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Telangana is Clear but Rayalaseema is the Hitch?

Who wants R-state?

Ever since, the Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde announced the convening of All Party meeting to resolve the issue of statehood to Telangana region; the entire state of Andhra Pradesh has focused its attention on the happenings in Delhi. The all-party meeting was convened by the union home minister on 28th December, 2012. All the eight political parties invited by the home minister attended the meeting. The home minister Shinde immediately after the meeting stated that the meeting went on in a cordial manner. All the eight political parties (BJP, CPI, CPM, Congress, TDP, TRS, MIM and the YSCRP) were represented by their senior party functionaries presented their respective party's stand. The home minister stated that the union government will take a decision on bifurcation of the state within a month's time i.e. by 28th January. The congress party which is ruling at the centre has a decisive role to play. The Prime Minister, The Defense Minister AK Antony, The Home Minister Shinde, The Finance Minister P Chidambaram and the two other ministers Ghulam Nabi Azad and Vayalar Ravi are all deeply involved in the core committee meetings to take stock of the Telangana issue. The indications were suggestive of state bifurcation but suddenly or rather by design the state is appearing to be heading for trifurcation. Will the state of Telangana become a reality for all its struggles?



By Our Political Correspondent

It is reliably learnt that the Congress high command has almost arrived at a decision to grant Telangana state. An official announcement on this is expected anytime from now. The Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde informed the media on 28th December last year that he was satisfied with the views expressed by various parties who attended the All-party meeting convened by the union home minister in New Delhi to take a decision on granting statehood to Telangana region in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Shinde, the union home minister also added that; there was no need for further consultations with any political party and that the union government would take a month's time to announce its decision on the unabated movement demanding statehood for Telangana going on for years. The atmosphere back home is tense and people of Telangana region are eagerly waiting for a positive decision on state division while all those who are opposed

to the formation of Telangana state are anxiously hoping that no decision is made in hurry hurting their interests. According to reliable sources; the union home minister Shinde is likely to make a

formal announcement on 27th (Sunday), hours before his departure to Bangladesh on an official visit. Or if his tour is postponed, he may make a formal statement on January 28th Monday, at the

expiry of one month deadline he himself fixed for taking a decision on Telangana, after the December 28th all-party meeting convened by him in Delhi. Otherwise, any other minister of state for home or the home secretary might make an announcement or at least make a statement seeking more time to take a decision on Telangana in the rare event Shinde not being available.

Whatever may be the timing of the outcome, one thing is clear that a decision has been taken by the Congress high command to grant Telangana. The only thing is when and how it would be announced to people of the country. As some Congress leaders averred, the party high command might take a few more days to spell out its stand.

Besides the volatile situation in both the regions of Andhra Pradesh, the Congress high command is also constrained by another important factor before announcing formation of



R-State: Byreddy joins the bandwagon

In the midst of resolving agitation for separate Telangana state that is experiencing vehement opposition from the Seema and Andhra regions in the present Andhra Pradesh state; there is one more entrant into the spicy drama that is going on for years. The Rayalaseema Parirakshana Samiti founder Byreddy Rajasekhar Reddy, who is a two time former TDP MLA from Kurnool district in Rayalaseema state, stated that the Centre should take a decision on separate Rayalaseema state along with the formation of Telangana state.

While, the Telangana leaders and Samaikyandhra representatives were lobbying on controversial statehood issue for the last few days, Byreddy Rajasekhar Reddy on Thursday met Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde in his chamber in New Delhi and briefed him about the aspirations and sentiments of Rayalaseema people. The Rayalaseema Parirakshana Samiti leader had represented to the union home minister that people of

Rayalaseema region were not ready to be a part of any other part of the divided state, if bifurcation is occurred.

"We have already been reeling under problems with backwardness in the development even in the united state because of drought, poor irrigation facilities and industrial resources. There is no need of being part of any other state," he stated.

Byreddy Rajasekhar Reddy said that he had submitted a representation detailing the backwardness of region, including suggestions of Justice Sri Krishna Committee that had stated that Seema was most backward area in the state during its visit on separate statehood issue. The ongoing agitations and disturbances had badly hit the development of all the regions in the state, Byreddy said and asked the home minister to resolve the issue at the earliest in the given deadline. "Prolonging this issue by entertaining lobbying of the leaders from various regions would send wrong signals," the RPS leader said. Some observers are of



the view that ever since late YSR began patronizing Gouru Venkat Reddy, who was emerging as a rival to Byreddy in Nandikotkuru constituency; Byreddy and his father who were earlier close to late YSR began distancing themselves

from late YSR. Now that Jagan has floated his own party; Gouru Venkat Reddy has joined YSRCP and is now the party president of Kurnool district. It seems Byreddy has plans to join congress and play a key role.

Telangana. That is the fate of Rayalaseema region. By now, many among the leaders of Rayalaseema have made it clear that if the state of Andhra Pradesh is split and Telangana is formed, they would not remain with the Coastal Andhra.

"There is no question of us remaining with the Coastal Andhra as some are calling it Seema-Andhra or go with Rayala-Telangana. We want to be separated from both of them too and want a separate state," is what Medium Irrigation Minister TG Venkatesh told "Deccan Post" this week. Not only Venkatesh, many other Rayalaseema leaders are of the same opinion on their future.

So, now the Congress and the Centre are worried over on what to do with Rayalaseema region that has four huge districts. Should they keep it as part of Andhra or split its four districts and merge two of them in Telangana (Kurnool and Anantapur), calling it just Telangana

and add the two Kadapa and Chittoor districts to coastal Andhra or grant all together a separate Rayalaseema state that has 52 assembly seats and eight Lok Sabha seats? These are the political concerns and issues that are delaying the finalization of Telangana state.

Sources in Delhi told DECCAN POST that the issue of Rayalaseema is holding up an announcement on Telangana. The union home ministry too has sought details of the ongoing agitation by rebel TDP leader Byreddy Rajasekhara Reddy who is championing the cause of separate Rayalaseema state. Of course, some in Anantapur district want their district to be clubbed with Karnataka state in the event of state division.

Understandably, Rayalaseema leaders are not ready to sail with Coastal Andhra for many reasons. Their brief experience as one state between 1953 and 1956, with Kurnool as their state capital proved that Andhra leaders are shrewd and too

cunning to handle. It is often said that the nature of Rayalaseema leaders is straight, aggressive and open, whereas Andhra leaders appear soft and sweet but are ruthless schemers deep inside.

Moreover, Rayalaseema leaders knew well that it is very easy to do business with Telangana people who are also simple and open minded like themselves. Whether it is river water sharing or highways or power, the future Rayalaseema will have a greater stake, if they remain as a separate state, instead of being a part of Andhra especially in river water sharing.

