

DECCAN POST

Hyderabad's Only English Newsweekly



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Vol-VI, Issue No. 22

July 07-13, 2013

www.deccanpost.net

16 Pages

Rs.3/-

Digvijay takes up Tissue- is KCR being sidelined?



By Our Political Correspondent

After taming YSR Congress Party President YS Jaganmohan Reddy and TDP President N Chandrababu Naidu, the Congress high command has initiated a series of steps to sideline another irritant – the TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, well known as KCR. If one were to closely observe the happenings both at the national and state level, it is clear that the political clout of KCR has come down drastically in the last fortnight. This has happened on two counts. One, the proposal of Rayala-Telangana has decimated the role of KCR in the proposed bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. If two of the four Rayalaseema districts – Anantapur and Kurnool – are merged with 10 districts of Telangana, the role and influence of TRS will drastically come down, thereby reducing the maneuverability of KCR in future Telangana State. Another development is the successful conduct of meeting of Telangana Congress leaders at Nizam College Grounds on June 30th.

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The historic meeting was ostensibly held with the blessings of the Congress high command as several of its staunch loyalists like Rajya Sabha member V Hanumanth Rao, D Srinivas and Damodar Rajnarsimha were seen in the company of all T-MPs except Union Minister S Jaipal Reddy who was advised to stay away. The two other Union Ministers Sarve Satyanarayana and Balaram Naik, besides several MPs like Ponnampalabaki Prabhakar, Madhu Yashki, Gutha Sukhender Reddy, Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy who were active till now and surprisingly others like Secunderabad MP Anjan Kumar Yadav and Suresh Shetkar who till now were seen disassociated with the ongoing Telangana movement also made their presence felt on the Dias. Many state ministers except those considered close to YSRCP skipped the meeting. Even those like DK Aruna, Sunitha Laxma Reddy, Uttam Kumar Reddy and D Sridhar Babu – all known loyalists of

Seemandhra Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy felt the heat to register their presence. However, R Venkat Reddy, a minister from Khammam is known to be in touch with YSRCP and as such did not attend the meeting.

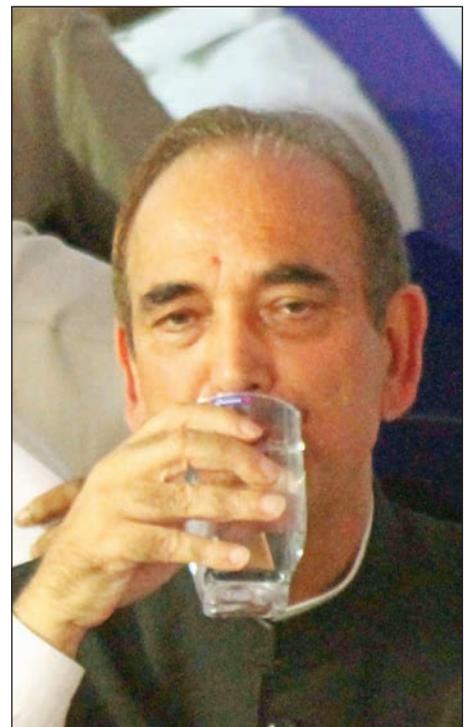
Immediately after the meeting, AICC new in-charge general secretary Digvijaya Singh announced in Hyderabad that the high command would take a final decision on Telangana by the end of this month, i.e. July end. Taking everyone by surprise- Digvijaya Singh asked the state CM, Deputy CM Damodar and APCC President Bosta Satyanarayana to come to Delhi with their road-maps on division of Andhra Pradesh. Though, Digvijaya Singh has not spelt out any fresh deadlines on Telangana decision, it appeared that the congress high command has made up its mind over the division of the state at the earliest so that it can protect the long term interests of Congress party that is so badly placed right now.

Precisely, that is what Digvijay told the media persons in Bangalore. He said that if Congress grants Telangana, the party would immensely benefit in the entire South India, not just Andhra Pradesh.

The calculations of Digvijay Singh are clear. It indicates the home work done by congress analysts. Presently, the performance of Kiran Kumar Reddy is so poor - at best 3 or 4 MPs may win in Andhra region. While the party may draw a blank in Telangana and Rayalaseema districts. By granting Telangana, the party can hope to win at least 16 out of 17 MPs in the region, and another 8-10 MPs in Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema; because the influence of Jagan's YSRCP and TDP can be considerably checked even in the Andhra region. Anyway, the party can get the support of YSR Congress, which may get around 10-12 MP in the Seemandhra region as the party has already announced that it might back a

UPA government after the elections.

These developments – Rayala Telangana and a speedy decision on Telangana before 2014 elections have come as a blow to KCR. If Congress grants Telangana, he has little role to play in the region. His tall claims of playing a major role in reconstruction of Telangana even after the formation of the State have no takers. Till now, KCR has been following two pronged approach to face the emerging situation. First, he is talking about the impossibility of Congress taking any decision over formation of the state of Telangana before the elections. Ironically, he is known to be gearing up to merge his TRS into Congress on respectable terms – like assuring tickets to him, his family members and close followers. Many like K Keshav Rao, MPs G Vivek, Manda Jagannatham and others who left the congress to join TRS would face an acid test for their re-admission into the congress party.





However, bitter critics of the Gandhi family like Kadiaam Srihari and Medak MP Vijayashanti are going to be dumped by KCR as they are not likely to be even allowed a token entry into the congress.

Suddenly, the Congress is acting like it does not need the support of KCR. Till recently, the Congress was in touch with KCR urging him to merge his party with them so that they can consider giving T-state. But, now the Congress is behaving as if it does not need any merger of TRS as it has already taken a decision to grant Telangana with or without Kurnool and Anantapur districts.

This was evident when a delegation of Telangana Political Joint Action Committee (T-JAC) led by Prof Kodandaram and consisting of others like Srinivas Goud, Devisri Prasad and Vithal called on Digvijay Singh in Delhi on Friday. Digvijay Singh told T-JAC leaders that the high command has come to a conclusion on how to resolve the T-tangle and only it is a matter of

time to spell out the decision.

The T-JAC leaders who spoke to Deccan Post over phone from Delhi on Saturday said that they had full confidence on Congress granting Telangana by this month end. "These road maps are just procedural formalities. The CM, Deputy CM and PCC President have no other go but to specify the details of splitting the State," said Vithal. The new found closeness between the T-JAC leaders and Congress high command is absolutely not palatable to KCR. Sensing that the high command has been cozying up to formation of Telangana state, senior MPs like Hanumanth Rao and Palvai Govardhan Reddy have hosted lunch and diners to visiting T-JAC office-bearers in Delhi. This also has not gone down well with KCR. Not only that - the Congress former PCC president D Srinivas has come forward to fix an appointment for T-JAC leaders to meet party president Sonia Gandhi next week. If that happens, more than the T-JAC leaders, the Congress leaders and

the party will take full advantage of its decision to grant T-state and make use of the clout of T-JAC to regain its credibility in the region at the expense of the TRS.

