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Are we all free from exploitation?... P8

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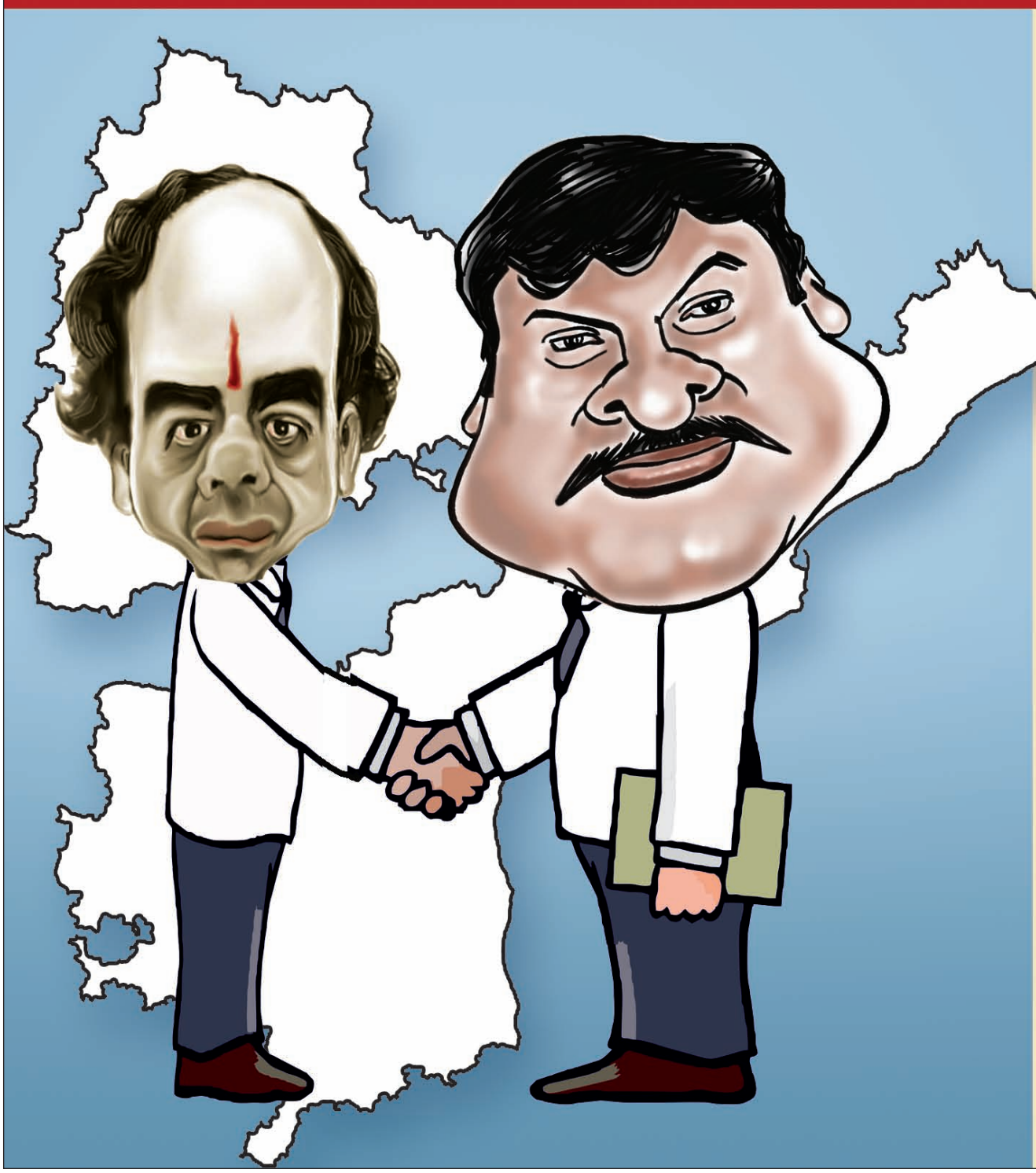
Can Seemandhra leaders co-operate with the inevitable-T?



By Our Political Correspondent

Every day some or the other development pertaining to the division of Andhra Pradesh has been occurring in quick succession ever since the union cabinet formally began its process last fortnight. After the union cabinet that met on 3rd October under the stewardship of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, it unanimously approved the cabinet note on Telangana State formation, thus enabling the central government to set in motion the creation of new state of Telangana. The seven member Group of Ministers (GoM) that was appointed for the purpose of carving out "statehood for Telangana with Hyderabad as its capital" is working at lightning speed much to the chagrin of the Seemandhra politicians who were trying everything that could be done.

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The seven member GoM comprising of senior cabinet ministers headed by Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde having Defence Minister AK Antony, Finance Minister P Chidmabaram, Law Minister Veerappa Moily, Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh and MoS in charge of Department of Personnel & Training V Narayana Swamy met on 11th October and held their first formal meeting in New Delhi to expedite the process of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh so that a Bill can be introduced in the coming winter session of Parliament.

It is revealed that they began their work of collecting all that information required for the purpose of preparing a draft bill to be sent to the President of India. It is expected that the GoM in all likelihood would complete their work by the end of this October and sit for a third and last formal meeting on 7th November. The winter session for the both houses of Parliament is scheduled to commence in the third week of November. As such, the procedure of sending the draft bill intending to bifurcate the State of Andhra Pradesh would be undertaken as per Article 3 of the Indian Constitution. The approved draft will then be sent by the union cabinet to the President and thereafter the same would go to the AP state assembly for its opinion designated as the "Presidential Reference" specifying a stipulated time frame for the state assembly to express its opinion and make suggestions if any.

The fast paced developments in New Delhi were quickly preceded by several important developments in the state; starting with the calling of the all important strike by the Seemandhra employees working in the State Electricity Board. Subsequently, all other organizations that were in the forefront of Seemandhra movement opposing statehood to Telangana since past two months have all withdrawn their strike after months of agitation and joined their duties without securing any assurances. The Andhra Pradesh Non-Gazetted Officers (APNGOs), who were showing a confrontational approach all along also meekly fell in line and called off their 66 days old strike after they held a meeting with Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy in Secretariat on October 17th.

Another significant development is the Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar rejecting the resignations of 13 MPs from Seemandhra region. She called up and explained her decision to each of the MPs who had submitted their resignations since first week of August after the Congress Working Committee passed a resolution on July 30th to bifurcate AP to form Telangana State. The Vijayawada MP Lagadapati Rajagopal had a taste of his own prescription. All the while a self-proclaimed "Spokesperson" of the congress party; he has been at the receiving end ever since the Congress decided to bifurcate the state. Unwittingly he filed a petition in the Delhi High Court seeking a direction to the Lok Sabha Speaker to accept his resignation. The Speaker did not take up his resignation into consideration as the same is sub-judiced.

Lady Union Ministers stand by Sonia

Just a day after the first meeting of the Group of Ministers held their talks; Panabaka Lakshmi, the Minister of State from Seemandhra region categorically told the media in front of the protestors that she will abide by the decision of Congress party no matter what people in her constituency think or feel.

If we observe closely, another significant development is union minister Killi Kripa Rani's meeting with Congress President Sonia Gandhi, on October 17th. After the meeting, Kripa Rani, a recently inducted junior minister from Seemandhra told the waiting media persons that the demand for the resignation of union ministers from Seemandhra by the "Samaikyandhra" protestors would serve no purpose and there was no point in the demand too. She confined her meeting with Sonia to seek a fair justice to Seemandhra region, in the event of division of Andhra Pradesh. Kripa Rani only asked for a reasonable package to north-coastal districts which suffered loss due to Phailin cyclone.

Well, another union minister Daggubati Purandeswari, daughter of late CM NT Rama Rao and wife of Congress MLA Daggubati Venkateswara Rao too made a major announcement at Ongole few days ago "that any threats of resignations cannot stop the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and that it is too late to stop the process of division of the State". Purandeswari came under severe attack from Seemandhra activists for reacting in this manner and those who are demanding that the State be kept united criticized her stating "she was acting like an agent of Sonia Gandhi" hoping to get a better deal from the bifurcation.

Many Seemandhra activists urged her to take back her remarks. But, Purandeswari was unrelenting and insisted that it would be better for Seemandhra ministers and leaders to stop indulging in a useless drama and instead focus on obtaining a huge package for the region (Seemandhra State), if they really cared for their people.