Another factor that is threatening Rayalaseema leaders is the possible domination of Andhra leaders in future political set up, as the latter will have 9 districts as against their 4 districts. "Our leaders can become CMs in combined Andhra Pradesh, but not in Andhra state as coastal Andhra people will have more MLAs," explained TG Venkatesh. The Coastal Andhra region has 17 MP seats in

the Lok Sabha and 123 assembly seats.

Sonia's game plan:

Congress President Sonia Gandhi's first priority would be to divide Andhra Pradesh into two states – Telangana and Andhra, and then again create a new state of Rayalaseema. This suits her as formation of Rayalaseema can checkmate her two arch rivals – Jagan and Chandrababu Naidu, both from Rayalaseema to that state only. Then Congress will have better scope to come to power in both Telangana and Andhra (minus Rayalaseema).

Even if Jagan comes to power in Rayalaseema, his home turf, he will be left with a smaller state of four districts and less than 60 assembly seats and eight MPs. Similarly, Chandrababu Naidu too will be limited to Chittoor, a part of Rayalaseema and cannot become the CM either in Telangana or Andhra, which reduces his political shelf life in the regional politics.



Meanwhile, the opposition of Seemandhra congress leaders, towards Telangana state too will suit the interests of Congress high command. The more they visibly agitate for keeping Andhra Pradesh united, the more it benefits Congress in Seemandhra. Sonia Gandhi wants the same. As already, Congress MPs are very aggressive for Telangana state in Telangana, the party high command desires its leaders to turn very active in Seemandhra too.

As Congress leaders will be active and be visible in the forefront of both separate and united state agitations, the credit for spearheading these movements will automatically go to the party only. And if they win, the party benefits. For example, whether Madhu Yashki wins in Nizamabad or a Lagadapati Rajagopal wins in Vijayawada, it is Congress which will be the beneficiary.

Meet at Rajahmundry:

Presently, YS Jaganmohan Reddy, heading the YSRCP is in the forefront as the champion of united AP in Seemandhra regions. After Chandrababu Naidu gave a letter in support of T-state to the all-party meeting convened by the union government, Jagan has become the undisputed leader in Seemandhra regions. Sonia Gandhi wants to cut his advantage and therefore directed Congress leaders from this region to take lead in



Samaikyandhra agitation also.

This is the reason for Rajahmundry MP Undavalli Arun Kumar's meeting on Friday in his home town against Telangana. PCC president Botsa Satyanarayana and key MPs like KVP Ramachandra Rao, JD Seelam and Lagadapati Rajagopal attended the meeting. Now, Seemandhra leaders are planning many such meetings in their region. The AICC general secretary looking after AP affairs Ghulam Nabi Azad has been exhorting congress leaders in the Seemandhra region to go to the people at any cost and attract the attention of the people. It is reliably learnt that the congress high command suspects the loyalty of several senior leaders who are all known to be in constant touch with Jagan. The man who is most suspected by the party leadership happens to be

KVP Ramchander Rao, who is known for his die-hard loyalty for late YSR and his family. The party leadership is known to be closely watching the movements of several ministers in the state cabinet who are either with KVP or Kiran. The funniest thing is that the congress high command being suspicious about the chief minister of the state. Every policy decision of Kiran Sarkar are being carefully watched and analyzed. Two TV channels that are said to be purchased by the kith and kin of the chief minister are being constantly monitored for self promotion and abuse of party high command.

While encouraging Seemandhra Congress leaders in their region, Sonia Gandhi's trusted lieutenants are also suggesting to the party MPs in Telangana to be more aggressive in their region. This way, Congress leaders will

be ahead of the two agitations. Once Congress is positioned as the champion of both separate Telangana and Samaikyandhra agitations, State of AP could be split to form three states - Telangana, Andhra and Rayalaseema.

All this will not take a longer time. At the most, this job will be done in the next one or two months, so that the party can gear up for next elections. Now, all eyes are focused on the union home minister who set himself a deadline to announce the long pending decision on Telangana. Time is indeed running out. There is no luxury for the congress high command to delay its decision. Decision is inevitable - let's wait and watch what it is? ♦

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No place for Gandhi?

By B Shivkant

Today in Hyderabad there is no respect for the Father of the Nation. No place for the greatest patriot and the supreme freedom fighter to rest in peace. There is no place for the saint who proved the strength of non-violence and non-cooperation to the world. The sad thing being the leader of the Indian freedom movement needing permission from an Office boy turned MIM MLA from Charminar for installation of his statue in the Andhra Pradesh Legislature. Is it not a shameful thing for the Hyderabadis? Gandhians are heartbroken and unable to digest the derogatory statements made by Ahmed Pasha Quadri, Charminar MLA and General Secretary of MIM Party who publicly delivered a pathetic message recently. Many Gandhians are reminding that it was the great Mahatma Gandhi indeed, who advocated for the stay of Muslims in India at the time of partition in 1947. They are reminding how Gandhiji wanted Muslims to continue their stay in India even after the partition of Pakistan. They are reminding that India is the only country in the world where the partition took place in the name of religion. They are also reminding that its because of Mahatma



Gandhi who played a crucial role in enabling Muslim Personal Law to exist be practiced in India.

But today, the people who got lives and position just because of the stand taken by the Father of the nation long ago are abusing him

and saying that permission is required from them to install the statue of the great freedom fighter. Strangely and pathetically, the MIM President and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi who is a learned Barrister has not condemned till now the speech of his own party MLA. People are demanding an

unconditional apology from Ahmed Pasha Quadri for his remarks against the Father of the nation. On the other hand many people are of the opinion that Asaduddin should have condemned the malicious speech of Chandrayangutta MLA and Majlis Leader Akbaruddin Owasi, who happens to be younger brother of Asaduddin Owaisi. Everybody has seen how Akbar crossed all limits while making the seditious and venomous speech at Nirmal meeting. Being well qualified and knowing the law and moreover being the president of MIM party it's the responsibility of Asaduddin Owaisi to guide his party cadres and leaders in an appropriate manner in a democratic system. People expect that Asad would take disciplinary action against wrong doers by expelling them if necessary.

People who are holding responsible positions and members of legislature must and should know about the sacrifices made by the great freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the welfare of this country and respect them otherwise they will have to pay a huge price. ♦

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Spare the innocent people

Last week the extremity of protesting has crossed all the limits of humanity in Hyderabad when a mob pelted stones on a bus which was carrying passengers and was proceeding to Kurnool. There they have not stopped they forcibly stopped the Bus in Bahadurpura area of the South Zone by putting their two wheelers in front of the Bus and they boarded the bus just to set it on fire. In this devilish, pathetic, inhuman, unethical and condemnable act the Driver of the Bus brutally been attacked by the mob and the mob poured the petrol they bought with them and set the bus on fire. The mob did not stop there and as the flames were increasing the passengers travelling in the bus tried to get down from the bus but they have to stay there as the mob was hurling stones at them in which many of the passengers received serious injuries. The police has arrested

the goons and investigating the matter.

