India is at a distant No 3, with a share of about 3%. The biosimilars industry globally, has been growing stupendously. According to market estimates, the global market for such drugs is seen at around \$ 31 billion and at a compound annual growth rate of over 49 per cent during 2010-15. This growth is driven by two key events: Upcoming patent expiries of leading biologics and a financial crisis coupled with increasing health care costs that has required systems in almost all developed countries to look for low-cost alternatives. While, contribution of innovative biologics is continuously increasing, compared to the total pharmaceutical branded sales, a number of top-selling biologic brands such as Herceptin, Enbrel, Humalog, MabThera, Remicade and Aranesp are expected to go off-patent over the next five years. This will open up a wealth of opportunities for companies developing biosimilars.

India has already taken its first step forward to tap the emerging opportunity in the biosimilars' space. While, almost all major Indian drug makers have outlined plans, identified products and set aside investment budgets to develop a robust product pipeline, some have even started rolling them into the market. Dr Reddy's Laboratories has already launched a few of its significant biosimilars in emerging markets. The current biosimilars portfolio of Dr Reddy's Laboratories constitutes of filgrastim, peg-filgrastim, rituximab and darbepeotin alfa, which have commercial presence in 13 emerging

countries. On the other hand, companies like Cipla are making huge investments in India and outside to acquire manufacturing facilities and potential product pipelines in the biosimilar segment. The company has acquired facilities in India and China to develop biosimilars. Wockhardt has developed insulin and analogues; Lupin is now on its way and plans to soon launch its first of two biosimilar drugs for oncology in India by the end of this year. The company currently has a total of 10 proteins in different stages of development. The Department of Biotechnology, along with the drug regulator, has also got into action and had recently floated draft guidelines for biosimilar drugs. The proposed norms outline specific requirements for pre-marketing and post-marketing data, apart from guidelines for pre-clinical and clinical trials for biosimilars. The move is aimed at upgrading and maintaining the quality of biosimilar products that are manufactured in India.

BIOLOGICS:

Local drug makers have their eyes set on yet another off-patent opportunity – in biosimilars, the generic versions of biologics. Biologics are the therapies typically derived from living organisms or organic substances and include therapeutic proteins, DNA vaccines, monoclonal antibodies and fusion proteins, as well as new experimental modalities such as gene therapy, stem cell therapy, antisense nucleotides and RNA viruses. The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) is upbeat on the opportunity. Industry analysts expect biosimilars to replace about 70% of the existing chemical pharma molecules.

OPPORTUNITIES:

The increasing aging population and diseases like cancer, diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis will spearhead this new wave of biosimilars. Biologics worth \$ 80 billion are slated to go off patent by 2015 in the US alone. With an eye on the impending patent expiries, innovator multinationals are increasingly looking for partnerships, including with companies from India, the generic capital of the world.

CHALLENGES IN THE AREA:

For new entrants, biosimilars pose very different challenges to those presented by small molecule generics, with more demanding requirements in terms of clinical development, market access, manufacturing and sales and marketing capabilities. A company would not only need huge investments but also dedicated manufacturing facility and technical expertise to make a mark and the payback period is very long. The average development cost for biosimilars ranges from \$ 100 - 250 million if plant development cost is included. Developing a biosimilar requires significant investment, sophisticated

technologies and clinical trial expertise. Unlike conventional generics, where companies have to prove bioequivalence of their drug as compared to the original one, in the case of biosimilars, pharmaceutical companies have to conduct clinical trials to get approval. Some areas such as critical indications (clinical trials involving infants) or where very long-term end points are measured, could have been further clarified leading to faster approval of the drugs. A single window or single agency system is the norm in several countries with organizations such as the FDA in the US, EMA in European Union, ENVisa in Brazil and SFDA in China. It suggests streamlining of regulatory processes for contract research organizations working for international clients on international products. Increased time-lines for receipt of biologic test articles from foreign locations would reduce competitiveness of the CRO industry, it says, while stressing on the need for a single agency system to further the cause of the biotech industry in India. The Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), Kolkata, has to take responsibility for the availability of authorized reference standards and their identities.