Purandeswari's comments assume significance as her husband Venkateswara Rao is said to be a business partner of Congress MP from Vijayawada Lagadapati Rajagopal who is seen as a major opponent of division of Andhra Pradesh. But, in fact, both Venkateswara Rao and Rajagopal are said to be purchasing huge extent of lands near Vijayawada with the hope that the area would become the capital of Seemandhra in the coming months.

All this in sharp contrast to others like Pallam Raju, a cabinet minister in the union government, who has been expressing a lot of resentment towards Sonia Gandhi's decision to form Telangana state. Even Kotla Suryaprakash Reddy has been complaining and expressing dissent. But the women ministers in the union ministry seem to be more loyal than their gentlemen colleagues.

Seemandhra Employees call off their months long Strike

All the above discussed developments – be they the rejection of Seemandhra MPs resignations, second meeting of GoM on 19th October, calling off political strike by the APNGOs and the chaotic statements of the union ministers from Seemandhra – suggest just one thing – that the Seemandhra agitation against the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh has toned down drastically. There is a marked change in the language of these leaders, compared to their stance, a few weeks ago.

Now, they have realized that no amount of threats or pressure tactics can stop the process of Telangana state formation. These leaders are in fact surprised over the firmness with which Sonia Gandhi and all other Congress seniors are going about granting Telangana state at the earliest, if possible by the end of this year, 2013 and that the new states are appearing to become a reality by early 2014.

The voluntary calling off strikes by various Seemandhra employee unions one by one in the last few days suggests diminished mood of the desperate integrationists. These employees unions which announced in the beginning that

they would continue their strike till the centre takes back its political decision on forming T-State have ended their stir abruptly without any major assurance. This is a sign of their changed approach in view of the reality staring at every one.

Even senior politicians and union ministers who initially had vehemently opposed division of the state like Kavuri Sambasiva Rao and Chiranjeevi are now talking about a fair deal to the people of Seemandhra. From demanding that the state be kept united, now they are just asking for a better deal to their people living in Hyderabad. On the other hand, another Union Minister from Seemandhra Kishore Chandra Deo has cautiously avoided any statements for or against the Seemandhra movement. He has been very categorical about his support to bifurcation of state as the agitation in Telangana is more than 50 odd years old.

Seema 'Ja-Ki-Chans' continue their Monkey stunts

The three leaders from Rayalaseema region Ja-ganmohan Reddy, Ki-ran Reddy and Chan-dra Babu Naidu (now the three are nick named as -- Ja-Ki-Chans for their monkey acts) have been vying amongst themselves to outsmart others in their triangular struggle for emerging as the champions of Seemandhra people in the 13 districts outside Telangana region which are going to form the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh after state bifurcation.

The case of Jagan, Kiran and Chandrababu is weird to say the least. Kiran Reddy being a congress Chief Minister doesn't know what is happening in his cabinet. He neither knows what his party high command has in store for him. His administration is in a virtual mess with no civil servant willing to trust him and implement his decisions. The cabinet is divided on regional lines. Even among the Seemandhra ministers, not many are inclined to trust Kiran Reddy and his future course of political journey. With each passing day, his aura seems to be diminishing in all aspects. His continuation beyond 25th November is highly suspected. Since the proposed draft bill on Telangana state formation in all likelihoods is expected to come by then. Whatever role he might perform on that day, it could be his last day in office as the Chief Minister of AP. Well, by then he would achieve some personal satisfaction of having served (or suffered) as state CM for full three years. A distinction which many like Damodaram Sanjeevaiah, PV Narasimha Rao, T Anjaiah, Bhawanam Venkatram Reddy, Nedurumalli, Nadendla Bhaskar Rao, Rosaiah and including Kotla Vijayabhaskar Reddy could not achieve. That is because they were all loyal to the Gandhi family.

Of course, TDP president Chandrababu Naidu is getting spoilt each day unable to compete with Jagan's monkey tricks. YSR Congress President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is young and naughty enough to indulge in uncouth politics. He has nothing to lose in Telangana that is going to be a state in the coming weeks. But, Chandra Babu Naidu unmindful of his Pan India political stature unwittingly drew himself into the monkey race with Jagan. Publicly both Jagan and Chandra Babu have changed their line on Telangana State formation. They are competing with Kiran for emerging as the whole and sole champion of people in Seemandhra.

This strategy only suits Jagan as his YSRCP has no takers in entire Telangana but same is not the case with TDP. Although, Chandra Babu cannot really hope to emerge on top in Telangana in any situation; it's a test of his credibility as a man who can stand by his word - no matter what the consequences are. Though, for the sake of public consumption both of them are talking about keeping the State united. However, they both understood that it was too late to make any such efforts and subsequently limited their strategies to seek a better deal for Seemandhra.

Chandrababu Naidu went on fast unto death for five days in AP Guest House in Delhi last week. But, he failed to demand that the State be kept united. What he demanded was that all the genuine demands of Seemandhra people must be solved by the Centre before it goes ahead with the process of dividing the State. After returning to Hyderabad, he also demanded a better deal to Seemandhra people.

Interestingly, both Jagan and Chandrababu Naidu are accusing each other for the division of the State, conceding that it is inevitable. First Chandra Babu Naidu talked about a huge package for Seemandhra State not

Why only some from Seemandhra are Opposing GoM on T?

By Dr T Siva Prasad Reddy - Special Correspondent

Some Seemandhra leaders representing their respective parties like Nara Chandra Babu Naidu, Jaya Prakash Narayan representing TDP, Lok Satta and a selected few from Congress belonging to Seemandhra region like Rayapati, Lagadapati to name a few have been very consistent in opposing all moves on state bifurcation since Congress and UPA unanimously passed resolutions favouring T state on 30th July..?! On another count, YSRCP leaders like YS Jagan and Co alongside CM-KKR, Ministers from the state like Sailajanath etc also started to toe the same line on bifurcation as that of above listed one community leaders..!

The fact is that all these leaders heading their respective political outfits in various capacities off late till July 30th 2013 have been vocal in extending support to Telangana after taking a 'U' turn in the past after December 2009 - Union Home Minister statement on T. Their changed stand on T was primarily to subdue an intensified agitation for T by all concerned alongside the unanimous public mandate for T parties in the by-polls while their parties received a severe drubbing losing security deposits..! These leaders (political Opportunistic Players from Seemandhra – POPS) planned meticulously to see that the intensified agitation for T didn't go out of their strategic perspective and counted heavily on the tacit perceived support to be extended by congress and UPA as was evidenced in December 23rd 2009 - a tactical retreat from December 9th 2009 on Telangana. That's why they were very vocal in demanding UPA and congress to take a final call on Telangana as they have already made their stand clear on Telangana post December 2009 thinking that congress in the first place followed by UPA would never ever dare to take any decision on T statehood after their infamous retreat. They were banking heavily on their lobbying strategies in Delhi with enviable financial status alongside being in vantage positions in Delhi and the state to back their dreams of upstaging a popular agitation supported by a decisive electoral mandate on T..?!

All these tactics to subvert T state formation by POPS certainly amounted to deriding Constitution which they have been swearing with all the while .By making Telangana statehood an important promise in their party's election manifestos alongside comforting alliance with TRS to reap electoral and political benefits - didn't these concerned - POPS heading respective political parties since 2004 till 2009 act in accordance with the constitution? Then was it only to exploit T sentiment to reap electoral benefits by cheating innocent T people? Isn't it a fact that the same POPS from February 2009 (CM-YSR) till December 7th 2009 - with Floor of the Assembly as a constitutional witness made sweeping statements supporting T? Didn't they profess unanimous support favouring T state and dare the govt. to come with a resolution on T? Didn't the same POPS till recent Assembly sessions demanded UPA and Congress to act fast on T? How can one forget the Presidential address of UPA-I's CMP (Common Minimum Program) which included T state formation in 2004? Then what about the all party meetings hosted by the Union Home Minister since 2009 on T? Is it not true that all these political parties and POPS submitted in writing to Sri Krishna Committee (SKC) about their stated position on T? Then why are they opposing T statehood now after all concerted efforts as laid down in the constitution on T ranging from election manifestos, decisive mandate time and again on T, all party meetings, SKC over and above the multiple benefits to be accrued to Seemandhra region..