It is being heard that the mob attacked the Bus just to stage their protest against the arrest of MIM party president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi. Protests are a part and parcel of democracy but this inhuman kind of protest only landed them in jail and they are going to have a tough time ahead. The people are demanding stringent punishment for this kind of heinous crime against the fellow human beings as its an unforgivable offence and no religion allows or encourages such brutal aggression against the innocent people. The people from all walks of life are condemning this act and demanding stern punishment for the enemies of the humanity so that in future nobody should dare to think of attack innocent women, children and old aged citizens. ♦

B Shivkant



Is Hyderabad turning to be a lesser Patriotic city?

By Mahesh Malekar

Since few years, the youth of Hyderabad city are showing more interest in religious activities than patriotic activities. It has become routine affair in the historical city of Hyderabad to see the extreme religious passion. People carrying the flags of their respective religions whenever they are getting an opportunity and starts Naarebaji against other religion people. Any festival of any religion in Hyderabad can be felt just by seeing the flags every where. One should have respect towards his religion but should not find fault with other religion or other religious people and should have healthy respect towards all the components of the society. Every religion preaches patriotism to its followers even the Atheist people also respects the county they live in and feel proud to be its citizens. But ironically the Hyderabad youth is not keen or showing much interest in 26th January (Republic Day) or 15th August (Independence Day) which are considered to be as national festivals. When the Correspondent of Deccan Post travelled many parts of the city he shocked to see only religious flags but no Indian Tri-colour flag which is the pride of India and Indians. Is it not a shame on us? It's high time to encourage patriotism in the youth of this nation as they are the future of this great country otherwise people are of the opinion that it would not take much time for the foreign rulers coming back to India and make us slaves once again. ♦

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Rahul Gandhi's faulty start

The 127 year old Indian National Congress party might be celebrating the formal elevation of Rahul Gandhi to the post of Vice-president of the party, but people of the country are not so enthused. The Jaipur conclave 'Chintan Shivir' which was supposed to be a venue for the party to undertake soul-searching on many of its policies in recent times like allowing multi-brand FDI into retail sector, hiking petroleum prices, cash transfer, crimes against women, multi-crore scams and the skirmishes at the Pak border, and of course, resolving the Telangana statehood issue which has stalled all the development of AP state since several years.

But unfortunately, nothing of that sort has happened at the Chintan Shivir. The entire three day meeting was reflection of the coronation ceremony of scion from Gandhi-Nehru dynasty – the first day went in delegates demanding youth vested with leadership responsibilities, second day went by the Congress Working Committee meeting and endorsing the appointment of Rahul as the Vice – President of the AICC and the third day in congratulating the newly appointed Vice-President, over his 'acceptance speech'.

This is not unexpected of the congress party ever since it got habituated to the democratic dynastic culture. Sycophancy has got strongly rooted into the congress culture. Those who witnessed the AICC plenary in Hyderabad seven years ago, still remember how the delegates were hoarded into the meeting hours before the scheduled speech of Rahul Gandhi and how immediately after that

the venue wore a deserted look when others spoke on vital issues like economic or agriculture policy.

This is the typical style of functioning of the conscience keepers of the Gandhi-Nehru family. They never encourage any serious debate on any issue, except flattery of their members. Otherwise, how can one understand the plight of the country's Prime Minister literally paying standing ovation to commend the appointment of a Vice-president of his party? It clearly shows that; this Vice-president commands much bigger respect in the party than the prime minister who is appointed to head the union government.

Now, let us take a look at Rahul's performance within and outside the Parliament in the last nine years. Ever since he got elected as a MP from Amethi in 2004 Lok Sabha elections, Rahul was fancied as a man in waiting to take over the reins of union government. While, many still appreciate Rahul for not hankering after power even when it is offered to him on a platter; it baffles many as to why he is so shy to take responsibility, especially when there is a lot of expectation. His evasiveness is clearly visible in not accepting at least berth in the cabinet. A lot of people in the country have been clearly disappointed by him.

Rahul, who is 42 year old, is not a novice in politics. But, the sad reality is the way he is still struggling to speak or express his opinion confidently on any issue. He often makes a speech and disappears from the scene for



months together. He defended the India-US nuclear deal in the UPA-1 but never talked about it later. He mentioned about poor Kalavathi, a dalit woman in Maharashtra, but never bothered about the fate of that woman, who is still steeped in poverty and debt burden. When Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement was at its peak in UPA-2, Rahul suddenly turned up in the Lok Sabha and made a speech demanding Constitutional status to Lokpal. But sadly, he never followed it up with on this demand, leave alone talking about Lokpal after that. How can people be sure that this young man who is the second top leader in the congress party is serious about anything?

One thing is clear that - Sonia Gandhi is very much interested in making her son as the Congress president, and if possible the PM

after 2014 elections and there is nothing wrong about it too. For that, Sonia might have purposely sidelined her more charming daughter Priyanka Vadra Gandhi. In fact, Priyanka would have been a better bet for Congress in 2014, but Sonia seems to be strongly favouring 'patriarchy' in politics.

But, the beginning of the innings of Rahul Gandhi is not on a happy note. Immediately after his first meeting as VP of Congress at AICC office; the media witnessed the announcement of AICC general secretary Ghulam Nabi Azad that – "One month is not one month" for deciding on Telangana. If this is going to be the manner in which senior congress leaders function under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, then God alone can save his party. ♦

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Can they stop Telangana?

It seems the heat of Telangana turning to be intense as the deadline for announcement of Central Government is fast approaching. People of all the regions in Andhra Pradesh are eagerly waiting for a decision by Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde. The Telangana protagonists are struggling to achieve statehood for Telangana region on the other hand the leaders of Andhra and Rayalaseema regions are pressurizing the influential congress leaders in Delhi to keep the state united. It seems whoever opposing Telangana are feeling insecure about their investments and properties in Hyderabad and most of them are congress politicians. On the other hand the Telangana supporters are ready to stall the administration and go on a mass strike till the central government announces Telangana state. As you rightly opined in your last week's cover story that it's going to be a very crucial week ahead everyone has to agree with it. Lets see what is in store for the people of this state.

Prakash Rao, Bollaram

Danam: A minister or goon?