GUIDELINES:

The Department of Biotechnology had step up a 20 member committee in association with Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare comprising industry experts, scientists and government officials to draft the guidelines. By defining a framework for biosimilars development that is not too dissimilar from the European Union and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and the draft US guidelines, the Government of India is very clear in its intent to create a level playing field for the development of biosimilars and elevate the domestic industry to a global level. The Indian Biosimilars Guidelines are comprehensive in nature and address the pre-market and post-market regulatory requirements for biosimilars. The document clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities of authorities in the approval process. The guidelines state that all biosimilars should be compared to the reference or innovator product through all phases of development. There is clarity on the quality and quantity of data expected, Eg. the number of batches, bioassays and analysis of products for post translational modifications. Animal studies have also been rationalized by allowing short-term studies in relevant animal species. When such models are not available, it is recommended to follow Schedule 'Y' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Some redundant studies have been eliminated reflecting the current scientific understanding. The announcement of the new biosimilars guidelines, 'Guidelines on Similar Biologics: Regulatory Requirements for Marketing Authorization in India', by the Indian government is a welcome move but India's biotechnology industry believes more needs to be done to

streamline the existing regulatory framework for biologics and vaccines. In the last few years, India has seen a robust growth in its biosimilars portfolio. The growing biosimilars market offers huge potential for companies involved in research and development and manufacturing. Biosimilars can also go a long way in meeting India's need for affordable healthcare for its huge 1.2 billion population. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, in his 66th Independence Day speech, said that the government is working on a new scheme for distribution of free medicines in the country through public hospitals and health centres. The National Health Scheme will be launched in a couple of years by combining the National Rural Health Mission and the National Urban Health Mission to be started soon. Currently, 20 recombinant therapeutics are approved by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) for marketing in India. The GEAC is an apex body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Since 2005, the review committee on genetic manipulation (RCGM) of the GEAC has recommended 91 clinical trials to be conducted in India related to recombinant pharmaceutical or therapeutic products with the permission of Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

The 4th edition of CPhI's Annual Biosimilars will focus around the critical aspects of Process Development and Analytics. This will take place from 6th March 2013 to 8th March 2013 at Hotel Holiday Inn Mumbai International Airport. This conference focuses on vital subjects like:

- Regulatory updates in analytical and process development
- Process development for Mabs and recombinant proteins
- Platform technologies in upstream
- Impurity profiling in downstream
- Media optimization in formulations
- QbDesign in process development and analytics
- Physicochemical and biological characterization
- Managing bio IPR
- Using hybrid state systems

Finalization of guidelines for Biosimilars could take place at BioAsia 2013, to be held in Hyderabad from 28th January 2013 to 30th January 2013. ♦

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Maha samprokshana performed at Ganga Devi temple

Maha Samprokshana has been performed with religious fervour for the newly constructed Goddess Ganga Devi temple in Papavinasanam at Tirumala on Friday. Speaking on this ceremonious occasion, TTD EO Sri LV Subramanyam said, among the 12 sacred teerthas located in Tirumala Seshachala ranges, Papavinasanam is considered to be the most sacred one. "Teertham means the holy river Ganges. Where the river Goddess is worshipped, there will be no scarcity for food



and water. With the blessings of Lord Venkateswara, we have overcome the drastic scarcity of water due to good amount of rains last year. Today, we have all the dams in Tirumala with full of water to meet the requirements of the visiting pilgrims as well locals. So it becomes our utmost duty to offer prayers to Goddess Ganga Devi and hence we constructed a small temple for the Goddess. The pilgrims who visit Papavinasanam can also have blessings of Goddess Ganga henceforth", he added.



Meanwhile, from the past three days a team of Archakas led by Sri Mani Gurukul and Sri Ganesh Gurukul performed Vighneshwara Puja, Maha Ganapathi Homam on January 16th, Nitya Homam and Astabandha Samarpana on January 17th and Kalasa Udwasana and Maha Kumbhabhishekam on Friday - January 18th. Tirumala JEO Sri KS Sreenivasa Raju, Dy EO Kalyana Katta Sri Balaji, AVSO Sri Appa Roy and others were also present. Pilgrims offered prayers to Goddess Ganga Devi in larger numbers.