Whenever the T-JAC leaders meet Sonia Gandhi, the perceived supremacy of KCR as a sole torch bearer of Telangana cause will be made to come to an end. But, it is KCR who is to be blamed for this situation. He never gave proper respect to the T-JAC leaders in the past. He always dealt with T-JAC leaders in a "use and throw" manner. Whenever he was in trouble he called T-JAC functionaries and after making use of them he meticulously kept them at bay after the need was over. Despite this pattern repeatedly happening, the T-JAC leadership could only grumble and not protest as they feared the wrath of KCR who claimed all credit for creating a T-JAC and demanded complete loyalty.

The Congress high command is all aware of this and also aware that KCR has been giving importance only to electoral politics and winning 100 MLAs and 15 MPs, irrespective of the hard work and contribution of several others for the cause of the Telangana state. The party fully knows how KCR can swing from one extreme to other; something he had demonstrated after 2009 polls - he swung from Left included Maha Kutami to BJP camp in anticipation of NDA coming to power.

The recent statement of T Congress MP G Vivek who left the party and joined the TRS last month -- "that his resignation from Lok Sabha is still pending with Sonia Gandhi" is a blow to KCR's credibility. In fact, Both Vivek and another MP M Jagannatham have stopped attending TRS meetings ever since the Congress T-leaders held a meeting on June 30th. This shows the credibility crisis within TRS and poor strategy of KCR. Within TRS too, there

are others who still differ with KCR on Congress granting Telangana state soon. While KCR himself is not ready to believe that Congress would actually grant statehood to Telangana in the coming days; others like T Harish Rao is optimistic about the outcome. Even KCR's son KT Rama Rao too differed with his father and went a step further and said TRS would back Congress in Panchayat polls, if it takes a positive decision on Telangana state by 23rd July.

Here the sad thing is that KCR has lost a strategic advantage to dictate terms to the Congress high command on the specifics of creation of Telangana. Many feel all this is because of KCR's penchant for electoral success rather than ensuring statehood for Telangana region. Not to commit political suicide, the urgent need for him would be to re-establish his contacts with Congress top brass, including Ahmed Patel and Ghulam Nabi Azad and to see to it that there is no last minute slip between the cup and the lip.

The Congress is trying to diminish the stature of TRS and unsettle it so that it can take on Modi led BJP which is threatening to en-cash the prevailing the anti-Sonia Gandhi sentiment amongst the T-youth. The BJP which seems to be making inroads into entire T-region is going all out to tell people that it will form Telangana state immediately after dislodging the congress led UPA government at the Centre. But, coming to the role of KCR, he should not sit on prestige and miss the opportunity to play a role in the formation of Telangana state at crucial juncture. He should give up his egotistic position and do business with the Congress at a time when the dream of Telangana people is appearing to come true. ♦

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T-Congress leaders host grand Telangana Sadhana Sabha at Nizam College Grounds

30th June Congress meeting signals early formation of Telangana State

By Dr T Siva Prasad Reddy - Special Correspondent

All the while being passive and at the receiving end looks like a boon for the ruling congress party legislators, MPs, MLCs, lead party functionaries along with the rank and file in Telangana region. All the political parties in the state after the last all party meeting held in Delhi organized by none other than the Union Home Ministry have been castigating the ruling congress party both in the state and at the centre for postponing a decision on Telangana at the discomfiture of ruling congress party of Telangana region. But, the changing equations at the national level vis-à-vis of different political parties upsetting their entrenched fronts or alliances have masterminded ruling UPA-Congress to evolve a logical strategy to come back to power. Disunity alongside egoistic personal clashes amongst opposition parties have emboldened ruling UPA-Congress to cease the opportunity to roll their infamous strategy of number game unsettling the opposition by bringing to the fore their hidden agenda in case of burning contemporary issues. One such issue is grabbing the National and International attention is none other than Telangana issue.

Post- December 9th - 2009 developments, situation for congress party in Telangana region became grim as they were not allowed to mingle with the people but for heavy security till recently as many youths sacrificed their lives out of frustration on account of delay in the process of T formation - people reciprocated their will in the bye-elections trouncing both ruling congress and main opposition - TDP (for effectively countering December 9th, 2009 statement) by voting for parties whose loyalty rested only in T-formation in a democratic way. These events have definitely led to a long term strategy of ruling UPA and congress in

particular as it allowed the agitation for T state to consolidate while making the people of Andhra and Rayalaseema to understand the inevitable political consequences. But, the sad part of this game plan is loss of hundreds of precious lives as the disgruntled youth from T region resorted to suicides as the agony extended leading to a sense of insecurity. Having sensed an opportunity of grabbing more than 15 parliamentary seats from T region if they accede to the demand of T formation, ruling UPA-congress engaged themselves to directly interact with its rank and file thereby set up a platform to reap electoral benefits in T region. That's how 30th June Telangana Sadhana Sabha by Telangana Congress party became a reality as congress high command came to a perfect understanding that its fortunes in Andhra and Rayalaseema are grim as YSRCP is poised to cake walk with all the electoral glory.

After animated discussions with TRS failed, congress high command seized an opportunity upon itself and executed its game plan. Much to the surprise of it's own policy, a huge turn out of it's cadre in T region has emboldened congress high command to unravel it's methodical plan upsetting many lead contenders in the T region forcing them to redesign their strategies. A logical end surpassing all the superficial opposition from Seemandhra would certainly benefit congress in the coming electoral battle in T region which would ultimately prove to be decisive. Any let up here would lead to a consolidation in favour of BJP as more and more youth would make entry into BJP, even surprisingly those from both TDP and YSRCP are said to be in the queue, once Modi undertakes a state sojourn with party already making its stand on Telangana crystal clear in parliament and all



other relevant forums.

Digvijay Singh's Candid Confession clears the air

The pompous Telangana Sadhana Sabha meeting conducted by Telangana congress leaders in Hyderabad on 30th June amidst Digvijay Singh's arrival in Vizag on-29th June didn't go unnoticed. A critical analysis of both the events looks like a synchronized effort by congress high command to accurately gauge the mood of both constituents in their respective regions. While, congress high command is surprised though exhilarated at the turn out for T Sadhana Sabha their General Secretary - Digvijay didn't encounter any public outcry except for some organized orchestrated protest lacking spontaneity and seriousness. This has certainly paved way for

Digvijay's candid confession on the ground realities while leaving no one in doubt about which way party high command is inclined. Further more to ruffle or to engage it's erstwhile ally (MIM) - a new amalgamated - a bifurcated Rayalaseema (Kurnool and Anantapur districts) added to Telangana was brought to the fore to engage all like minded parties while clearly creating a division amongst the superficial opponents - the Seemandhra politico-business lobby expecting to create not two but three states if the emotions run high.