All these incoherent, selfish acts by POPS and their respective clouts ably helped by biased Seemandhra media are certainly making mockery of our Constitution vis-a-vis Article (3). How many 'U' turns and violations of all agreements from 1956? Aren't these visible infringements of constitutional rights of T people? How can these famed POPS question constitutional obligation like GoM - constituted for the very purpose of addressing all concerns arising out of bifurcation as mandated by all political parties? How can POPS, Seemandhra media cast aspersions on the Union Ministers part of GoM - when they are duly appointed by the govt. of India? Aren't these ministers from India and T region in India? How can the so called Integrationists - POPS etc indulge in such type of vicarious pleasure -trying to distort a constitutional process as necessitated by Article (3) on state bifurcation? The same group criticized Anthony Committee as that of congress party - then what obligation or objection do they have now after GoM as constituted by the union govt.? Is it only for their vested interests - POPS are behaving/opposing in an unconstitutional way to thwart/prevent T statehood and GOM? BJP and Seemandhra people should not fall prey to such POPS as T state is a constitutional obligation as seen in the conditional merger of 1956 and subsequent violations of all the agreements since with decisive electoral mandates favouring those parties who are in tune with T statehood.

tsprind@gmail.com

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realizing the games of congress politicians like KVP & Kiran. So was YS Jagan Mohan Reddy who changed his stand as the reality was sinking. Initially, he claimed that he was for equal justice and later, he switched over to Samaikyandhra in view of Kiran Reddy's games in sponsoring a movement for keeping AP united in Seemandhra's 13 districts. Now, after the people have reconciled to the formation of T-state, he is expressing his concern over the fate of Seemandhra people in terms of getting river water, educational opportunities and jobs in Hyderabad.

Jagan's last ditch efforts like organizing a public meeting named "Samaikya Sankharavam" in Hyderabad on October 26th is only intended to fool around the people of Seemandhra. Jagan wants to claim upper hand over Chandrababu Naidu, as far as winning votes in Seemandhra region is concerned. Jagan wants to prove that he tried his best till the last minute. At the same time, Chandrababu Naidu is trying to project Jagan as a secret agent of Congress. Chandra babu Naidu is alleging that

Congress wanted to benefit Jagan in Seemandhra and thereby take him into their fold after the elections. Naidu's close friends in Congress like Rayapati, Lagadapati too are saying the same thing and describing Jagan as "Congress party's adopted son" who was bailed out of jail only to defeat TDP that is seen moving closer to Modi's BJP.

Lastly, CM Kiran Kumar Reddy who till recently projected himself as a martyr for the sake of united Andhra Pradesh has thrown off his hands now. He told the AP NGOs before they called off their strike that: "Now it is too late, nothing is in my hands. I will work with you till the last minute but there is no guarantee that we can stop Telangana".

Well, all these developments tell us only one thing – that reality of state division is steadily sinking into the Seemandhra leaders, a welcome feature as every one can now focus on getting a decent package for themselves instead of fighting the inevitable.

editor.deccanpost@gmail.com

First successful meeting in Bodhan-Nizamabad

Congress to consolidate with Jaitra Yatra meetings in Telangana

By Dr T Siva Prasad Reddy - Special Correspondent

After lying dormant for sometime on the advice of Delhi concerns, Telangana Congress leaders had come out with a strategic plan -Telangana Jaitra Yatra to thank their leader Madam Sonia for her resoluteness on Telangana statehood in spite of various pressures acting. As part of that, Telangana Congress has evolved a plan to hold meetings in all districts of Telangana, specifically to carry the message that it is congress under the leadership of Sonia solely responsible for Telangana state. In the same pursuit, they have left no one in doubt that the process on Telangana is final and all should obey the party's supreme body - CWC's dictate as loyal congress party workers (Semmandhra) as promised. In all certainties, Telangana Congress's effort is aimed to consolidate its position at the grass root level to mitigate their sufferings vis-à-vis TRS - Telangana politricks, while downsizing TDP at the same time yielding no space to BJP.

The timing of the first meeting (ahead of second GoM on T-19/10/2013) and the place selected - Bodhan constituency (represented by the minister for major irrigation - Sudarshan Reddy) in Nizamabad district (MP-Madhu Yashki) has significance as per the hosts. They recalled that it was Sudarshan Reddy as minister concerned who literally took on CM-KKR on water allocations between the regions along with surplus waters and power. When Seemandhra CM was distorting the facts ahead of bifurcation of state to create an apprehension that Seemandhra would forfeit it's share of waters and also Telangana region to some extent - it was Sudarshan Reddy as minister rebuffed point by point to dispel such fears to instill confidence in all the regions along with MP Madhu Yashki suitably rewarded as Whip -Lok Sabha for toeing high command's line on T in difficult times. But, much to the disappointment of viewers of the state; it was not widely telecasted or edited in a biased way by Seemandhra channels to suit their agenda of misinformation or no information as exhorted by the congress leaders from Bodhan. In that context, they viewed this meeting as historical in that it would effectively project their leader along with those from Telangana Congress as real heroes to take the likes of TRS, TDP and BJP head-on. From this meeting, Telangana Congress also wanted to address GoM (Group of Union Cabinet Ministers on Telangana) that even their interests pertaining to the region should be viewed with the same intensity as those from Seemandhra.

Many Telangana Congress leaders including Ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, DCC Presidents, Youth Congress, Minority Leaders, DCM and DCCB Chairmen along with the second rung leadership participated in the meeting. Ministers Sudarshan Reddy, Jana Reddy spoke of the need to maintain harmony between the regions while addressing all concerns arising out of bifurcation on merits as presented by them on many occasions including those on water allocations and surplus waters. They have also pointed to the presence of Seemandhrites in the region who have made Bodhan as their home since a long time as an indication of the nature and spirit of such likelihood in the ensuing T state. The same was echoed by other speakers like Deputy CM - Raja Narasimha, Ministers-Sridhar Babu, DK Aruna, Sunitha Reddy, Shabbir Ali and MPs Madhu Yashki Goud, Sukhender Reddy, V Hanumanth Rao etc while echoing the same feelings said that in Hyderabad too same harmony would prevail and in fact serve as a true essence of a cosmopolitan city. Deputy CM made light of CM-KKR saying that he is acting as Seemandhra CM by presenting a biased and totally distorted picture in his media briefings. VHR, Sridhar Babu, Madhu Yashki stated that it is the Seemandhra leaders like YSR who are instrumental for the present T crisis along with support in letter and spirit by TDP's Babu and YSRCP's - Jagan and YS Vijayamma alongside Seemandhra congress who have time and again played Telangana card to garner political benefits. Now, people of all hues and cries in Telangana region out of humiliating sufferings at the hands of Seemandhra rulers have initiated this logical fight for Telangana state and is a reality in all senses except for tabling of bill which would be done in the coming December session as per Telangana Congress. In the same vain they requested those from Seemandhra to cooperate while addressing their concerns by extending their support to GoM.

While, BJP's Kishan Reddy, advised Telangana Congress and Congress to pacify Seemandhra congressmen and their own CM. All in all, It was indeed an effort by Telangana Congress ahead of crucial GoM meeting and that too coming after the fasts by TDP-Babu, YSRCP-Jagan (slated Samaikya Shankharavam Sabha on 26/10/2013 may again ignite Telangana passions) which had led to unnecessary fiasco threatening to rupture the co-existence between the people of different regions. While TDP lay in disarray (Telangana-TDP should act decisively lest..), APNGOs calling of their strike, hope peace returns allowing GoM to complete it's official sojourn addressing all concerns of all regions as the bifurcation of state by all means imminent.

tsprind@gmail.com

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Phailin Onslaught: Loss of lives was successfully averted in Seemandhra

The People of entire Andhra Pradesh heaved a sigh of relief as the much feared devastating cyclone, named 'Phailin', passed off without causing great loss of life in the north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh few days ago. This killer cyclone that gathered storm in the Bay of Bengal last week was expected to wreak havoc in coastal areas, as the winds blew at 200-220 kmph.

But, luckily, the cyclone ended up claiming just two lives, both in Srikakulam district on last Sunday and Monday. Though, the loss of two lives was sad and should have been avoided; even otherwise, it is a big relief as compared to thousands of deaths that occurred in previous cyclones that struck the coastal region in 1999 claiming thousands of lives.

Thanks to the Met Department, on this occasion, we could save the huge number of lives due to the well preparedness on the part of the central and state government authorities and the public awareness created therein. As such the loss was restricted to isolated incidents. Of course, cyclone Phailin wreaked havoc to livelihood of lakhs of people living on the coastal belt. Thousands of acres of agricultural crops were destroyed, thousands of fishermen lost boats and nets and besides lakhs of poor people rendered homeless.

The damage done to the public properties like roads, dams, electricity and telecom systems is immense and it may a long time to restore them. The minimum loss of life, both

in north coastal Andhra and south Odisha which bore the brunt of cyclone Phailin's fury, can be attributed to the timely action taken by both the Centre and State governments of AP and Odisha largely because of the bitter lessons of the recent devastation experienced in Uttarakhand state in June.