SUDOKU 253

			1	2			6	
5	1						3	9
		6	4		9			
	4							7
		7	9	4				3
6			2	7		5	1	
7				9				
	2	5		1	3	9		6
		3		6		2	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-252

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

Answer 252 : K. Suraj Kumar, Dilsukhnagar.

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Laugh out loud

Galti ho gayi

Maalik: Tum bathroom mein kyu ghus aaye, Kya tumhe pata nahi tha ki mein naha raha hoon?

Naukar: Hazur galti ho gayi, mein samjha tha begum sahiba hai.

Your Birth Year

Interviewer: What is your birth date?

Santa : 13th October

Interviewer: Which year?

Santa : Oye ullu ke patthe - EVERY YEAR

Truck Accident

Two Sardars looking at an Egyptian Mummy.

Sardar1: Look so many bandages, pakka truck accident case !

Sardar2: Aaho, truck number bhi likha hai : BC-1760 !!



Santa apni biwi ke office gaya to usne dekha ke uski biwi boss ki godi me baithi dictation le rahi thi.
Santa:- Chal Laajo, aisi jagah kaam nahi karna jahan staff ke liye kursi bhi na ho!

ASTRO FOCUS

Jan 20 - 26, 2013

Aries: Your ability to stand out in the crowd will bring you popularity and recognition. Some of the natives may yield good profits during the week. There is no threat for financial affairs during the week. Your capacity will get due recognition and in turn fetch you a new position. Your positive attitude will bring you harmony and give you positive result in your work.

Taurus: Good week to plan your savings and make future investments. Your financial position will improve and you will get to spend a lot on luxuries. You will feel happy as your identify will be recognized. Visit some devotional places. You may likely to attend interview and seminars. Your personal affairs might come under a cloud.

Gemini: Secrets and important information should not be disclosed. Your knowledge about new market trends will bring you immediate gains. Good week for planning long-term investments. On career front, you will get good cooperation from your subordinates. There is no threat to your social status and honor. Your relationship might be distracted with your partner so devote your sometime.

Cancer: Your financial status seems to get better with new opportunities and ventures in the offing. Business people will get moderate profits during this week. On career front, some of the natives will get an elevation at the job front. Utilize every opportunity that comes into your way. Efforts with good intentions will succeed. Your Love/ spouse improvement will be a source of joy to you.

Leo: You will witness improvement in all areas compared to the previous weeks. Excitement over new projects and financial gains will energize you. The inflow of income is quite sufficient for your expenditure. Travel and related activities will bring both gains and pleasure. If necessary take a professional advice. Your inherent talents will come into lime light.

Virgo: This is the right time for major decisions on the professional front. Your bank balance may increase due to recovery of old dues. Your artistic and creative ability would help you to earn some extra money. New plans will conceive and new projects will be executed. Some of the natives may enjoy with friends. Educational pursuits would be high on your agenda.

Libra: A stable period of growth and prosperity sees you shine with new confidence and enthusiasm. Businessmen will get a rare opportunity during the week. Utilize the same and get benefited. You are likely to impress your colleagues and seniors with your technical knowledge and command over your work. Your capacity will get due recognition and in turn fetch you a new position.

Scorpio: You should use your creative ability to earn some extra money. Growth opportunities will develop through interaction with influential people. Some of the natives may hear good news during the week. You are required to take decisions after deliberating all pros and cons carefully. Romance would rule your heart this week as you find immense pleasure in the arms of your beloved.

Sagittarius: Financial gains are likely especially for those in creative line. Your flair to convince others will pay rich dividends. Your leadership qualities would be highly appreciated. Influential people would be supportive and extremely helpful. It may chance to meet someone new or bring new life to a current relationship. Positive changes can be ushered in through regular exercise.

Capricorn: Your positive outlook would impress those around you. Money wise you will do very well this week. Your communication skill will be on all time high. Your ability to be practical and straightforward in business will bring you enormous gains. Open and honest conversation will be essential to maintain a healthy relationship with your beloved.