Digvijay's observations in Bangalore the following day about the importance of acceding T state and the electoral benefits to follow, have left no one in doubt that sooner than later congress high command would put its plan in place. His assessment in south is



52 hours deeksha at Indira Park-Hyderabad by Byreddy Rajasekhara Reddy

Now demand for Rayalaseema State with four districts growing.....

By Our Special Correspondent

Inflamed by the Congress party's Rayala Telangana strategy of dividing Rayalaseema (Kurnool and Anantapur to T), as expected the voices within Rayalaseema aim for a Rayalaseema state rather than any bifurcation echoed and supported by none other than Ex-Minister-Marappa - YSRCP much to the discomfiture of its bosses. Looks like a planned follow up to Digvijay's candid confessions on Telangana as they did anticipate such vocal protest. How the other lead player TDP reacts is still a mystery and would certainly be a big headache for its tacticians. Meanwhile, disgruntled elements within the congress from Seemandhra are planning to host meetings on similar lines. How far they would succeed and to what extent they would dare to oppose high command's dictates is really to be seen. Already, a clear divide is visible as they are demanding a Greater Rayalaseema with

Prakasham and Nellore districts which would certainly comfort ruling congress as they can marginalize both Chandra Babu and YS Jagan to a small territory to engage themselves. Union Minister of state for Railways Kotla Jaya Suryaprakash Reddy however expressed his opinion that if at all Telangana state is being formed, and then there should be trifurcation of state into three new states. Rayalaseema region with four districts (Kurnool, Anantapur, Kadapa and Chittoor districts) having about 52 MLAs and 8 MPs would be most viable. And any inclusion of the Rayala Seema region with either Telangana or Andhra is not acceptable to them. This view is being supported by others like A Saipratap, former Union Minister and MP from Rajampet.

Seemandhra leaders' opposition to a T state seems to be illogical as the demand is



for erstwhile Hyderabad state with its defined boundaries which got integrated to form AP. A realistic assessment of revenue collection from 9 districts excluding Hyderabad and also govt. spending in these 9 districts in comparison to Seemandhra region would certainly expose the hollow talk of so called Seemandhra Samaikhya protagonists. Hyderabad then and now remains the same as a cosmopolitan city and the capital of erstwhile Hyderabad State and future Telangana state as it is geographically surrounded by nine Telangana districts deriving all amenities from them at the cost of growth of these 9 T-region districts while losing precious land bank and human resources etc in the meanwhile. As things stand, T state formation with Hyderabad as it's capital in the immediate future looks a

certainly as allies of UPA and NDA have firmly reaffirmed their support in the round table conference in Delhi and also out of political compulsion for ruling congress and UPA while Greater Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra States are also on the cards. People of three regions would benefit with new capital cities (grants from centre) with lot of infrastructural development (High Courts, Ports, IT, SEZ Etc) paving way for regular employment in both public and private sectors would be a win-win situation for everyone with self-rule while thorny issues of water etc can be settled through a regulatory committee with constitutional guarantees and as per existing Bachawat and tribunal awards. ♦

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a clear indication of how important those 15/16 seats from T are going to be as congress is on a sticky wicket in Kerala where majority community is consolidating behind communists while in Karnataka the division which was noticed in vote bank of BJP during assembly elections seems to vanish as the likes of Yedyurappa and others would go along with the parent party wishes, while they would be in for a surprise in Tamil Nadu as AIADMK is set to sweep and in all certainty Sister Jayalaithaa would favour her Rakhi brother Narendra Modi. Digvijaya's another submission that whether AP assembly passes resolution on T or not is not binding on them citing Article-3 of the constitution is a subtle warning for such opponents. His particular rhetoric that every one should abide by the party high command's dictate on Telangana is a clear warning that any opposition would invite wrath and loss of electoral chance as they expect YSRCP to win majority in Seemandhra and even that would help UPA indirectly at the cost of main opposition TDP-which would certainly oppose congress and UPA while negating BJP's chances.

T-JAC's Round Table in Delhi - 4th July Reiterates T State with 10 districts of Telangana-

TJAC's round table in Delhi on 4th July attracted 10 national parties including allies of UPA and NDA (BJP), CPI, Forward Block alongside regional parties including TRS grabbing national headlines. Prof Kodandaram outlines the urgent need for formation of T state with 10 districts with Hyderabad as capital city citing history alongside contemporary events - peaceful agitation, people's wish as expressed in by elections - part of Democracy, suicides-loss of precious lives while reiterating to uphold December 9th, 2009 policy statement on T formation. The same was passed as a resolution supported by all constituent participating political parties to be presented to Prime Minister, UPA Chairperson - Sonia Gandhi, NDA-BJP and all concerned. Looks like a perfect follow up to T Sadhana Sabha and Digvijay singh's candid confessions on T for congress high command to come clear on it's future strategy close on the heels of local body elections followed by municipal elections. ♦

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Food Security at last

The Congress leadership's decision to suddenly dust up the Food Security Bill this week and get the Union cabinet to clear it through an ordinance has predictably thrown open several questions in political circles. Especially since it chose to push the politically sensitive ordinance just weeks before the monsoon session of Parliament during which the congress led UPA government could have easily tried to get it passed with not many opposing it. Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has already signed the ordinance on Food Security to give the nation's two-third population the right to get 5 kgs of food grains every month at highly subsidized rates of Rs 1—3 per kg. Today, a PIL was filed in the Supreme Court seeking quashing of controversial Food Security Ordinance on the ground that the constitutional provision has been misused for pre-election propaganda and political gains. Further, the PIL contended that million of tons of food grains are rotting in open as the country lacks storage facility even as people are dying of hunger.

The National Food Security Ordinance, aims to give right to subsidized food grain to 67 percent of India's 1.2 billion people, and will ensure food and nutritional security. The ordinance, with a special focus on the needs of the poorest of the poor, women and children, provides for grievance redressal mechanism and penalty for non-compliance by public servants or any authority, the statement issued by the Government states. The salient points of the ordinance are: Upto 75 percent of the rural population and upto 50 percent of the urban population will have uniform entitlement of five kg food grain per month, at highly subsidized prices of Rs.3,

Rs.2, and Rupee.1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains, respectively. The poorest of poor households would continue to receive 35 kg food grain per household per month under the Antyodaya Anna Yojna at subsidized prices of Rs.3, Rs.2 and Re.1.



There is a special focus on nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant women and lactating mothers, besides being entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional norms, will also receive maternity benefit of at least Rs 6,000/- for six months. Children in the age group of six months to 14 years will be entitled to take home ration or hot cooked food, as per prescribed nutritional norms. The central government will provide funds to states/UTs, in case of short supply of food grain from central pool. In case of non-supply of food grain or meals to entitled persons, the concerned state/UT governments will be required to provide such food security allowance to the beneficiaries as may be

prescribed by the central government.