It seems the power is not being digested to many people and they are abusing the power which is conferred on them to administer a big state like Andhra Pradesh. No doubt, the people like Danam Nagender should be tried for his continuous goon like activities. Its pathetic to see that no action has been taken against Danam and most probably the weak policing system is being the obstacle to him to the book. Our police officials should not forget that Indian Constitution and Law is equal to each and every one irrespective of their status. In the past too no action has been taken against Danam. The city police should have initiated an enquiry into the allegations leveled by the Telangana activists. It's the high time that city police must prove their unbiased

and impartial stand and bring transparency in prosecuting the powerful politicians too. Otherwise the common man will think that punishment is for him only and not the people like Danam.

Rajshekhhar, Masab Tank

Referendum on Hyderabad....

These days the Telangana Rashtra Samithi President and Mahabubnagar MP KCR is acting like a child who does not know anything about the polity and the constitution of India. The leaders should not act irresponsibly and before making any statements they must check the provisions of law. There is no provision of Public Referendum in Indian constitution and till today no such referendums have taken place in India. These kind of foolish statements have already started a new discussion and debate and it will only delay the process of creating a new state. KCR must take tuitions

from experts to learn and understand the great Indian constitution and its functioning otherwise he will be facing a tough time in the near future.

T Venkatesh, Balanagar

Why such hush...

I am a regular reader of Deccan Post and I like Focus page very much because it contains a new issue every time and gives a different dimension to understand the things and ongoing happenings in the polity. Congress party is the oldest party in India and it governed the country for decades and the people of the nation are clueless about the mindset and attitude of congress party over Telangana issue. If the Union government wants to create a separate state then it should go ahead or if it does not want to give Telangana it should make its stand clear and should not create panic and tense in the people. Now it appears that congress party is going to pay a huge price for its inaction in the whole state of Andhra Pradesh.

Meena Reddy, E-mail

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



Twists and Turns for the T-state?



By Sridhar Goka

At a time when everyone is waiting for the decision of the union government over the formation of Telangana State all eyes are set on the new union home minister Sushil Kumar Shinde. However, there are many other new actors appearing on the screen at their will making their atrocious presence difficult to fathom. The union health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad who also happens to be the AICC General Secretary and in charge of the AP congress affairs is known for his oft repeated foot-in-the mouth remarks. But this time Azad, astonishingly entered the scene and suddenly and dramatically announced before the hungry media “the decision on Telangana is not simple. The time frame stated by the union home minister Susheel Kumar Shinde to announce the union government’s stand on Telangana is not enough. Azad further blurted out that ‘One month’s time stipulation sought by Shinde must not be misunderstood for 30 days... It could be less than that or more days than that’. These ridiculous outbursts were enough for the Telugu media channels to weave a web of stories. Expectedly, the stories ran like this... “congress at it again”; “the game of dilly-dallying begins afresh”; “the T-issue is now under cold storage”.

The reaction among the T-leaders was also on expected lines. The TRS slammed the congress for its betrayal yet again. Thankfully, the BJP, CPI, TDP, who have sought formation of T-state, remained rather

calm. The T-JAC desired to swing into action and announced its agitationist agenda. The Andhra congress leaders who are suspicious of their party high command’s true intentions however felt obligated to celebrate the instant mood. They hailed Azad’s statesmanship to the hilt. The meet at Rajahmundry organized by Undavalli Arun Kumar was used to slam T-agitations. The T-MPs reacted quite effectively. The

MP from Karimnagar, Ponnampaluri Prabhakar absolutely replied in kind. Not only he exposed the fallacies in Undavalli’s presentation; he in fact dared the Rajahmundry MP to defy the instructions of Sonia Gandhi

whose speech was ironically translated by none other than Undavalli Arun Kumar, wherein Sonia Gandhi categorically stated her commitment to grant statehood to people of Telangana. All said and done, the political atmosphere turned quite hot and this time the whole issue is being fuelled by none other than the congress high command. Many pertinently ask “can some one like Azad talk nonsense and rubbish without inviting the wrath of party leadership?” Therefore, it’s not wrong to assume that Azad indeed enjoys the confidence and mandate of the top leadership to talk and say what he says without caring for the image of colleagues like Shinde and Chidambaram. By informing the state chief minister Kiran Kumar Reddy about inevitable division of the state was Azad expecting him to keep quiet? It is said that the CM who hails from Chittoor in Rayalaseema shared the

info with hard core opponents of Telangana state. The result is the renewing of efforts to stop the formation of Telangana state by hook or crook. But, sadly, it appears the reasons for state division are more for political compulsions than honoring commitment made to the people of Telangana.

What choice can the congress make? Will it announce bifurcation of the state, straight away or does it have a skewed hidden agenda to achieve political mileage? In the prevailing circumstances, the congress high command does not have much of a choice. The congress high command knows all this. It has a definite and time bound agenda to unveil in the state of AP. Its biggest worry has been the emergence of a nuisance factor called “Jagan” transforming into a huge threat to the very congress establishment. The overambitious son of late YSR has become a thorn in the flesh for the congress top leadership. It perceives Jagan as somebody who is more troublesome for the congress party as a whole in the years ahead. The grand old party (127 years) is damn worried about a fledging political establishment called the “YSR Congress Party”. The congress leadership is scared about the growing strength of Jagan; who despite being haunted for his misdeeds of accumulating illegal wealth is seen as a crusader. Nothing can be said to have gone well for the congress in taming Jagan ever since he defied Sonia Gandhi to go on his marathon unending “Odarpu Yatras”. Now when general elections (April 2014) to Lok Sabha and state assembly are fast approaching with less than a year, the congress leadership is desperate to do something to salvage its position.

Many poll surveys have been indicating the steady support for the YSRCP through-out the state. According to one reliable estimate, the YSRCP is all set to get absolute majority and form its government in the state. The alliance with MIM is likely to assure considerable minority support for YSRCP in Seema-Andhra Districts as well.

The increasing possibility of Jagan’s coming to power in the state is making the congress go mad. That’s why the sudden announcement of convening an all-party meeting by the union home minister has come. The most crucial thing for the congress is to deflate Jagan’s mega political ambitions and ensure minimum damage occurs to the traditional vote bank of the congress party in the state. With Jagan hailing from Kadapa that is a part of Rayalaseema region, the congress seems to be keen on limiting Jagan to a relatively smaller political space possible. The dilemma for the congress is how to announce the R-state in the absence of vociferous demand. The congress dilemma is how to create R-state when the issue is not drawing anybody’s attention.