Aquarius: There will be average gains & good progress, due to your hard work. Your efforts would get noticed and appreciated by your seniors. Income will be good & take a dip thereafter. You can make a great impression on someone when you act like a leader this week. At social gatherings your artistic and creative ability would help you to attract lot of appreciation.

Pisces: Your quest for knowledge will awaken your desire to read and learn. Encourage meditation and yoga for spiritual as well as physical gains. Your diplomacy and tact would be of immense importance to solve complicated issues. Educational pursuits and creative activities may yield excellent results. This week could be a magical one for love and romance. Minor health ailments due to untimely food habits can cause some worry.

Women independence in society

Kenzie Mourad, famous French author was in Hyderabad to attend the Hyderabad Literature festival. She spoke to Deccan Post.

Could you tell us about your origin?

I was born in Paris to an Ottoman princess and Raja Syed Sajid Husain Ali of Kotwara (Awadh). I belong to a Turkish and Indian descent. My father was here in India and could not travel to France because of the war. I was brought up in a Convent school where the nuns hid me away from my father. As a grown up girl, I wanted to know my roots and meet my father. I came to India and also happened to meet the Begum Hazrat Mahal's great grandson. I was raised as a Christian but took a liking to Sufism at the age of 18 years.

Could you also share something about your mother?

My mother Selma, an Ottoman princess and granddaughter of the last Sultan of Turkey spent her childhood in Beirut. My mother Selma's family was exiled from Turkey in 1918 and died in occupied France in the year 1941.

How do you see life when you know about certain prejudices in society?

In my own case, I realized this aspect of life. The nuns who took care of me were misinformed and believed that sending me to my father in India was not safe. They kept me away from my father and never gave me the letters that he wrote to me. I now understand how religious prejudices were involved in these decisions.

Tell us about Begum Hazrat Mahal?

She was a woman of substance and was determined to fight the British. She had political acumen and had a soft



corner for the poor. At a certain point, she abolished taxes on food, and in times of famine asked the rich people to take care of the poor. Begum Hazrat Mahal fought the British for two years. It took nine months for the British to gain control over Lucknow. The Begum continued her fight for a year after this.

What about her husband Wajid Ali Shah?

In those days, architecture, music, poetry, drama, painting and food were at a very refined stage. Parikhana - the house of fairies. Wajid Ali Shah held music concerts, poetry readings and staged plays in his Parikhana - the house of fairies. He was an accomplished poet himself and a good Kathak dancer too. One of his favourite pastimes was to play the role of Lord Krishna in a dance-drama.

How long did it take for you to research for the book on Begum Hazrat Mahal?

I had to go through many documents in libraries of London, New Delhi and Lucknow. It took me nearly three years to find enough information. In Lucknow, I spoke to families whose ancestors had fought in the battle with the British along with the Begum. In libraries in London, I came across six volumes of 'Mutiny Papers' documented by the British.

Could you tell us about your thoughts on religion and the role of women in society?

I have often written about the misrepresentation of the Quran. In many cases, Turkish women have held important positions on their own right, not because they are mothers, sisters or wives of important men. ♦

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- JAYWANT NAIDU

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Tina has no problem in wearing bikini

Actress Tena Desae is currently talk of the Bollywood Town because of her sensuous Bikini Scene and the Lip-Lock scene from her recently released movie 'Table No 21st' starring Rajeev Khandelwal and Paresh Rawal. Tena Dease who has not done too many films in Bollywood says she had inhibitions while shooting steamy scenes.

Sharing her working experience in 'Table No.21', Tena says, "I liked the script immediately as the story was interesting and unique. It is a thought provoking movie. As I am new in the film industry, I will not say no to something like this." About steamy scene with Rajeev, she explains, "I had inhibitions about doing the scene. We shot the scene in the middle of a street with some 2,000 people around us, which made it very uncomfortable. But Rajeev was ultra calm about it and as an actor; it was my duty to be calm, so that he does not have to take the extra load of making me comfortable. After that, I was just concerned about how it would turn out as it needed to look passionate."