The ordinance also contains provisions for reforms in the Public Distribution System (PDS) through doorstep delivery of food grain, application of information and communication technology (ICT) including

end-to-end computerization, leveraging 'Aadhaar' for unique identification of beneficiaries, diversification of commodities under the Targeted PDS (TPDS) for effective implementation of the ordinance.

There will be state and district level redressal mechanism with designated officers. Provisions have also been made for disclosure of records relating to PDS, social audits and setting up of Vigilance Committees in order to ensure transparency and accountability. The Bill provides for penalty to be imposed on public servants or authority, if found guilty of failing to comply with the relief recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO).

We know pretty well that all politicians cannot agree on any one thing any time. So is the case with Mulayam Singh Yadav who came out opposing the food security ordinance, saying it was "anti-farmer". His logic is that there is a great risk that the law can prove dangerous for farmers who cannot get proper remuneration for wheat, rice and sugar which are the biggest agricultural produce in our country. If these are provided at low cost by the government, who will buy these from farmers - is the question being raised.

In terms of its sheer size, this food security scheme would be perhaps the biggest ever program to distribute subsidized food grain to citizens of any country. And given this it is more than likely to have consequences, which the government of the day is either not thinking about or is simply not bothered about. Besides these they are other problems like expenditure behind the food security bill being as high as Rs 1,20,000 crore not taking into account "additional expenditure needed for the envisaged administrative set up, scaling up of operations, enhancement of production, investments for storage, movement, processing and market infrastructure etc." Talking about the food security bill introduced by central government, Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen said that the bill has several flaws yet any initiative taken in the direction of ensuring food security to public is more than welcome. Let's hope the ordinance would become an enactment and would ensure no one in this country suffers hunger anymore. ♦

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Congress dilemma Helping BJP in State

One will agree with your last week's cover story which was covering how the congress party is weakening and helping BJP to emerge as a strong force in the state if they can see the ongoing dragging on Telangana statehood issue. The congress party has promised to grant Telangana state in consecutive elections but even now it is delaying in firm announcement over Telangana. It appears that Congress politicians are shameless and forgot that already more than 9 years have been passed and still they are consulting over this contentious issue. I would like to question the Congress led UPA government that how many issues and bills have been discussed for more than 9 years during their tenure? Recently the Food Security Ordinance has been signed by the President. Why



they have not taken the consensus of all parties for this purpose? Nuclear Deal was given much hype and signed in a hurry but could this UPA government tell its people what it has achieved by getting it passed in the parliament by hook and crook? Why there were no consultations and consensus on Coalgate, 2G, SG, Commonwealth policies? When it comes to Telangana these crooked politicians start enchanting the mantra of consensus and consultations.

The congress party should remember that it had not promised Telangana state by discussing with all political parties and it has no right to drag on the matter by showcasing the importance of consensus. The congress must take firm decision at the earliest and save the innocent and passionate youth who are continuously sacrificing their precious lives.

G Vishal, Karwan

Brother KCR turns.....

I liked your last week's article on the battle for Medak Lok Sabha seat between Brother KCR and his so called Ninth sister Ramulamma. It appears that actor turned politician Vijaya Shanti is not in a mood to forego his seat for his brother's sake. On the other hand Brother KCR seems to field his all family members from winnable parliament seats so that he can have enough strength to deal either with congress party led UPA or the BJP led NDA

after general elections scheduled in 2014. Indian movies are full of drama and family attachment and it also shown how the family members quarrel for property, money etc. Vijaya Shanti is a senior actress and she should have smelled the same in the very beginning. Now, Vijaya Shanti has no other go except to return to mother party BJP or contest from Secunderabad Lok Sabha seat on TRS which has very remote possibility of winning. There is a very old and useful proverb that there are no permanent friends or enemies in politics, I think Vijaya Shanti

ignored it in the love of his brother KCR.

K Sathaiah Goud, Bhongir

Renewable Energy – Green Power of India

I am a regular reader of Deccan Post and I like its analytical way of publishing the news. I got to know many things through Deccan Post and I became a huge fan of your newsweekly. I found it unique and it focuses on the issues which never get focused in any other media. But I am really upset with the articles coming these days on your page 8 & 9. Previously, you people used to publish very educative and informative stories but since few issues the above said pages have become rhetoric and repetitive. I urge you to maintain uniqueness which you are known for and publish stories which are not repetitive and fresh.

Swathi, E-mail

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



Time CBI becomes apolitical

By Sridhar Rama

Even as the Central government filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court this week that 'it intends to liberate the CBI from its clutches' as sought by the apex court in the midst of the Coalgate scam trial; the premier investigating agency in the country – CBI, has courted another controversy by filing yet another charge-sheet nailing the Gujarat top police brass as well as the Intelligence Bureau (IB) in the famous Ishrat Jahan 'fake' encounter case only to implicate a controversial political leader who is emerging as the BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate.

"The CBI charge sheet in the Ishrat Jahan case raises more eyebrows. Is it based on the inputs given to the CBI by the home ministry or based on evidence collected by the agency? Is the CBI collecting evidence and filing the charge sheet on its basis or on inputs from the home ministry?" the BJP asks. The party said as per the rules, the information collected by the IB is passed onto the concerned state and also shared with the PMO. "The IB must have briefed the PMO on the Ishrat case. If the PMO was briefed what is its view on the issue? Its silence does not help. The BJP is questioning. Already, the BJP sought to know about Convicted Lashkar-E-Toyiba (LeT) operative David Headley's confession to NIA. "Was she (Ishrat) a Fidayeen or not? Did he (Headly) say it or not?"

The CBI in their charge-sheet alleged that some sections of Gujarat police and Intelligence Bureau have been involved in the fake encounter of Ishrat Jahan and three other men in Gujarat on June 15th, 2004. The deceased victim Ishrat, a 20 year old B.Sc student at the time of the encounter, was allegedly bumped off at the orders from the top level, (indirectly making an attempt link the murder to the Gujarat CM Narendra Modi and others), the CBI contended without taking the name of the Chief Minister. Well, the CBI has dug out piles of evidence and found that Ishrat has been killed in a fake encounter only to eliminate any amount of threat to Modi at that time. The police at that time alleged that Ishrat and other friends (accomplices) were operatives of the banned LeT terror outfit, which set out to kill Modi to take revenge for the Gujarat riots in 2001.

It is perfectly understandable that the CBI has every duty and right to file a charge-sheet in any investigation and that too a controversial murder case, especially in the



case of an innocent girl, and her friends and accuse the high and mighty in the police top brass for the murder. There is no scope for second thoughts over investigating any crime, especially, if one is in the nature of a fake Police encounter. If there are allegations of false encounter by the State; the matter deserves to be probed to the core of the roots and the accused deserve to be punished in an exemplary manner however high and mighty they might be.