But as is known, anything is possible in politics. The keenness of congress to distance Jagan from Coastal Andhra (where late YSR is revered) is what making them push for three states. Though, the future of T-state formation amidst several twists and turns appears inevitable, the manner in which Rayalaseema region is going to attain statehood is all the more funny and interesting. It is to be seen if Hyderabad city will also be tinkered to appease the coastal Andhra congress leaders to proclaim strategic victory? ♦

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MSME - Engine of Economic Growth

By Jaywant Naidu

Worldwide, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have been accepted as the engine of economic growth and for promoting equitable development. The major advantage of the sector is its employment potential at low capital cost. The labour intensity of the MSME sector is much higher than that of the large enterprises. The MSMEs constitute over 90% of total enterprises in most of the economies and are credited with generating the highest rates of employment growth and account for a major share of industrial production and exports.

MSME in India today:

In India too, the MSMEs play a pivotal role in the overall industrial economy of the country. In recent years, the MSME sector has consistently registered higher growth rate compared to the overall industrial sector. With its agility and dynamism, the sector has shown admirable innovativeness and adaptability to survive the recent economic downturn and recession. As per available statistics (4th Census of MSME Sector), this sector employs an estimated 59.7 million persons spread over 26.1 million enterprises. It is estimated that in terms of value, MSME sector accounts for about 45% of the manufacturing output and around 40% of the total export of the country.

National entrepreneurship development institutes:

National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), NOIDA, National Institute of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NIMSME), Hyderabad. (Formerly - National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training (NISJET) Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, National Small Industries Corporation, MSME Development Institutes Tool Rooms, Central Footwear Training Centres, Agra & Chennai, Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, Process-cum-Product Development Centre, Agra, Electronics Service & Training Centre, Ram Nagar, Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai

Working group on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

Planning Commission constituted a Working Group on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Growth for the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), under the chairmanship of Secretary (MSME) with 46 members representing various Ministries/ Offices of Government of India, representatives of selected State Governments and Industry Associations, NGOs etc. in May, 2011. The terms of reference of the Group was, carrying forward the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Task Force

and suggest specific action plan and milestones to be achieved within the 12th Plan period. Further, the terms of reference of the Group also includes suggestions to address problems of Un-organized Sector and formulate proposals/schemes to facilitate overall growth of the MSME sector. The MSME sector of India is today at the gateway of global growth on the strength of competitive and quality product range. The Report of the Working Group on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Growth for 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) feels facilitation from the Government is required to minimize transaction costs of technology upgradation, market penetration, modernization of infrastructure etc. 11 Sub-Groups were constituted for detailed study of important focal areas to identify the bottlenecks and suggest facilitation needed to overcome them.

Recommendations were given on following thematic verticals:

- Finance, including credit.
- Infrastructure.
- Technology.
- Marketing & Procurement.
- Skill Development & Training.
- Institutional Structure

The Working Group has recommended a road map for projecting Khadi as well Village Industries as pure, ethnic and environment friendly products in the global market. Similarly, Coir sector has an enormous growth potential. This wonder fibre could be converted into high value products like geo-textiles and other green products. The recommendation of the Working Group is to promote value added coir products with required funding by the Government. The Group recommends retaining unique status of both the sectors and proposes separate allocation for them. The Approach Paper of the Planning Commission for the 12th Plan period mentions MSME Sector as the foundation for the overall manufacturing sector. Nurturing competitive MSMEs would help in absorbing new technologies and improving productivity in manufacturing sector, with stimulation of the growth of dynamic clusters as a key to such an approach. The Approach Paper also stresses on need for skilled human resources for competitive enterprises and linking Skill Development and training initiatives with industry requirements. It also stresses the importance of penetration of information and communication technology, which can enhance the overall competitiveness of the sector as well as the quality of governance. Further, it also recognizes the important role of innovation in spurring growth and unleashing potential of enterprises. Thrust on frugal innovation will result in generation of affordable and accessible products and services of global standards. The National Manufacturing Policy envisages increasing the sectoral share of Manufacturing in GDP to 25% over the next decade and generating additional 100 million jobs in manufacturing sector through an annual average growth rate of 12-14% in manufacturing sector. The MSME sector is the major base of manufacturing sector in India with its contribution of over 45% in overall industrial output. To achieve the ambitious targets of National Manufacturing Policy, the Working Group on MSME Growth looks forward to enhance the growth rate of the MSME sector substantially from the existing level of 12-13% growth rate per annum.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Pre-budget memorandum:

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has submitted its Pre-Budget Memorandum for the MSMEs, with the Government and other stakeholders. Requesting for a comprehensive package for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to unshackle their growth potential, CII has outlined a 10 point agenda for the MSME sector.

In its statement, CII came out strongly in favour of streamlining the policies and procedures for listing on SME Exchanges, synergizing relationship between the small, medium and the large industry and the implementation of the Public Procurement Policy, besides promoting FDI by NRIs in the MSMEs.

Recommending that Large Industry could be entitled to tax benefits subject to the transaction having been completed (including timely payment to the SME supplier, as per the payment terms & conditions, agreed upon between the buyer & the supplier), CII has also called for the extension of the applicability of the provisions of the Public Procurement Policy to the State Government Ministries, Departments and Public Sector Undertakings and its strict implementation by the Central Government Ministries, Departments and Public Sector Undertakings.

To mitigate the problem arising out of Delayed Payments to the MSMEs (and ineffectiveness of the current regulatory framework), CII is of the view that while data may be available, accessing it has been very difficult, considering they are embedded deep inside the PDF documents with the MCA. With the introduction of XBRL, this process can be streamlined. As a step towards effective implementation of this rule, there is a need to modify the reporting requirement of MSMEs by asking them to report receivables that they have from the large units. With XBRL data, the government can match the data and take immediate action signaling its concern towards MSMEs.

According to the CII agenda for MSMEs, creation of different kinds of funds is needed to promote different aspects of MSME. These include the Branding and Export Marketing Fund for MSMEs and Environment Friendly Technology Fund could be instituted to enhance the self-reliance on energy and also be responsible towards the environment. There is a need to help MSMEs to adopt such branding and technology focused approach. There is a need for policy guidelines to encourage FDI participation by NRIs in the SMEs sector - this would include automatic approval for 100% FDI from NRIs, and other promotional measures, including a single window clearance, across all subsectors within the MSMEs.

Among other measures, CII has recommended availability of industrial infrastructure through a corporation that would rent out facilities to MSMEs; withdrawal of Import Duty exemptions available to foreign suppliers of security features such as security thread; and reinstate the benefits till the policy period i.e. 31st March 2014 for the Articles made out of Vulcanized Rubber.