This arrest of human loss became possible due to the advanced warnings issued by the Centre and state governments and the pro-active role played by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology. IMD that is headquartered in New Delhi operates hundreds of observation stations across the country. Upon being alerted by the IMD, the NDMA's response force (NDRF) has swung into action two days before the storm crossed the coast and with the help of defense forces like our army, navy and air force all well coordinated and roped in to tackle any eventuality well on time, lakhs of people could be evacuated to safe zones in the three states.

Waking up to the nature's fury that has been demonstrated by the Phailin, the super cyclone, in last few days, AP government has exhibited sense of wisdom by deciding to set up a State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) with 1,000 personnel on the lines of NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) immediately to face the natural disasters. The SDRF would be trained in rescue and relief operations during any natural disasters, particularly during cyclone and floods. The Director-General of Police and the Director-General of Fire and Emergency Services together will work out modalities for the formation of SDRF and the NDRF would train the SDRF personnel in Mangalagiri town of Guntur district.

The providential escape of huge loss in the cyclone can also be attributed to the extra-cautious alerts sounded by the US satellites, which predicted a super-cyclone which entails a wind speed over 250 kmph. Of course, our meteorological scientists were right that this was not a super cyclone, but this extra cautiousness woken our people out of stupor. The relatively less damaging cyclone came at a time when Seemandhra APNGO's were on streets protesting Telangana state formation. The coastal districts of the state escaped the force of the cyclone. However, Srikakulam district experienced heavy rains and gale-force winds which uprooted tall trees and electric poles, shutting down power to all areas. The Seemandhra people were proven wrong that they were alone in times of distress as the entire country stood by them, and even people of Telangana wished them well. This high alertness of our authorities shall continue in future too.

editor.deccanpost@gmail.com

letters TO THE EDITOR

What's in store for Seemandhra State?

Each and everyone in the state of Andhra Pradesh have well understood that the formation of Telangana state has became inevitable and nobody can stop the bifurcation of the state. The useless drama of indefinite strikes by Chandra Babu Naidu and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy were not helpful to stop the process of creation of Telangana state and the newly appointed Group of Ministers to smoothly execute Telangana formation is steadily working for the purpose. With the firm stand took by the congress party high command and the UPA government at the centre now everybody including the politicians, bureaucrats, media, employees and people from all sectors are looking for their betterment in a new residuary state of Andhra Pradesh consisting of 13 districts of Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions. It's the duty of the union government to give enough importance to the new state of Andhra and provide all the possible infrastructure and funds to build their own capital and address all concerns in a genuine way. As the APNGOs called off their strike, now its their turn to work hard to deliver better administration to the people and be helpful in building a new state capital. Its time to stop politicking about the bifurcation and help for the development of the upcoming two new states of Telangana and Seemandhra.

H Janakiram, Shivrampally

The GoM must address Injustices suffered by T-people

I take this opportunity to congratulate one and all who struggled for the formation of Telangana state and participated in the democratic process of agitation for achieving their 50 years long goal. Now it became very clear that Telangana will be a reality sooner than later, the Group of Ministers should focus on development of Telangana state which got backward in all aspects due to the ignorance of the politicians irrespective of their political or regional affiliations. Its high time that the GoM must study how it can best do justice with the aspirations of the people and make their futures brighter then only it will be meaningful to have our own identity in form of Telangana state or else there would only be change of leadership not in the approach.

Anjali Reddy, E-mail

Its time for reforming

With a lot of discussions and debates going on in every nook and corner of the country regarding the Supreme Court's decision to provide the option of NOTA (None of the Above) to the voters/citizens at the time of elections, the confusion is mushrooming even in political parties. The Supreme Court and the concerned lawmakers must come out with a clear stand on NOTA and how it will affect and effect the prospects of the electoral candidates. There must be clear rules laid down for exercising the NOTA option and I personally believe that the right to rejection should be implemented and the positive votes polled in favour of a candidate should be counted after deduction of the negative votes polled for that kind of a candidate. Hope people will like this idea and will be benefitted and it will succeed in putting a check on the politicians who never visits their constituencies once they are elected to power.

P Satyanarayana Murthy, Khairtabad

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

Can Article 371-D be an obstacle for Statehood for Telangana?

By Dr Sridhar Goka

Undoubtedly, there has been a great consternation and uproar amongst various sections of people belonging to the Seema and Andhra regions ever since the Congress Working Committee announced its decision to grant statehood to Telangana region. The 30th July decision of the CWC virtually paved way for the creation of a new state (State of Telangana) in India as the Congress party is presently heading the UPA government at the centre. The decision of the Congress party marks the culmination of a long drawn consultation process initiated by the Congress led UPA government since past nine years or so.

Of course, while this decision seems like a vindication for people of Telangana for their decades long struggle; the same was unpalatable to many belonging to the Seema and Andhra regions. Despite this decision being welcomed by the BJP, which is the main opposition party in the Parliament and the TDP; the congress politicians belonging to Seema and Andhra regions led by Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy expressed their huge resentment and vowed to fight till the end. These sorts of assertions have further influenced leaders belonging to other parties in the Seema and Andhra regions to explore every kind of an obstacle to prevent the congress led UPA to table the bill to create state of Telangana so that; post-general elections things can be managed by hook or crook.

It is sad story that even after several committees were formed and the central government headed by Prime Minister Dr MM Singh having resorted to many methods of opinion gathering; reaching out to several political parties in the country and after duly consulting eight recognized political parties in the state of AP, the Seemandhra intellectuals are unable to appreciate the ground realities. Many can still recall the manner in which Justice BN Srikrishna Committee was constituted in February, 2010 with clear terms of reference and we all also know how the said committee made extensive tours across the three regions of the state to elicit public opinion. The committee members having some experts serving as its members claimed to have received lakhs of representations from the stakeholders before submitted their elaborate report as sought by the Union Home Ministry.

The central government however has not shown keenness to act on the recommendations or suggestions offered by the Srikrishna Committee for nearly two years or so despite opposition parties like BJP, BSP, CPI and several others demanding regularly. This delay caused considerable frustration among the youth of Telangana region leading to hundreds of them committing suicides urging the central government and appealing in particular to Congress president Sonia Gandhi to take a concrete decision to end the prolonged uncertainty.

Finally, when several political parties began demanding the central government to spell out its stand; it responded by inviting all the eight political parties in AP for a round table conference on 28th December, 2012 to express their opinion over supporting or opposing the formation of Telangana State. Except for the CPI-M and the MIM, all other parties including the Congress, TDP, BJP, CPI, TRS and the YSRCP have given their opinion favouring bifurcation of the state to form the State of Telangana. However, the stand adopted by the ruling congress was not forth right as it allowed two of its representatives to spell out divergent opinions.

While time was running out, all eyes were focused on the congress high command to take a concrete stand; it indeed made a historical decision of going all out in favour of creation of separate state of Telangana comprising of ten districts which includes the District of Hyderabad by bifurcating the state of Andhra Pradesh that has 23 districts spread over three regions of the State. The speculation that Hyderabad District would be made a Union Territory was rubbished by the CWC's categorical assertion that Hyderabad would be a capital of only Telangana. This is one of the primary reasons for the present Seemandhra resistance.

At a time, when people of Telangana are anxiously awaiting the constitutional process to accomplish the creation of T-state; several leaders, advocates, media personnel across the Seemandhra region have been talking about several impediments to the bifurcation of the state. One such is the reference to Article 371-D in the Indian Constitution and the talk that it comes in the way -- of creation of Telangana State -- following the procedure laid down in Article 3 of the Constitution. The contention that is mischievously being advanced is that "without amending Article 371-D, bifurcation of state of Andhra Pradesh cannot be taken up" as clause (10) of that article explicitly prohibits any interference. Therefore, before the state of Andhra Pradesh is taken up for any manner of Re-organization by the union government, it is mandatory for the Parliament to amend the same under Article 368. Let us examine the veracity of this absurd argument:

A study of clause 10 of Art.371-D reads thus ….. 10) The provisions of this article and of any order made by the President thereunder shall have effect notwithstanding anything in any other provision of this Constitution or in any other law for the time being in force.

Some of learned friends are arguing that in the above para … wherein it refers to "the provisions of this article (371-D) and of any order made by the President thereunder shall have effect notwithstanding anything in any other provision of this Constitution or in any other law for the time being in force" this according to them literally amounts to an explicit prohibition of the same and as such any constitutional measure to tinker it is impermissible. Therefore, it cannot be allowed to become either infructous or ineffective as long as it is duly repealed by way of an amendment.