But, the timing of the CBI charge-sheet is disputable and in bad taste. This is coming at a time when the Centre has filed an affidavit before the apex court to liberate the CBI from its clutches and grant it some autonomy to make the premier investigating agency in the country independent of political interference.

The SC sometime back termed the CBI as a "parrot in a cage" of the Centre. The Centre, based on the findings of a Group of Ministers headed by Finance Minister P Chidambaram, recommended that the CBI would be granted more autonomy in its investigations and the tenure of a CBI Director would be fixed at two years and the appointment of the CBI Director would be made by collegium consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Besides, its functioning would be monitored by a panel of jurists.

But, this is not enough. The CBI is under intense attack from the Opposition parties for its abusive role in chasing the persons and parties which are not favourably inclined towards the ruling party at the centre. Whether it is Gujarat CM Modi or Mayawathi or Mulayam Singh in UP or YS Jaganmohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh -- the role of CBI has always been controversial to state.

The latest charge-sheet in Ishrat Jahan fake encounter case although refrained from naming Modi or Amit Shah as accused; there is enough space and scope for them to be included in the supplementary charge-sheets to be filed sometime later. The CBI mentioned the statement of then DSP DH Goswami who quoted then DIG crime branch DG Vanzaara for dropping the name of chief minister Narendra Modi in the killing. This indicates that the CBI is going to name Modi at a later date, when the Gujarat CM emerges as a strong contender to the post of PM. This will put Modi in an embarrassing situation in future and impact his chances of becoming the

PM, if BJP emerges stronger after the assembly elections in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan scheduled later this year.

In fact, senior congress leader Digvijaya Singh has raised some very important questions and said that the CBI, the IB and the NIA are speaking in different voices on the Ishrat Jahan encounter in reference to what Lashkar-e-Tayiba operative David Headley said or did not say. He has asked the home ministry to clarify. The BJP too underlines that this clarification is very much needed. The BJP also asked the Home Ministry to come clear on whether a paragraph in the NIA report on LeT operative David Headley's confession was removed. There are reports that Headley had said Ishrat Jahan was a LeT operative and this confession has been deleted from the NIA document. "What prompted this change? What was the para which was removed?"

Naturally, Modi is justified in launching a campaign against CBI being misused by the Congress to beat its political opponents. The CBI is welcome to investigate any case, but it is not supposed to play the ball of the ruling party and tarnish the image of the opposition leaders. The CBI could have completed the Ishrat Jahan case in the last nine years, if not now. But in view of several doubts emerging from other Police establishments like the IB and NIA, it would be better if the CBI restrains itself in going over board just to please their political masters. ♦

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Marine Biodiversity For a Healthy Globe

By Jaywant Naidu

Biodiversity is the degree of variation of life forms within a given species, eco-system, biome, or planet. Terrestrial biodiversity tends to be the highest at low latitudes near the equator, which seems to be the result of the warm climate and high primary productivity. Marine bio-diversity tends to be highest along coasts in the Western Pacific, where sea surface temperature is highest and in mid-latitudinal band in all oceans. Biodiversity generally tends to cluster in hotspots, and has been increasing through the time but will be likely to slow in the future.

Rapid environmental changes typically cause mass extinctions. One estimate is that 1% - 3% of the species that have existed on Earth are extinct. Since life began on Earth, five major mass extinctions and several minor events have led to large and sudden drops in biodiversity. The Phanerozoicon (the last 540 million years) marked a rapid growth in bio-diversity via the Cambrian explosion—a period during which the majority of multi-cellular phyla first appeared. The next 400 million years included repeated, massive biodiversity losses classified as mass extinction events. In the Carboniferous, rainforest collapse led to a great loss of plant and animal life. The Permian, 251 million years ago, was the worst; vertebrate recovery took 30 million years. The most recent, the Cretaceous - Paleogene extinction event, occurred 65 million years ago and has often attracted more attention than others because it resulted in the extinction of the dinosaurs. The period since the emergence of humans has displayed an ongoing biodiversity reduction and an accompanying loss of genetic diversity. Named the Holocene extinction, the reduction is caused primarily by human impacts, particularly habitat destruction.

Conversely, biodiversity impacts human health in a number of ways, both positively and negatively. The ocean constitutes over 90% of the habitable space on the planet. An estimated 50 - 80% of all life on earth is found under the ocean surface. By the year 2100, without significant changes, more than half of the world's marine species may stand on the brink of extinction. Today 60% of the world's major marine ecosystems that underpin livelihoods have been degraded or are being used unsustainably. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are essential to conserve the biodiversity of the oceans and to maintain productivity, especially of the fish stocks. World Heritage marine sites represent in surface area one third of all marine protected areas. Approximately 12% of the land area is protected, compared to roughly 1% of the World Ocean and adjacent seas. Tiny phytoplankton provides 50% of the oxygen on earth and form the basis of the ocean

food chain up to fish and marine mammals, and ultimately human consumption.

Ocean acidification may threaten plankton, which is the key to the survival of larger fish. If the concentration of atmospheric CO₂ continues to increase at the current rate, the ocean will become corrosive to the shells of many marine organisms by the end of this century. Ocean acidification may render most regions of the ocean inhospitable to coral reefs, affecting tourism, food security, shoreline protection, and biodiversity. Coral reefs are the nurseries of the oceans, they are biodiversity hot spots. On some tropical coral reefs, for example, there can be 1,000 species per m². Today, fisheries provide over 15 percent of the dietary intake of animal protein. Commercial overexploitation of the world's fish stocks is so severe that it has been estimated that up to 13 percent of global fisheries have 'collapsed.'

Agricultural practices, coastal tourism, port and harbour developments, damming of rivers, urban development and construction, mining, fisheries, aquaculture, and manufacturing, among others, are all sources of marine pollution threatening coastal and marine habitats. Excessive nutrients from sewage outfalls and agricultural runoff have contributed to the number of low oxygen (hypoxic) areas known as dead zones, where most marine life cannot survive, resulting in the collapse of some ecosystems. There are now close to 500 dead zones covering more than 245,000 km² globally, equivalent to the surface of the United Kingdom. Coastal systems such as mangroves, salt marshes and sea grass meadows have the ability to absorb, or sequester, carbon at rates up to 50 times those of the same area of tropical forest. Total carbon deposits in these coastal systems may be up to five times the carbon stored in tropical forests. Between 1980 and 2005, 35,000 square kilometers of mangroves were removed globally. Between 30 and 35 percent of the global extent of critical marine habitats such as sea grasses, mangroves and coral reefs are estimated to have been destroyed. Technological change, and the emergence of new economic opportunities, such as deep sea mining, more intensive fishing, and deeper oil and gas drilling increase risks to areas that historically were not under threat.