On her sexy avatar, Tina says, "We are living in 21st century! Being a model, I was completely comfortable in the bikini scene. It also depends on the director's sensibility and whether he shows the actress in a flattering way or not." While she is only a few movies old in B-Town, Tena talks about her future plans and says, "After doing these films, I tend to think about my strengths and weaknesses and what films I should do. Right now I want to try out all genres and all-budget films and then only think about what is best suited for me. I want to play characters which are sensible and I can identify with."

Esha steps into Angelina's shoes

Model-turned-actress Esha Gupta who has a gifted uncanny resemblance to the international icon Angelina Jolie has been confirmed as the actress who will play Lara Croft in the Indian version of 'Tomb Raider' (2001).

Esha Gupta who made her Bollywood debut with "Jannat 2" and was recently seen in "Raaz 3" and "Chakravyuh" was approached for the role as she is very tall and



hot &
SPICE



has a very athletic physique. Esha has often been tagged as the Indian Angelina Jolie, as she resembles her. And now this similarity has got her a plum project. She has been signed for an International co-production (Indo-American) to play the Indian Lara Croft. The source added, "Due to Esha's back to back hits in a row, the makers did not have any double thoughts before approaching her". The movie will go on floor shortly and shooting will take place in India and foreign countries. Along with this venture, Esha is to be seen in another Vishesh Films movie thereby completing her three-film contract with the banner.

-DP Desk

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Market remains firm

By V Sundar Raja

Stock market continues to make new highs and is now at the major psychological barrier of 20,000 levels. Sensex has gained nearly 1,000 points in the last few trading days. Market could make strong advances due to persistent buying by the Foreign Institutional Funds, which were believed to have pumped in nearly a record amount of more than 8,000 crores in the last two weeks.

The much awaited 3rd quarterly financial results have started to come in and it has been encouraging. The software leaders - Infosys, HCL Tech, and TCS have reported strong performance and have set aside the concerns of a possible slowdown in this sector. There were earlier fears that the software could report negative growth due to American economic conditions. Some of the frontline banks have also reported good financial results, providing major boost to the stock market. Diesel prices were hiked slightly and this is expected to provide profits to the Oil marketing companies and this would reduce the deficit of the country.

But, market is slightly disappointed that the RBI may not reduce the banking interest rates in its next meet. This is because major economic indicator Inflation continues to be high and the control of the Inflation is expected to be a major challenge to the policy makers, in the next few months. All eyes are now on the oil major Reliance industries, which are expected to report company results

on 18th January.

The precious metals like Gold and Silver are seen recovering in the last few days. Gold has recovered from 30,500 levels and silver is seen stabilizing at 57,000 levels, in the commodity market. Gold has to sustain above 31,000 marks, to indicate a further uptrend. Silver has to sustain above 60,000 levels, to indicate a further short-term uptrend.

The international crude oil prices are in the upswing and it is close to 5,200 resistance levels. Crude Oil has to sustain above 5,200 marks, to enter into a further short-term uptrend. However, the Indian Rupee is seen struck in a narrow tight range, in-between 55 and 54 levels. Dollar has to breakout of 55, to indicate strength. Market could witness a consolidation trend at the higher levels, till the results season is completed. There is not much of a danger is seen in the stock market at the current juncture, unless there is an unexpected economic development.

Technically on the charts, Sensex is now



at the major level of 20,000 where a consolidation can be expected in the short-term. Market has to sustain above this barrier, to indicate a further uptrend. In case of any failure to sustain above this resistance, then there would be a short-term weakness, Investors to be cautious. But however, major

support below is at 19,500, and only in case of any breakdown below this support, and then it indicates a correction trend. ♦

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

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Self-assessment for Addiction :

1. Are you having control over your ADDICTION (drink or drug) ?
2. Is your work getting disturbed because of your ADDICTION ?

If your answer is "yes" you have a problem

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- Life Skill Enhancement

- Medical Assessment and Detoxification
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- AA / NA 12 Step Program
- Management of Emotions and Feelings
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