This sort of misinterpretation can be countered by taking a glance at an empirical evidence in our chequered history of constitutional evolution. Consider how the State of Bombay that comprised of present day states of Maharashtra and Gujarat was reorganized in 1960 without bothering about the existence of Article 371 which dealt with many similar aspects like our present day Article 371-D.

A perusal of the original article 371 and its clause (1) that existed at the time of bifurcation of Bombay State in 1960 and how only much later in 1973, it was partially repealed and amended further. This is enough of empirical evidence to convey that Article 371-D is by no means an obstacle for bifurcation of State of Andhra Pradesh. The bill that is presented before the Parliament can simply incorporate the required changes as was done in the case of Bombay State bifurcation just altering the Clause (2) of the Article 371 therein.

"371. Special provision with respect to the States of Andhara Pradesh, Punjab and Bombay.- (1) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the President may, by order made with respect to the State of Andhra Pradesh or Punjab, provide for the constitution and functions of regional committees of the Legislative Assembly of the State, for the modifications to be made in the rules of business of the Government and in the rules of procedure of the Legislative Assembly of the State and for any special responsibility of the Governor in order to secure the proper functioning of the regional committees.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the President may by order made with respect to the State of Bombay, provide for any special responsibility of the Governor for- (a) the establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada. the rest of Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Kutch and the rest of Gujarat with the provision that a report on the working of each of these boards will be placed each year before the State Legislative Assembly; (b) the equitable allocation of funds for developmental expenditure over the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole; and (c) an equitable arrangement providing adequate facilities for technical education and vocational training, and adequate opportunities for employment in services under the control of the State Government, in respect of all the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole.".

THE BOMBAY RE-ORGANISATION ACT, 1960 No 11 OF 1960 (25th April, 1960)

An Act to provide for the reorganization of the State of Bombay and for matters connected therewith. BE it enacted by Parliament in the Eleventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

PART I- PRELIMINARY

1. Short title. - The Act may be called the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960

PART IX- LEGAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

85.Amendment or article 371 of the Constitution.- As from the appointed day, in article 371 of the Constitution, in clause (2)-

(a) for the words ``the State of Bombay", the words ``the State of Maharashtra or Gujarat" shall be substituted; and

(b) for the words ``the rest of Maharashtra", the words ``and the rest of Maharashtra or, as the case may be," shall be substituted.

Now let us consider how the amendment of Art.371 had taken place. Amendment of article 371. - Clause (1) of article 371 of the

Constitution shall be omitted, and in the marginal heading to that article, the words "Andhra Pradesh," shall be omitted. It now reads thus:

371. Special provision with respect to the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat. (1) omitted by Constitutional (32 Amendment) Act, 1973. (2) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the President may by order made with respect to the State of Maharashtra or Gujarat, provide for any special responsibility of the Governor for (a) the establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada, and the rest of Maharashtra or, as the case may be, Saurashtra, Kutch and the rest of these boards will be placed each year before the State Legislative Assembly; (b) the equitable allocation of funds for developmental expenditure over the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole; and (c) an equitable arrangement providing adequate facilities for technical education and vocational training, and adequate opportunities for employment in service under the control of the State Government, in respect of all the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole.

Not only that but the manner in which Article 371-D was inserted itself is an indication of how injustice was meted out to people of Telangana, just because their Mulki Rules were upheld by the Supreme Court in its judgment delivered in 1973. The Andhra agitation was intended to thwart the benefits of the Mulki Rules which were upheld by the apex court.

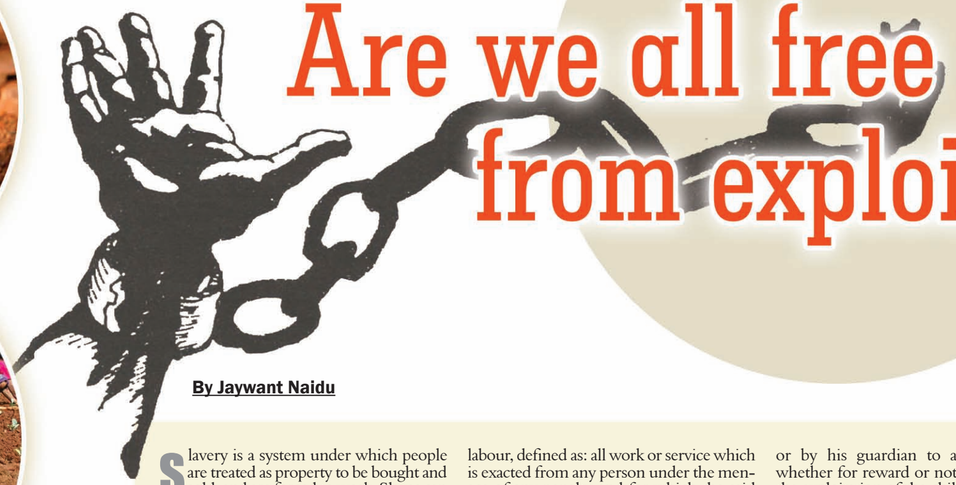
As a matter of historical fact, the said Article 371-D was inserted into the Indian Constitution by way of the Constitution (Thirty-Second Amendment) Act 1973 on 3rd May, 1974 which came into effect from 1st July 1974 only to deprive people of Telangana of their legitimate rights and that too by blatant removal of several safeguards in the name of Six point formula.

From the STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

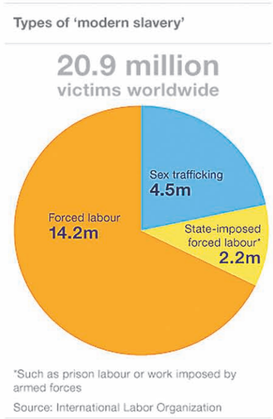
When the State of Andhra Pradesh was formed in 1956, certain safeguards were envisaged for the Telangana area in the matter of development and also in the matterof employment opportunities and educational facilities for the residents of that area. The provisions of clause (1) of article 371 of the Constitution were intended to give effect to certain features of these safeguards. The Public Employment (Requirement as to Residence) Act, 1957, was enacted inter alia to provide for employment opportunities for residents of Telangana area. But in 1969, the Supreme Court held the relevant provision of the Act to be unconstitutional is so far as it related to the safeguards

envisaged for the Telangana area. Owing to a variety of causes, the working of the safeguards gave rise to a certain amount of dissatisfaction sometimes in the Telangana area and sometimes in the other areas of the State. Measures were devised from tim to time to resolve the problems. Recently several leaders of Andhra Pradesh made a concerted effort to analyze the factors which have been giving rise to the dissatisfaction and find enduring answers to the problems with a view to achieving fuller emotional integration of the people of Andhra Pradesh. On the 21st September, 1973, they suggested certain measures (generally known as the Six-Point Formula) indicating a uniform approach for promoting accelerated development of the backward areas of the State so as to secure the balanced development of the State as a whole and for providing equitable opportunities to different areas of the State in this matter of education, employment and career prospects in public services. This formula has received wide support in Andhra Pradesh and has been endorsed by the State Government. As the Six-Point Formula provides for the discontinuance of the Regional Committee constituted under clause (1) of article 371 of the Constitution, the Bill also provides for the repeal of that clause.

Therefore, people of Telangana must ever remain vigilant since even the sacredness of the Constitution can be abused by colourable presentation.



Are we all free from exploitation?



By Jaywant Naidu

Slavery is a system under which people are treated as property to be bought and sold, and are forced to work. Slaves can be held against their will from the time of their capture, purchase or birth, and deprived of the right to leave, to refuse to work, or to demand compensation. Historically, slavery was institutionally recognized by many societies; in more recent times, slavery has been outlawed in most societies but continues through the practices of debt bondage, indentured servitude, serfdom, domestic servants kept in captivity, certain adoptions in which children are forced to work as slaves, child soldiers, and forced marriages. Slavery is illegal in every country in the world.

The slavery convention (1926) and protocol (1953):

The Slavery Convention (1926) and Protocol (1953) developed by the League of Nations, sets out the classical definition of slavery:

Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.

The Parties to this Convention undertook:

(a) To prevent and suppress the slave trade;

(b) To bring about, progressively and as soon as possible, the complete abolition of slavery in all its forms.