Marine Biodiversity in India:

The UK based Whitley Fund for Nature has decided to extend financial support to Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) India's marine biodiversity conservation programme in the Andaman and Nicobar

islands. The word "National Park" brings to mind pictures of large mammals and tropical forests for most of us. India has a mainland coastline of 6000 km. If we add islands as well it will stretch much more. Coastal regions contribute significantly to India's bio diversity. Marine National Park in the Gulf of Kutch is one of the very few of its kind in India. It is located in the southern part of Gulf of Kutch in Jamnagar district (Gujarat). It consists of several islands and is filled with sandy beaches, coral reefs and mangroves. Pirotan Island is the best known of the lot. Narara is one of the beaches covered by the National Park. It is about 60 km away from Jamnagar. When the tide recedes, it leaves behind a long stretch of shallow waters brimming with marine life. Starfish, Seahorse, different types of corals, Puffer fish that inflates itself to a balloon form when in trouble, Octopus are all part of the area. Here, corals have some very interesting formations. Brain coral and moon coral are the ones which need special mention. Brain coral has a shape and surface which are exactly like that of human brain.

International Census of Marine Microbes:

India is a member of the International Census of Marine Microbes, a project of the Census of Marine Life (Census), and has been able to apply 454 tag sequencing technology to select samples from mangrove, beach, continental slope, seamounts, and deep-sea ecosystems. The results of these surveys include enumeration of 44 different phyla in mangroves and 35 in beach sediments; high abundance (83% to 88%) of Proteobacteria of the microbial community in the continental shelf, seamount, and CIOB sediments; and near-total dominance by Erythrobacter, an Alpha-proteobacterial member of the aerobic anoxygenic phototrophic lineage that has been detected in many hydrothermal and oligotrophic systems, of the bacterial community in pelagic red clay sediments of the Central Indian Ocean Basin. Microbial surveys, done as part of the Census project Biogeography of Deep-Water Chemosynthetic Ecosystems, showed relatively higher abundance of nitrifiers and manganese- and cobalt-tolerant bacteria, synchronizing with relatively high methane and metal concentrations at potential locations along the Carlsberg and North Central Indian Ridges.

Let's respect the nature and strive to stop extinction of the existing species which balances the biodiversity on planet earth and help human existence longer. ♦

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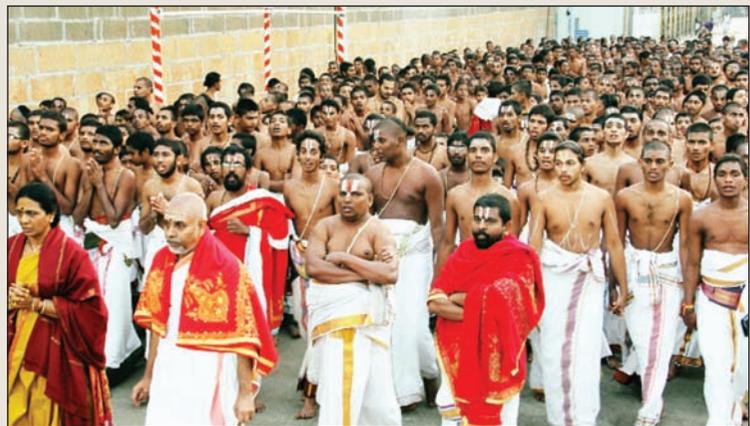
TTD to Construct Veda Pathasala in Nalgonda

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has sanctioned a 'Veda Pathasala' for Nalgonda district headquarters. The decision was taken by the TTD authorities following requests made by the district collector N Mukteshwar Rao. The TTD officials visited a three-acre site near Chaya Someshwara Aalayam, Panagal in Nalgonda town and decided upon the same for the construction of school. In the meantime, the Veda Pathasala will commence its activities at Srisailem left bank canal circle - 2, engineer quarters at Panagal. The estimated cost of the construction is Rs 1 crore which was sanctioned by the TTD. The Veda



Pathasala will admit 50 students. The Vedic school is inviting application from the eligible candidates from Wednesday. The applicant shall submit an application with details like name of the student, caste, father's name, occupation, residential address, name of the course applied, whether Upanayam was performed etc. The experts from the TTD will conduct interviews and select candidates for admission in to the school.

The TTD will also deposit an amount of Rs 3 lakh per student admitted into the school. The amount along with the bank interest will be given to the student after completion of the course.



The students who wish to join Veda Pathasala should have been born from July 1st 2001 to June 30th, 2003. He/she should have completed ten years of age and completed class 5. The TTD will deposit an additional Rs 1 lakh per student for the students joining in Smartha and Agama courses. The students will be given the money after completion the course. Students with a class 7 qualification and born between July 1st, 1999 to June 30th, 2001 are eligible for the program. The interested candidates may report in the office of Mahila Pranganam located at Ramnagar of Nalgonda town along with their academic credentials for interview from July 4th onwards.

ASTRO FOCUS

July 07-13, 2013

Aries: This week you should use your extra energy to finish pending jobs. A certain project that you have been associated with for long will be completed successfully this week. Foreign transactions expected to yield good returns. Your valuable advice will help a needy person. You'll manage to deal with all the various tasks. Relationship with beloved/spouse would improve and you would get to spend some memorable time together.

Taurus: Stability at work will be achieved after a great deal of hard work. Money gains from unexpected sources likely to boost up your spirits. You should try to make concerted efforts to control your expenditure. Focus your attention on domestic issues and look after the needs of others. In your professional life you will now increase your sphere and scope of activities.

Gemini: You are likely to experience a mixed bag of results during this week. Now is the opportune time to go independent in your work or business. You will become very ambitious and keep trying various directions for a possible change. This week your mind would be engrossed in new money making ventures. Romance would rule your heart this week as you find immense pleasure in the arms of your beloved.

Cancer: There will be couple of fortunate changes in life. Commitment may come this week. Financially, your position will be sound and better than you had expected. You may learn new technique to enhance your profit in a proper way. Students will do well in their educational accomplishments. Open and honest conversation will be essential to maintain a healthy relationship with your beloved.

Leo: This is likely to be a remarkable period for your business and career and you will get several opportunities to surge ahead. Looking for small part-time projects to increase your earning ability will definitely bring good results. Businessmen will get a rare opportunity during the week. Those of you, who had been suffering from general weakness, will find relief in this week.

Virgo: Opportunity to start a new venture with quick financial gains is likely. There shall be an increase in the resources of material comforts. Your career and your earning ability will also take an upward climb and your position will strengthen amongst your peers. Good surprises will keep you in a delightful mood, mostly concerning the love of your life.