India inclusive innovation fund:

The government would be shortly setting up a Rs 5,500 crore 'India Inclusive Innovation Fund' with a view to encourage research and development activities in small and medium enterprises. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), which has taken the initiative in consultation with the National Innovation Council to set up the fund, has circulated a Cabinet note for consultations to the concerned ministries in this regard. The scheme would promote innovation which is aimed at improving the competitiveness and efficiency of small and medium enterprises. Of the total fund amount, 20 per cent funding would come from the government and the remaining from banks, financial institutions and multilateral agencies. The fund would be in two phases. The first tranche will have a corpus of Rs 500 crores and in the second phase the amount would be Rs 5,000 crores. MSMEs face challenges such as lack of access to finance, non-availability of collaterals and delayed realization of receivables. There are over 26 million MSMEs in the country that provide employment to around 60 million people. This fund will go a long way in mitigating the problems of this sector. ♦

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Ecstatic crowd witness Balaji Procession at Kumbh Mela

The procession of Utsavamurthis of Lord Venkateswara atop the specially designed Kalyana Ratham at the Maha Kumbha Mela this morning attracted huge crowds of devotees and pilgrims who were thrilled at the Darshan of Balaji away from Tirumala. The eight km long procession held for the first time in the Hindi belt was flagged off by the District Magistrate Rajasekhar at Central University. Its journey from Central University to Sangam (the confluence of Ganga and Yamuna) via Kutcheri road, civil lines, medical Chowraha, Geroge town, MP Marg, Shobatia Bagh, Parade, Kali sadak and Sangam was witnessed by large crowds of devotees. At every junction people mostly women offered harathis to the deities and sought blessings of the most sacred deity known to give boons to every one. The SSP of Allahabad K P Singh who participated in the procession up to the Sangam (confluence of Ganga and Yamuna) offered the most auspicious and prestigious Ganga Harathi to the deity. Later the procession continued its journey up to the Temple replica installed in the Sector-6 of the Mela

grounds for 3 kms. 'The gaiety and splendor of the specially decked Kalyana ratham of Lord Balaji along with its priests and the caravan of half a dozen vehicles showcased the grandeur of Lord Venkateswara's glorious following says the Public Relations Officer, Sri T Ravi.

The TTD Superintendent Engineer Sri Ramachandra Reddy, Sri Sheshadri Swamy, TTD OSD (rituals) and Public Relations Officer, Sri T Ravi led the procession from the front and walked through out the length of the journey. The complex of replica of the Tirumala temple of Lord Venkateswara at Sangam in Sector 6 will be ordained and cleaned up on te auspicious muhurtam on January 26 th. But it will be opened up for darshan only on January 27 th after the inauguration of the rituals and traditions by the TTD chairman Sri K Bapiraju and Executive Officer Sri L V Subramanyam ,said Sri Ravi.



He said the TTD has laid out a program to conduct daily rituals and pujas at the temple on Kumba Mela grounds as it is regularly conducted at Tirumala - Suprabatham (morning rituals) to Ekantha seva (Late night rituals, Cultural activities like Harikathas and Bhajanas will also be conducted by the Hindu Dharma Prachara Praishad dairy in the evening. Arrangements have also been made for distribution of Anna Prasadam (Pulihara) at the temple complex daily. A stall of the Publications division has also been set up for display cum sale of books, calendars, dairies and also Video and Audio CDs produced by the TTD.

SUDOKU 254

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

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-253

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

Answer 253 : S. Vasantha, Anandbagh

Laugh out loud

Nariyal ka Ped

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.

Imagination

Interviewer: Just imagine, you are in 8th floor,

It caught fire, How will you escape?

Santa: Its very simple, I will stop my imagination...!!

Suicide

Santa Suicide par speech de raha tha

"Suicide Paap hai

Zulm hai Gunah hai

Buzdili hai Pagalpan hai

Suicide karne se behtar hai insan khud ko

Goli maarle!"

Var Mango Vatsa

Santa ki tapsya se khush ho kar

bhagwan bole:

'VAR MANGO VATSA'

Santa: Prabhu!! jaisa aap soch rahe hai mein vaisa nahi hu..

'MUJHE VADHU CHAHIYE'

Wife Kidnapped

Kidnapper phone par:

Teri biwi mere kabze mein hai.

saboot ke taur par uski do ungliyan bhijwa di hain.

Santa: Sabut pakka nahi hai, Mundi bhej mundi.

ASTRO FOCUS

Jan 27 - Feb 02, 2013

Aries: Your practical and innovative nature helps you to build a new confidence with your business associates. Your financial position improves boosting your confidence and morale. Some of your higher officials will do a favor to you. You must be ready to change and break with unrewarding situations.

Taurus: A great week for those looking for a job in communication. Many interviews and opportunities are on the cards. You will attain good financial position this week but savings will take a dip because of some unexpected and unavoidable expenses. You may also derive the maximum benefit from the available opportunities. You definitely are in the mood for love, whether it's with your current partner or in pursuit of someone new.

Gemini: You would have to trying something new for this week. It would give you profit in your financial term. You will accept the most challenge quite gamely. Some misunderstanding may crop you with your family members. You will be able to get the blessings of elders. Several good professional opportunities are likely to come your way.

Cancer: Your work will give you satisfaction. Some of the natives may be able to recover long outstanding dues. Changes will happen for a good reason. Your inherit talents will come into lime light. You're going to have to face deep feelings to make romance work now. Your health will be better at the end of this week.

Leo: There will be average gains & good progress, due to your hard work. Income will be good & take a dip thereafter. Friends and relatives would do favours and you would feel very happy in their company. You may learn new technique to enhance your profit in a proper way. New opportunities to show your capabilities arise.

Virgo: Better career opportunities are expected as many chances received for personal growth in service. Your communication skill will be on all time high. With hard work and dedication you will achieve the desired results. You may likely to attend some function during the week where your status will get added to your honour. Open and honest conversation will be essential to maintain a healthy relationship with your beloved.

Libra: Your convincing power will have a deep impact and people will praise for your efforts. This week you would gather important information while interacting with eminent people. There may be difference of opinion with your Love/ spouse on one issue or other. It will be necessary that you take special care of your health and take extra rest this week.

Scorpio: This week you will find special joy in creative activities. On career front, you may get a change in your work spot. Keeping the peace, maintaining balance and making everyone as happy 'as can be expected' may occupy all your energy. Your sincerity and dedication towards your work would be appreciated. You will even use your recreation time in planning and preparing your next move.

Sagittarius: Your best advice will come from an unlikely source. Excitement over new projects and financial gains will energize you. Travel and related activities will bring both gains and pleasure. For some, a change in job may do a world of good. Time spent with partner could give you opportunity to make healthy relationship. Your tension might give some negative approach for your health.

Capricorn: This is the right time for major decisions on the professional front. Concentrate your efforts into career building activities. Competition will be high. For those who are unemployed will soon get a job opportunity. Be careful while driving and avoid any kind of confrontation. Romance would be in the air as you explore new friendship.