The 1953 Protocol amended the Convention to bring it within the then newly-formed United Nations system. The International Labour Organization developed the Forced Labour Convention (1930) outlawing forced or compulsory labour, defined as: all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily. This was supplemented by the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (1957) abolished certain exemptions set out in the earlier convention, including forced labour: as a means of political coercion or education or as a punishment for holding or expressing political views or views ideologically opposed to the established political, social or economic system and as a punishment for having participated in strikes. The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956) was designed to "intensify national as well as international efforts towards the abolition of slavery" and outlaw specific slavery-like practices, including: Debt Bondage: the status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his personal services or of those of a person under his control as security for a debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied towards the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined. Serfdom: the condition or status of a tenant who is by law, custom or agreement bound to live and labour on land belonging to another person and to render some determinate service to such other person, whether for reward or not, and is not free to change his status.

Specific practices related to women and children (including forced or servile marriage):when a woman, without the right to refuse, is promised or given in marriage on payment of a consideration in money or in kind to her parents, guardian, family or any other person or group; or the husband of a woman, his family, or his clan, has the right to transfer her to another person for value received or otherwise; or A woman on the death of her husband is liable to be inherited by another person; a child or young person under the age of 18 years, is delivered by either or both of his natural parents or by his guardian to another person, whether for reward or not, with a view to the exploitation of the child or young person or of his labour.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children supplements the Palermo Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Protocol defines trafficking as: the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. It defines exploitation as the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. The Protocol also provides that the consent of a victim to exploitation is irrelevant where the victim has been threatened, coerced, or deceived, or the trafficker has abused a position of power or taken advantage of the victim's position of vulnerability.

Global slavery index:

According to the Global Slavery Index 2013 by Walk Free, an Australia-based rights group, the following countries are having major Slavery problems as denoted:

1. MAURITANIA

a.) Some 1,51,000 people or almost 4 percent of the population are thought to be slaves, according to the index. Estimates by other groups put the prevalence rate at up to 20 percent.

b.) Most common is chattel slavery, meaning that slave status is passed down through generations.

c.) Slavery has been outlawed in Mauritania since 1961 and trafficking since 2003. Forced marriages and debt bondage are not criminalized.

2. HAITI

a.) Haiti has around 2,09,000 slaves, fueled by high poverty, lack of access to social services and a system of child labour known as "restavek", in which poor children from rural areas are sent to work with families in cities.

b.) Rights groups say restavek children are often deprived of food, sleep and schooling and are physically, mentally and sexually abused.) A draft law on human trafficking is now before parliament that would make child trafficking a criminal offence.

3. PAKISTAN

a.) Some 2.10 million Pakistanis are thought to be enslaved, especially children and bonded labourers.

b.) The Asian Development Bank estimates that 1.8 million are in bonded labour.

c.) Many Pakistanis migrate to Gulf States, Iran, Turkey, South Africa and elsewhere in search of work, where they fall prey to unscrupulous labour agents who withhold passports and don't pay wages.

4. INDIA

a.) With an estimated 13.9 million slaves, India is home to almost half the world's slave population.

b.) Almost all forms of slavery are prevalent, ranging from inter-generational bonded labour to sex trafficking, child labour and forced marriage.

c.) Experts say - India has excellent anti-slavery laws but enforcement is sporadic and inconsistent. It remains one of the few nations not to have ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention.

5. NEPAL

a.) An estimated 2,59,000 Nepalis are enslaved, both inside the country and abroad.

b.) About 90 percent of the 2.5 million Nepalis working abroad are undocumented, making them vulnerable to forced labour.

c.) A crippled economy, endemic corruption and institutionalized ethnic and gender discrimination have created conditions for slavery to thrive since the end of Nepal's decade-long civil war in 2006.

6. MOLDOVA

a.) With an estimated 33,000 slaves, Moldova is mainly a source country for modern slavery.

b.) Moldovans in Ukraine, Russia, the United States, Germany, Belarus and elsewhere are exploited in the sex industry, construction, agriculture and domestic work.

c.)In the past, Moldovans have been trafficked for purposes of organ removal.

7. BENIN

a.) Benin has some 80,000 slaves, mainly women and children trafficked into the sex trade, domestic work or forced labour.

b.) The International Organization for Migration says more than 40,000 children are trafficking victims. Most work on cotton or cashew plantations or as servants in houses.

c.) Vudusi or "shrine slavery" persists, in which young girls are forced to live in and care for shrines, where many are habitually sexually abused.

8. IVORY COAST

a.) Around 1,56,000 people are subject to forced labour and sexual exploitation.

b.) Many children are forced into work in mining, agriculture, fishing, construction, domestic work and as street vendors and shoe-shiners.

c.) A 2010 government report estimated more than 30,000 children were forced labourers in rural areas, many in the cocoa sector.

9. GAMBIA

a.) 14,000 in Gambia are involved in slavery, mostly in domestic servitude, forced begging and prostitution, including child sex tourism.

b.) Women, girls and boys are trafficked to Gambia from Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau and Benin for commercial sexual exploitation.

c.) UNICEF estimates some 60,000 children in Gambia are vulnerable to modern slavery, including orphans and street children.

10. GABON

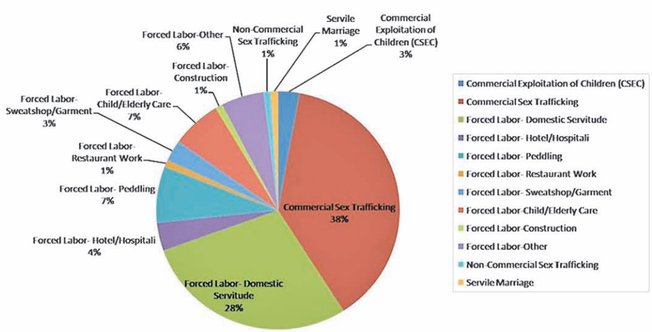
a.) With an estimated 13,000 slaves, Gabon is both a destination and transit country for victims of modern slavery.

b.) Girls are mostly trafficked into domestic servitude or sex work while boys are trafficked for manual work.

c.) Forced and child marriages are common, and some girls are coerced to work in restaurants or market stalls.

When this world will be free from the evils of slavery?

mail@deccanpost.net



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The training material or the chair,
what tires your trainees more?

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Laugh out loud

In An African Safari, A Lion Suddenly Bounced Santa's Wife Jeeto.....
Jeeto:- *Shoot Him...!!!; Shoot Him...!!!*
Santa:- *Yes; Yes.....*
I Am Changing The Battries Of My Cemera....!!!!!

★★★★★★★★

In An African Safari, A Lion Suddenly Bounced Santa's Wife Jeeto.....
Jeeto:- *Shoot Him...!!!; Shoot Him...!!!*
Santa:- *Yes; Yes.....*
I Am Changing The Battries Of My Cemera....!!!!!

★★★★★★★★

Ladka apne dost se: tune us ladki ko propose kyu kiya uska to b.f. Hai.....??????
Reply: Khali Kursi Pe to koi Bhi Beth saktaHai, Dum hai to kisi ko Utha ke Betho..

★★★★★★★★

India: "Humare paas Kohli hain, Yuvraj hain, Dhoni hain, Dhawan hain...tumare paas kya hai?"
Australia: "Humare pass Ishant Sharma hain."

Pavithrotsavams performed in Rishikesh Temple

The annual ritual of pavitrotsavams has been performed with religious fervour in Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at Rishikesh Andhrashramam on Thursday and Friday. This annual purification festival is usually performed to get rid of the evil that might have been caused due to commissions and omissions in the performance of various rituals performed all through the year. Pavithra garlands are prepared out colour woven silk threads which will be adorned to the presiding and utsava deiteis by the priests. The ritual began with ankurarpanam on first day followed by vedic programmes like Mritsangrahanam, Senadhipathivari utsavam, Pranapratistha etc. On Friday after preforming homam, Snapana Tirumanjanam, Pavitra pratistha, Samarpana have been performed and the ritual completed with Purnahuti on the same day night.