Libra: Although it will be a hectic and tiring week yet you will be extremely pleased with your achievements. Several different pals may request favors or have some issues that seem 'similar' for some reason. You will evince interest in religious and spiritualism. You will be generous and enjoy the pleasure of giving.

Scorpio: You will be out of past restrictions and make a fresh start. You will have better controls over finances from now and on. Your authorities and responsibilities are likely to register an increase. Students preparing for their exams will need to put in extra effort to achieve the desired results. A casual conversation can be the stepping stone to a more meaningful relationship as this week begins.

Sagittarius: It is the proper time to use your influence and get the things done. Sudden good news brings happiness and lifts your morale. Financial condition will improve with the help of associates. Work in co-operation with others to minimize the risk in your business. This is a favorable week for those appearing for tests or interviews. Excellent cooperation is in store from your Love/spouse.

Capricorn: The employed seeking a change of job will receive a good proposal. Success and honour received through your own efforts will make you self-confident and proud of your achievements. Travel will be important for strengthening ties. Routine works will be done normally. Spouse will be caring and provide you with love and affection.

Aquarius: This is a good week for making important decisions. The work assigned to you during this week could be a test of your expertise and knowledge. Some of the naives will be in a position to solve the outstanding problems. Opportunities for new and exciting relationship will be yours if you go out and socialize.

Pisces: You will be more confident and take decisions wisely. People in business will be concerned about growing competition. Some of the natives may be blessed with a position with authority. Personal life will be a source of joy with all sharing common interests and mutual love and respect.

SUDOKU 277

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

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-276

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

Answer 276 : G Yadgiri, Jiyaguda

Laugh out loud

Sonchana padega

Santa : Soch Raha Hu Ki USA Ghumaun,
Kitna Paisa Lagega?
Banta : Kuch B Nahi
Santa : Kaise?
Banta : Sochne K Liye Paise Nahi Lagte
Khushbu Wala Message..
Santa: Yaar ye "SENT MESSAGE" Kya hota he?
Banta: Ghochu, Saale, Bevkuif, Tune Hi Srdaro Ka Nam Kharab Kia He. Sent Message Matlab "Khushbu Wala Message.."

No Change

Santa: Agar nariyal ke ped pe chad jaun to..
engineering college ki ladkiyan dikh jayegi

Banta: Pir hath chod dena, to medical college ki bhi dikh jayegi.
3 Months Babay
Santa ki shaadi ke 3 mahine baad hi beta ho gaya.
Santa: Ye 3 mahine mein bacha kaise ho gaya?
Biwi: Aapki shadi ko kitna time hua hai?
Santa: 3 mahine.
Biwi: Aur meri shadi ko?
Santa: 3 mahine.
Biwi: Aur bachcha kitne time baad hua?
Santa: 3 mahine baad.
Biwi: Total kitne mahine ho gaye?
Santa: Ohh teri vakai, 9 mahine ho gaye! time ka pata hi nahi laga?
Santa ke lips jale hue the
Santa ke lips jale hue the

Banta: Kaise jale
Santa: Wife ko railway steation drop krne gaya tha.
Banta: To?
Santa: Khushi ke mare.
Train ke engine ko choom liya
Small Peg
Doctor: Kaise Aana Hua?
Santa: Doc Sab, Tabiyat theek nahi hai, Liver mein Pain ho raha hai
Doc: Daroo Peete ho??
Santa: Haan, Par Chhota Peg hi Banana..
Santa Want To Get Married.
He Gave a Ad in Newspaper.
WIFE WANTED
Next Day He Got 1000 of Letters
Saying "PLEASE TAKE MY WIFE"

India - The Land of Rhythms

Australian Drummer and Percussionist Ben Walsh were in Hyderabad to perform at the Hard Rock Cafe. He spoke to Deccan Post about the 'Rhythms' in his life.

Can we know your initial days in music?

As a student of Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, I studied dance, drama and music. In the year 1994, I formed the popular trio Pablo Percusso and toured throughout Australia and internationally in the US, Canada and Singapore. Then I joined the Japanese Taiko drumming group Taikoz and worked for 6 years with Ian Cleworth and master drummer Eitetsu Hayashi; extensively training in the Wadaiko drum form and performing in Japan.

What are the other areas of creativity for you?

I moved into composing music and sound design. I composed numerous short film and modern dance scores, earning a nomination for Best Score at the prestigious Green Room Awards in Melbourne 2007.

Who are the important musicians with whom you have collaborated?

I have been doing lot of percussion performances with percussionist Bobby Singh and we formed two music groups 'Dha' and 'Circle of Rhythm'. We have played with well-known artists such as Billy Cobham, Ernest Ranglin and Airto Moreira. I and Bobby travelled to India several times for collaborations and performances in Mumbai, Delhi and Pune, which inspired the SBS documentary 'I Belong Everywhere', as part of the VIVA series, featuring our musical adventures.

Any other memorable performances?

My Orchestra 'Of the Underground', performed to a sold out audience at the Sydney Opera House when we gave a score to Shaun Tan's book 'The Arrival' as part of the 2010 Graphic Festival, with encore performances throughout the year 2011. I also composed the music for the sold out season of 'My Bicycle Loves You' for Sydney and Perth Festivals 2011 which was directed by

Patrick Nolan.

What's been unique about India?

India is the land of rhythms. Every child has immense talent. When I visited the Dharavi slums in Mumbai, I was amazed to see each child and their rhythmic talents.

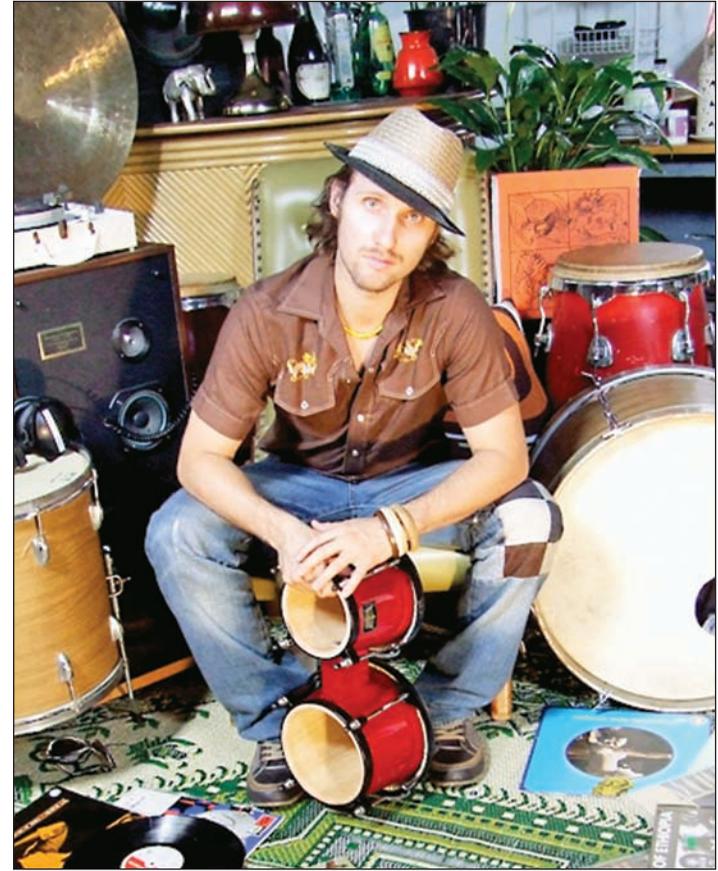
What makes you so different from the traditional drummer and why?