Aquarius: A stable period of growth and prosperity sees you shine with new confidence and enthusiasm. Good financial position is ahead. One way or another you'll gain a better rank in your career or your salary to be increased. Interacting with influential people would give you new confidence and lot of brilliant ideas. Students will get relief and new opportunity once the offer is changed.

Pisces: A positive week as you'll be able to effectively manage your finances and enjoy the pleasures which money offers you. Growth opportunities will develop through interaction with influential people. Financial gains are likely especially for those in creative line. Your leadership qualities would be highly appreciated. Connecting to a person through an organization is one way to combine community service with your social life.

Women independence in society

John Chirchir, Regional Marketing Manager, Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) was in Hyderabad. He spoke about tourism in Kenya.

What makes you come to Hyderabad?

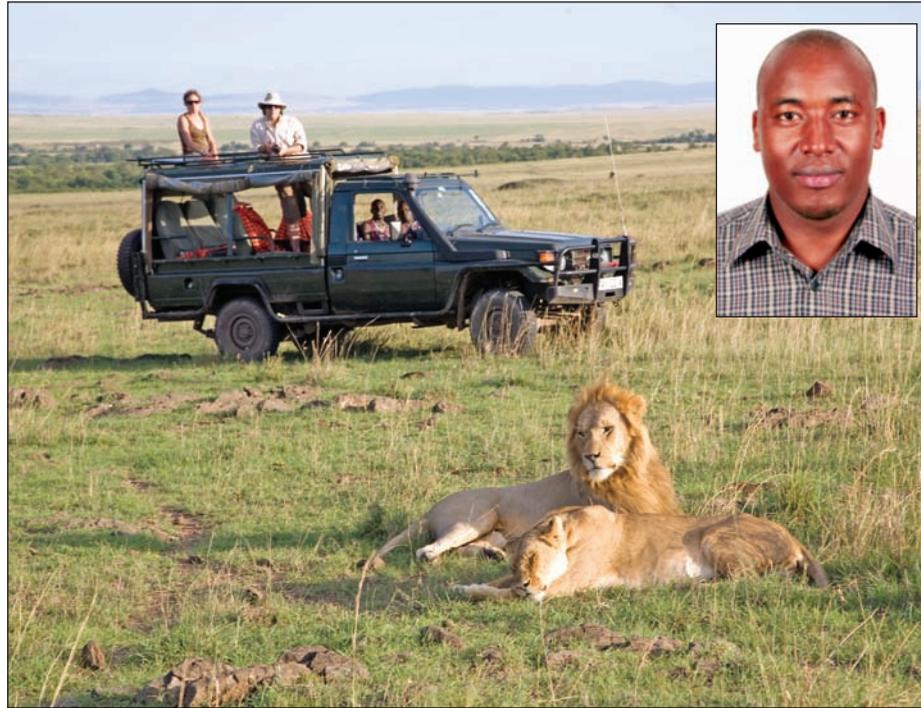
India is in the fifth position for contributing towards Kenyan tourism and we are hoping that through the road shows in different cities of India like Hyderabad, we would be able to leverage our strengths and develop our tourism sector. Hyderabad has got good air connectivity for people to reach Kenya.

How does the outreach happen for tour operators in India?

We have an online training programme for tour operators. It is open to all the tour operators across India.

What are the major attractions in Kenya?

Kenya is a wildlife destination and has many unique things like adventure sports, mountain climbing, water sports, underwater diving, swimming with dolphins and deep sea fishing. The athletic competitions like the Safari marathon give the tourists an opportunity to run and also enjoy the wildlife all around. There is also a restaurant with animals in it. It's just possible that when you are eating food a giraffe may come and steal a banana from you. There are carvings, paintings, fabrics and semi-precious stones,



which are unique to Kenya.

Anything specific for the Indian Community?

There are many Indian and Jain restaurants which also serve vegetarian food to cater to the Indian population which needs this service.

What are the other initiatives of the tourism board?

We support the development of Community and Eco-Tourism and projects that protect natural and cultural resources and equitably share products with those communities with which they work.

What are the opportunities for any potential businessman in the tourism sector of Kenya?

Tourist business opportunities include setting up of Hotels, Restaurants, Tour Operators, Tour/Safari Operators, Motor Vehicles Hire, Local Air-Charter Companies, Travel Agency (AITA appointed Agents), Water Sports, Balloon Operators, Boat excursions and Game Ranches are some of the areas for a potential businessman.

How is the local community in Kenya benefiting from all this?

There are a growing number of community tourism projects in Kenya, ranging from Il Ngwesi and Tassia in the Laikipia area, Sarara in Namunyak, Shompole in the Magadi region and Losikitok in Amboseli. The projects range in scale from complete community management to a partnership with an investor or trust who provides the capital to build the guest accommodation and related tourist facilities. The community provides the use of the land, through a lease and helps to ensure the protection of the local wildlife. Community members are often employed and trained in the tourism projects and benefit from wages, community development funds and involvement in spin off enterprises. ♦

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Amisha hopes to Race ahead



Amisha Patel is very excited about her upcoming film Race 2 and the way the film has shaped up. The actress is on a promotional spree and is keen on having a special screening of the film for close friends from the industry. Amisha said, "Yes, I'm planning to have a private show for my friends and people whom I'm close to. Though my role is small, I really enjoyed doing every bit of it and I'm proud to be part of it. All the actors have done a wonderful job."

She adds, "Working with such beautiful actresses like Deepika and Jacqueline only encouraged me more to look as beautiful as they are and work even harder on her character." This is not it. Amisha next film titled 'Shortcut Romeo' opposite Neil Nitin Mukesh is also ready for an April release.

Amisha maintains, "We can't answer this yet but yes the film is very fresh, youthful and an out-and-out entertainer. It will cater to family and today's youth audiences as well. Yes, maybe we may lock on some fresh faces but nothing has been confirmed as yet." We hope 2013 will be a racing time for Amisha's filmy career.

Nathalia set to sizzle in 'Bhai'

The Brazilian model Nathalia Kaur, who made headlines last year for her sexy photoshoot with Rana Daggubatti is back to news for all the right reasons. According to the reports, Nathalia Kaur is all to shake her leg with Tollywood King Akkineni Nagarjuna in a racy item song from "Bhai", directed by Veera Bhadrani. In an interaction with the media, Nathalia Kaur confirmed the news as "Yes, I am doing an item number with Nagarjuna sir. I can't tell you how excited I am to be working with such a 'grand' actor. He has been in the industry for over 20 years now, I believe." Nathalia reveals more about this song as, it's not a regular item song but filled with beautiful romance with Nag. This song has been shoot in Bangkok recently and little balance song going to be filmed in Hyderabad shortly.