HEALTH TIPS

Useful Herbs for Eye Care

Aniseed (Pimpinella anisum) Aniseed is especially beneficial in the treatment of cataract. The powder of its seeds is taken in a tablespoon quantity every morning and evening. Babul (Acacia arabica) Babul can treat conjunctivitis. A paste of the babul leaves must be applied on the eyes before going to sleep at night. It will lessen the itchiness, wateriness and the redness of the sore eyes. Carrot (Daucus carota) Carrot is so beneficial in eye care that its virtues are taught to school students also. Carrots contain beta-carotene, which is the precursor of vitamin A in the body. Vitamin A is responsible for strengthening the eyes and protecting them from night blindness. Coriander (Coriandrum sativum) A decoction prepared from coriander can be used as an eyewash for people with conjunctivitis. There will be immediate reduction in the burning, redness and swelling of the eyes. Indian Gooseberry (Emblica officinalis), Indian Sorrel (Oxalis corniculata) Marigold (Calendula officinalis) Parsley (Petroselinum crispum)

SUDOKU 292

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

How to play : Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You cant change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

ANSWERS Sudoku-291

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

Answer 291: Nashreen, Sec'bad

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

ASTRO FOCUS Oct 20-26, 2013

Aries: This week your earnings will increase and financially things look much brighter. Preparations done in advance will lead you to the desired goals. All travel-related work will go well and would bless you with favorable results. This week you are likely to be allured with new schemes and investments. Members of the opposite sex will be a source of inspiration and will help you in need of the hour.

Taurus: The period is favorable for you and your social status and standing would further increase. In a way you are likely to gain the upper hand in almost every aspect of life. It may take some time but advance preparation would lead you to your desired goals. Those of you who do not have a romantic partner are likely to meet the person of their choice during this week.

Gemini: The efforts of people aspiring to join interior designing course are likely to be handsomely rewarded. Money making efforts will be profitable provided you work on new ideas and plans. You have a good opportunity to involve yourself in some interesting conversation today. This seems to be an excellent time for you to do things that will keep you relaxed and entertained.

Cancer: New projects will be alluring and hard hour will ensure outstanding gains in the long run. You'll attract more respect and honor from people young as well as old. You need not worry about your financial position. Prudent speculation may yield considerable profits. This week you should meet people who can further improve your career goals.

Leo: This week share important information with others to win their confidence. You need to realize that working, as a team will ensure gains. Make a plan, budget your time and stay on task. Meet people or settle deals with new partners and co-workers, thus creating new alliances, which will open up alternative horizons. Youngsters are going through an important and constructive time in their life.

Virgo: You are likely to witness some adverse situations at domestic front but it is in your hands to handle the situation. Proper financial planning is the need of the hour. Control your wasteful expenditure. It is difficult for you to keep up your promise or your word. Better be balanced. Do not give any promises. Do not give scope for difference of opinion with you Love/ spouse.

Libra: You would take charge of important work and gain additional respect from people in your group. Your ability to negotiate important deals, make plans, and carry them to perfection will help you stay ahead of others. Romance would rule your heart this week as you find immense pleasure in the arms of your beloved.

Scorpio: Someone is willing to give you a pretty important set of responsibilities this week. The work pressure is likely to increase in the near future. You will attain good financial position this week but Savings will take a dip because of some unexpected and unavoidable expenses. Educational pursuits would be high on your agenda. Personal relationships will be a source of strength and happiness to you.

Sagittarius: A generally relaxed and happy atmosphere this week will help you to enjoy the company of friends and relatives. Be strong when facing difficulties, this period will highlight your good side and you won't depend too much on others. Your stars show 'friendly strangers' in all forms. If you are single and already involved in a steady relationship, you may think of an engagement or marriage.

Capricorn: It is the proper time to use your influence and get the things done. Your expertise in preparing meticulous and detailed project reports will stand you in good stead later. You might be richly rewarded with a promotion, or an increase in income further and adulation. Your tendency to neglect domestic responsibilities will get you into trouble with loved ones.

Aquarius: You would have to try something new for this week. Look from each and every angle before you put your hard-earned money on the table. You will make much effort to consolidate your status. You will find solutions too many of your problems if you are willing to communicate and discuss. Your Love/ spouse will extend maximum cooperation to you in all aspects.

Pisces: This is the time to focus your energies and spend time on completing you work. In other words, you will have to work hard to fulfill your commitments during this week. Youngsters will be particularly audacious when undertaking new initiatives at work. Religious feeling will arise making you seek blessing from a spiritual person.

Men should always be caring

Renown Bollywood Actor and Director Arbaaz Khan was in Hyderabad to attend the PASS (Protest Against Smelly Stubble) Movement at Hotel Taj Deccan. He spoke to Deccan Post.

How did Film direction come into your life?

I studied at Stanislaus High School in Bandra and then at The Scindia School in Gwalior. Afterwards, I joined an acting school. But I always wanted to become a film director. I started working as an assistant director with Mahesh Bhatt in films like Zulm, Kabza and Aaawargi. But suddenly, I got a role as an actor in 'Daraar' film. This role of a psychotic wife abuser won me the Filmfare in the category of 'Best Actor in a Negative Role' Award.

How easy is it with your brother Salman Khan?

It's not so easy working with my brother Salman. Even when I tell my views, it would end up in an argument. We would many times agree to disagree. Salman would more often improvise on the script. He is a very loving and caring brother.

What about Arbaaz, the actor?

Well. It was an on and off career as an actor. Sometimes just two months work in a year films like Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya, Hulchul, Malamaal Weekly, Bhagam Bhag and Shootout At Lokhandwala, were some of them. Acting gave me a lot of experience. I can today understand the thought process of any actor who works in my home productions.

What do you feel about a woman in one's life?

I feel that a woman is very important in a man's life. Be it my mother, sister or my wife; they have all been to share and give love and joy.

There is a need to give space and freedom in any relationship. Disagreeing but still being together is something unique in life.

Can you tell us about the PASS (Protest against Smelly Stubble) Movement?

This is all about a survey that most women dislike a man with a smelly beard. A beard is something uncomfortable for a woman. Any woman would prefer a clean shaven man. Therefore, this campaign is for making men realize the importance of regular shaving.

What do you have to say about 'remake films'?

It's not easy to feel good on remakes. But if the original content and aesthetics are retained, then it's a good thing. Some local flavour is always expected to be added in any remake. But it is justified if the original flavour is retained.

What about your foray in the 'Ad world'?

I am a low profile guy. But today is the age of 'being seen'. That's the reason I have decided to take plunge in the 'Ad world'. This would happen with my wife Malaika Arora Khan. We want to brand ourselves as a couple. Already an ad 'shave or crave' has started.

- JAYWANT NAIDU

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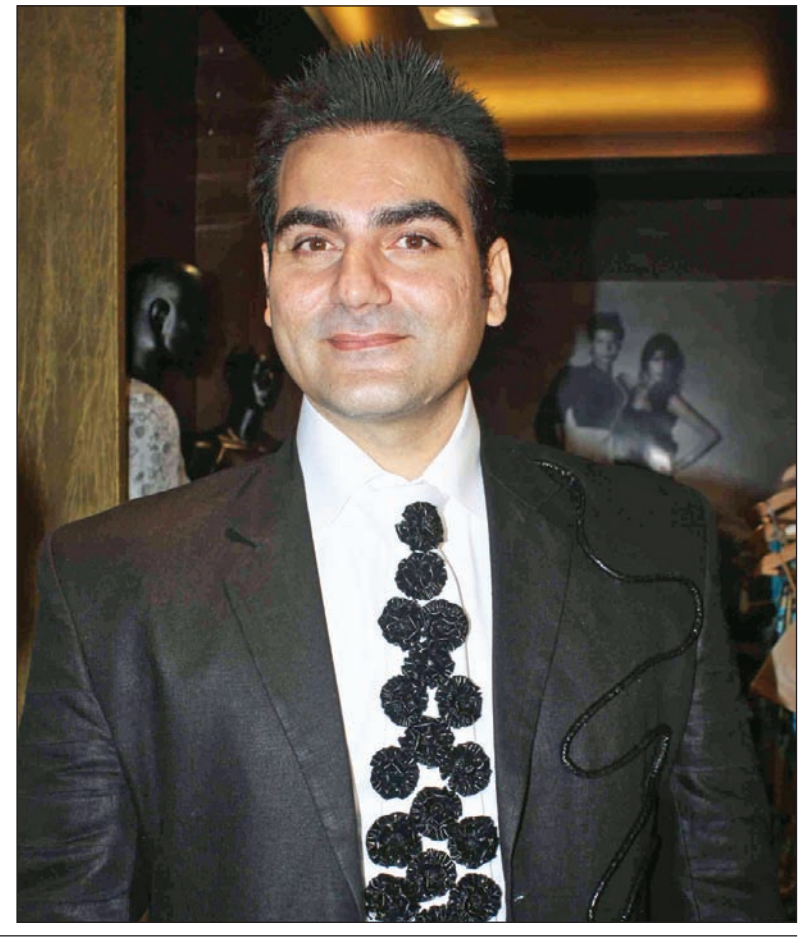