There was a time when the techno and electronic music completely dominated the music scene in Australia. Most traditional musicians found themselves out of place and had hardly any work. This is the time when I started to accept technology in my music and today it's become a very unique combination. I say it's 'Out of the Box Music'.

And how many instruments do you play?

Well, right from Drums to Guitar. But more than that, I enjoy playing percussions on anything from pipes to barrel drums. ♦

- JAYWANT NAIDU
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Rakhi Sawant's bold advise to Salman

The Queen of controversy Rakhi Sawant who has vanished somewhere since her last appearance in a reality show has commented about the Shahrukh Khan's third baby through surrogacy topic! Though Shahrukh earlier said that this matter is 'personal and confidential' to him, Rakhi is extravagantly outspoken about the huge news. She said, "So many people have gone in for surrogacy. Even Aamir Khan has a surrogate child. I am proud of SRK, I salute him for this decision. It's a big thing. The couple must be having a personal problem that is why they opted for surrogacy."

If that wasn't enough, she took a swing at the third khan, Salman Khan too! She said, "I think even Salman Khan should go for surrogacy. He hasn't got his true love. He got it once and lost her. But if he doesn't want to marry ever, then this is the best way to still get a child." She further added, "If I don't marry ever, even I will become a surrogate mother." Rakhi Sawant who's very well known for her motor-mouth is back in the news again and let's see if Salman actually takes her comments seriously unlike us!



Tamanna is confirmed!

Till the day shooting starts, we cannot take anything granted for any movie. We have seen the likes of Samantha who got kicked out of Yevadu for creative reasons and many expected the same with our milky beauty to. But she did it finally.

Many fans and cine lovers are wishing to see the pair of Superstar Mahesh and milky beauty Tamanna together on silver screen. But that failed to happen two times, once for Businessman and twice for One-Nenokkadine. Anyway, Sreenu Vytla is keen on roping Tamanna for 'Aagadu' for some time, but later he too started searching for a new face in Mumbai. Turning the tables around, Milky Beauty was confirmed as the lead girl of this flick the other day and it is heard that an agreement was also signed. So, get ready to watch Milky-Milky combo together on silver screen.

Reports have that Tamanna has ditched her Tamil plans to adjust call sheets for Mahesh Babu's movie after she got confirmation call. After tip-toeing here and there for a while, she took the call of taking Milky Hero in Tollywood.

-DP Desk



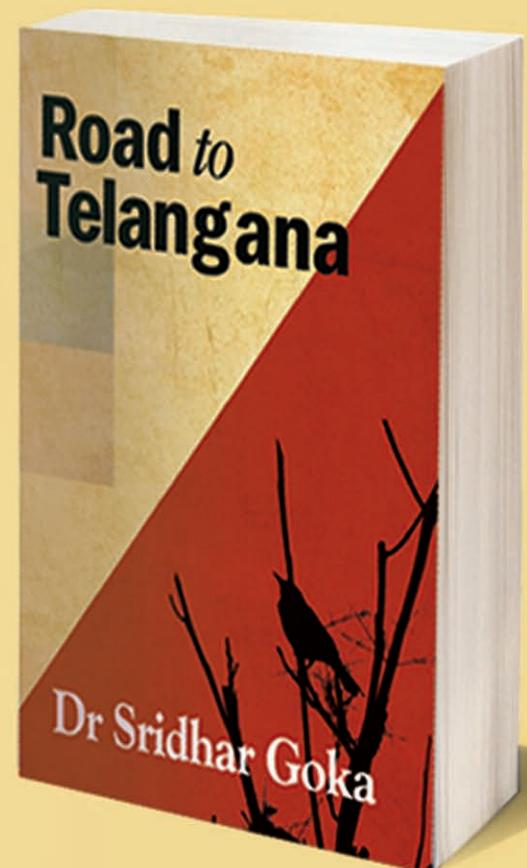
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Stocks recovering globally

By V Sundar Raja

The stock market indicator Sensex saw a strong recovery from lower levels, as the American and global stock markets witnessed a sharp uptrend due to positive macro-economic indicators. Indian market recovered after a previous bearish spell due to value buying as many

of the frontline stocks which were beaten down earlier now look attractive. Speculators too took fresh short-term buying positions on anticipation of positive news. However, the foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were seen cautious and their actions can determine the next major trend of the market.

Market is also building hopes that the RBI (Reserve Bank of India), may reduce the banking interest lending rates in its next meeting in this month. The next quarterly financial results of the corporate performance would be starting from next week. This is now expected to be a major determining factor for the market's next major trend. These results would be started off with the software giant Infosys, which could be a major trigger for the market's direction as well as the software sector trend.

The current market rally is led by the software stocks, which is primarily due to the appreciation in the American Dollar as against the Indian Rupee, which is expected to benefit



the exporters. The frontline Pharma stocks too were seen in an ascending trend, while the market leaders banking stocks were seen stabilizing after an earlier bearish trend. In-case of any positive development in the forthcoming RBI monetary policy, the banking stocks too can lead the market's next

leg of the rally.

The Rupee is still weak against the Dollar and continues to remain firm even at the major level of 60, which is also a major worry for the stock market. The crude oil continues to move up strongly and has surged strongly in the last few days from 5,600 to 6,100 in the

commodity market. This has now become a major concern and it has to decline for a positive effect on the stock market.

The leading base metals like the Copper, Aluminum, Lead, Nickel, and Zinc have all extended their gains after a previous consolidation. The precious metal Gold has declined sharply but it is seen taking support at the major support level of 25,000 in the MCX commodity market in the last three months. A minor recovery is expected from these levels. Similarly, another precious metal Silver remains in weak trend and continued its losses and is seen consolidating at the current levels of 40,000.

Sensex is now closer to the next major psychological barrier of 20,000, where it could not sustain in the last few months. Technically, on the charts, the index has to sustain above this key barrier levels, to indicate an uptrend. The mid-cap and small -cap stocks are still cautious and have not much of a participation in the current minor recovery. Major technical support below is seen at 19,000 and only in-case of any failure to sustain above this key barrier, and then it indicates a short-term correction, for the 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?

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

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