"Bhai" is said to be an action comedy entertainer. Richa Gangopadhyaya is playing the female lead in this film. Devi Sri Prasad is the music director and Sameer Reddy is the cinematographer for the film. This new film is produced by Nagarjuna himself under his home production Annapurna Studios Banner.

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Market cautious at 20,000 levels

By V Sundar Raja

Stock market, after a bullish trend of about 1,000 points in the last few days, it has now taken a pause at the crucial psychological 20,000 levels. This level has now become a major barrier for the Sensex and currently market seems to have taken a short-term halt. However, technically on the charts, the major trend of the market is still bullish. It is reported that the Foreign Institutional Investors have invested nearly a record 10,000 crores in the last few days alone, in this month of January. American stock market is continuing the bullish trend and is nearing the all-time highs.

Many foreign rating agencies are expecting a revival in the Indian economic growth in the next one or two quarters. But, market has turned cautious and got into a correction trend, as short-term investors are booking their profits. Reserve Bank in its next meet, it is expected to reduce the Bank's lending interest rates. RBI is expected to meet on January 29th to decide about the monetary policy.

The quarterly results that have been announced so far have been positive, with no disappointments. Market major Reliance has announced excellent results which gave a major boost to the market. The banking interest rate sensitive sectors like Banking stocks, Real Estate, and Automobiles have declined strongly in the last few days. The short-term outlook for these sectors is now



turning weak. Moreover, it is expected that the NPA's for the banks could increase which is expected to have a negative impact on this sector.

There has been all-round selling pressure in the market, and especially the small and midcap stocks have taken a severe beating in the current market reactionary trend. The

frontline stocks have witnessed strong knee-jerk reaction, indicating heavy selling pressure at the higher levels. The strong sector Pharma stocks too were seen in a declining trend. Metals and Cement were seen subdued.

However, the MCX commodities market has seen action and all attention is now turned to this area. Gold is seen in a recovery trend, but it also close to the major resistance levels of 32,000, for the short-term investors to be cautious. Silver after a recovery, it is now unable to sustain at the barrier of 60,000 levels. It has to break-out of this barrier level, to indicate a short-term uptrend. Crude oil is seen in a consolidation trend at the major level of 5,000. It has to sustain above this key barrier, to indicate a further uptrend.

The Dollar is seen struck in-between a narrow range of 55 and 54, as against the Rupee. In-case of any sustaining above 55 marks, then it indicates a further appreciation of the dollar. Sensex has to witness strength at the current levels, for a bullish trend. Sensex has the next major support below at 19,500 levels, where it has to definitely sustain for keeping the current trend in safe position. But, in-case of any further failure at this major support, then it indicates a further 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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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

Treatment

- Motivational Interview and Behaviour Therapy
- Relapse Prevention Program
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- Life Skill Enhancement

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- AA / NA 12 Step Program
- Management of Emotions and Feelings
- Individual and Group Counselling



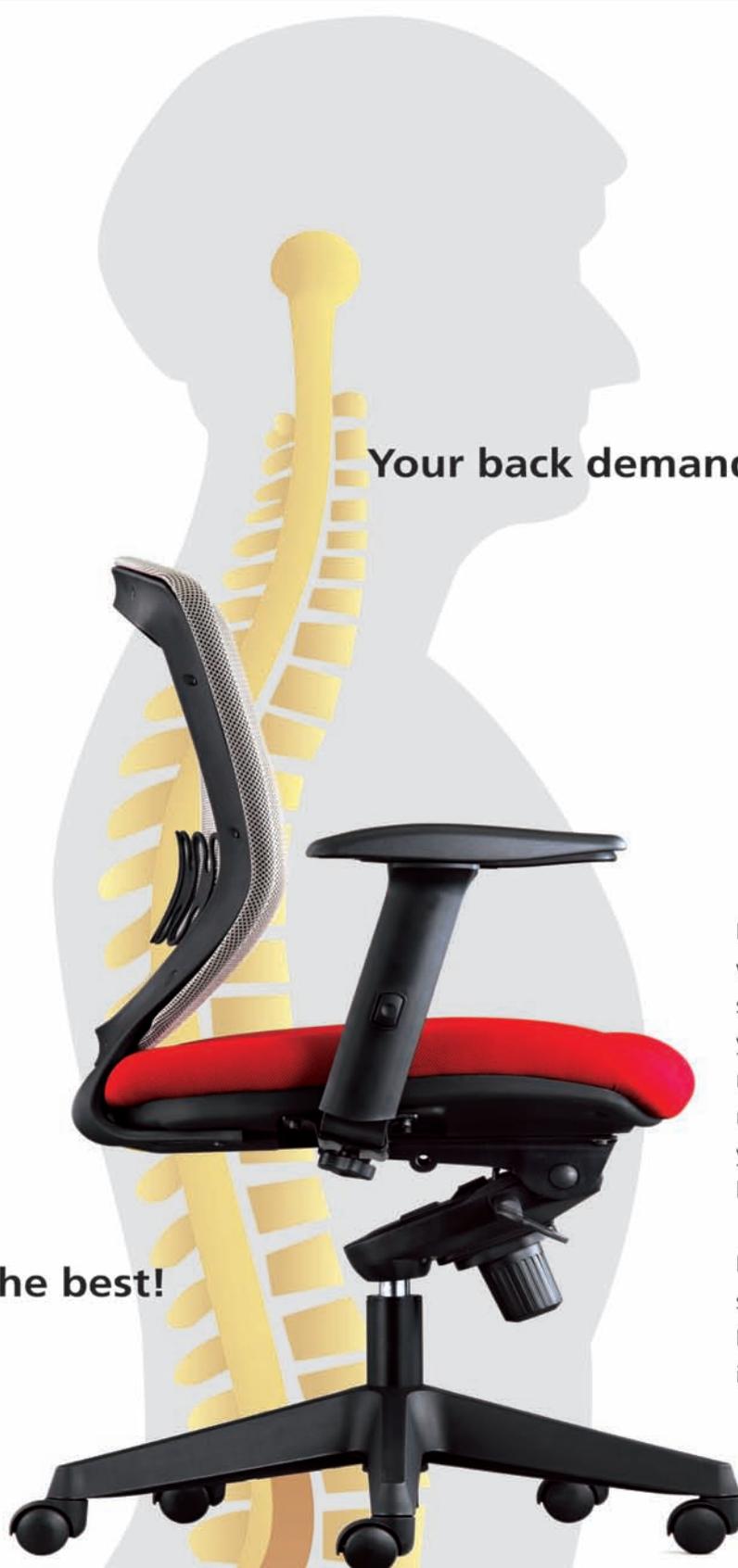
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