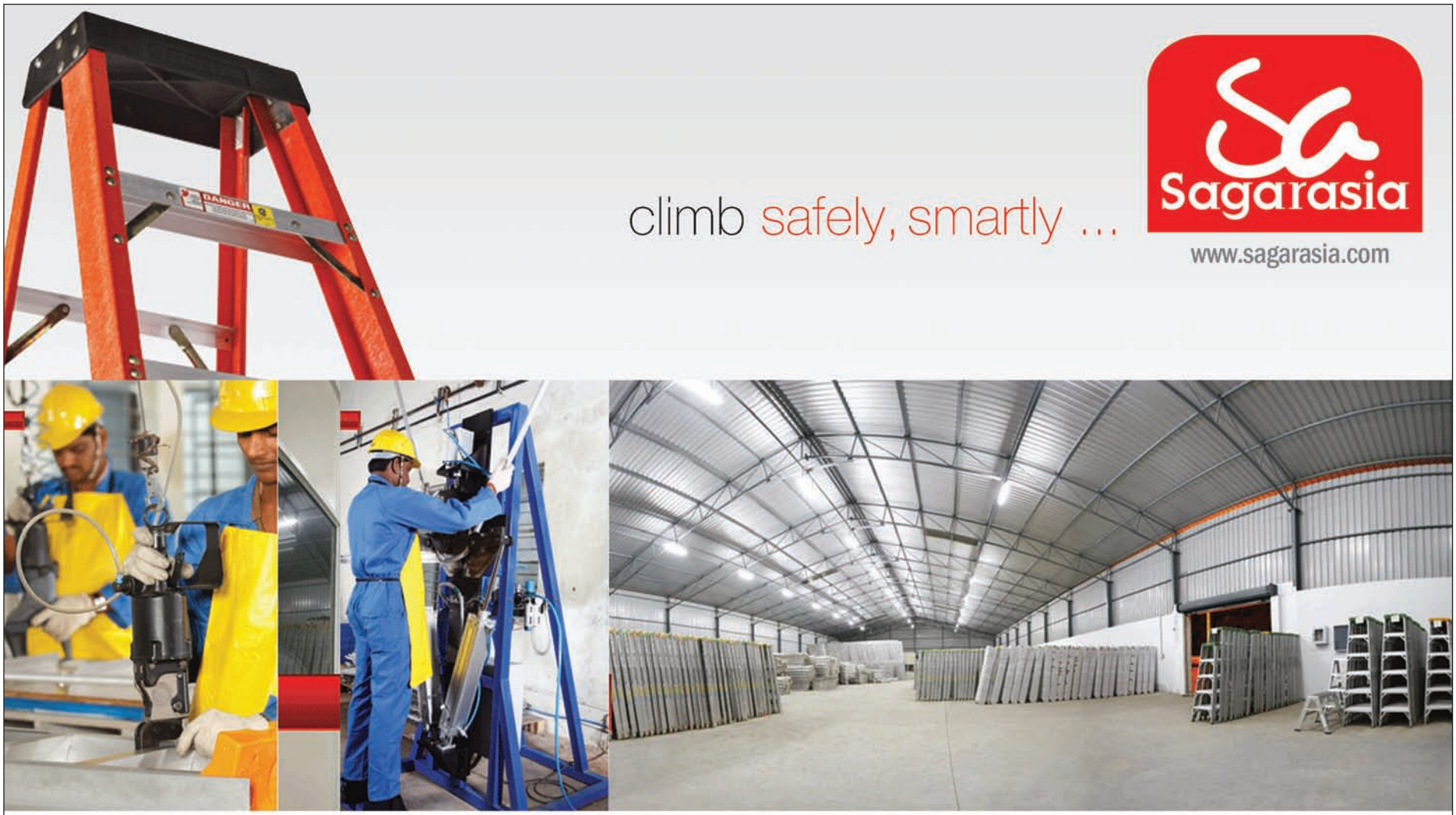

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Nargis wears bikini for Dhawan

Bollywood actress Nargis Fakhri, who will be seen in David Dhawan's upcoming flick 'Main Tera Hero', is all set to don a bikini for the film. This is the first time the actress will be seen in a two piece in a film. Earlier, we have seen the Pakistani-American babe go the bikini way in photo shoots.

It is heard that Nargis is set to trade her demure image for a desirable one in a song sequence, which is already shot in Thailand. Apparently, Dhawan likes his ladies to look hot and sexy and so he decided on Nargis going the bikini way. "He made Kangana wear a bikini in Rascals. While the film tanked at the BO, Kangana is still remembered for her glam avatar. And this time he has convinced Nargis to wear a bikini for a song. Nargis had just one condition — she didn't want a usual Bollywood designer to style her. She got fashion stylist Shyamali Singh on board. David agreed and they shot the song in Thailand this week. Nargis has worn a sea-green, star-spangled lycra bikini and looks like a goddess coming out of the sea." Nargis got a fashion stylist named Shyamali Singh on board to design her swimsuit. Says a source, "Nargis has worn a sea-green, star-spangled lycra bikini and looks like a goddess coming out of the sea".

Priyanka praises Big B

Priyanka Chopra is the second heroine who appeared in the very successful super hero franchise Krrish. She made our knees go week with that dazzling smile of hers. Krrish was a huge success and by the looks of it, Krrish 3 will also be a huge it. It may also enter the much coveted 100 crore club. This new genre in Bollywood of sci-fi movies is really entertaining and people who get to do such outstanding roles are thrilled. You tend to love the super hero character and are amazed at their abilities. We love Hrithik Roshan for his character. We fantasize and we create our own personal super heroes. But who according to Piggy Chops is the true super hero?The beautiful lady says, "I think, after my father, Amitabh Bachchan is a true superhero because the way he has handled his career it is just fantastic…Today, he has reached a level which no one has. Despite numerous ups and downs the kind of consistency he has been able to sustain is remarkable. Despite several personal tragedies and victories, that is one man, who never ceased to contribute to the entertainment industry and continued to touch our lives. His energy levels are way beyond and, shamefully, we (the young guns) still can't match up to him."

True that Priyanka! We believe that and appreciate your honesty!

-DP Desk

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Market at major highs

By V Sundar Raja

The Indian stock market surged strongly in the last few days, and is now closer to the three year high and it is nearer to the 21,000 mark. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), are reported to be strong buyers in the Indian equity market, as many are expecting that there could be a revival in the Indian economy growth in one or two quarters. Sensex has crossed the current year peaks, after several attempts in the last few months. Global markets are also seen positive due to temporary solution to the American government debt crisis and the Chinese economy growth rate is reported to be better than the expected rate.

Sentiment turned strong, and the weak IIP (Industrial Production) data that was reported on 11th October, had no effect on the market. Market has also not considered the negative Inflation Data that was reported on 14th October, which is seen at a seven month high. Many mid-cap and small-cap stocks, that have been beaten down in the last few months to have participated in the rally.

The second quarter financial results of the Indian companies are being reported and the performance that was declared so far has been positive. The recent results of the India's leading software firm TCS has been above market expectations, while the earlier week's declared future revenue guidance of Infosys too have been good, indicating a possible good growth of the software segment in the coming quarters. The leading private bank HDFC Bank too has announced strong growth, and there are positive expectations from the private banks.

Precious commodity Gold has seen a minor recovery in the MCX commodity by about 1,000 Rupees, but for the recovery to sustain, it has to break-out of the current barrier of 31,000 to indicate a short-term rally. Rupee continued its appreciation against the Dollar, but is closer to the key level of 60. Precious metal Silver has witnessed a minor recovery, but has to sustain above the major resistance of 50,000 levels, to indicate a short-term uptrend.

Crude Oil is still weak at current 6,200 levels in the commodity markets, but major support exists at 6,000 levels, from where a relief rally is possible, for the traders to be alert.

The next major trigger is the forthcoming Reserve Bank of India's meeting which is expected to take a decision on the interest rates. In-case of any hike in the lending rates, then there can be a reactionary trend to be cautious. Technically on the charts, Sensex is positively placed, but market is closer to the all-time record high levels, which can be tested.

Market is expected to witness a minor pause to the current trend in the next few days and a consolidation trend is also possible. Market has to sustain above the major peaks, even after a correction to indicate a further rally. Only in-case of any failure to sustain above the psychological support of 20,000 then there can be a short-term correction trend in the market.

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

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A Thank You from the bottom of Our hearts!!

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

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

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

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

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

Telangana Constitutional Rights Protection Forum

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

contact: tcrpforum@gmail.com

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