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*Fire and fury on the
sacred Seshachalam... P8*



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Will “Madam Speaker” contest from Warangal?

By Dr.T.Siva Prasad Reddy-Special Correspondent

Meira Kumar is an Indian politician and a five time Member of Parliament. She was elected unopposed as the first woman Speaker of the Lok Sabha on 3rd June 2009. She is a lawyer and a former diplomat. Prior to being a member of the 15th Lok Sabha, she has been elected earlier to the 8th, 11th, 12th and 14th Lok Sabha. She served as a Cabinet Minister in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of Manmohan Singh's Congress led Government (2004-2009).

Ensuing General Elections is another test for the largest Parliamentary Democracy in the world. Entire focus of the world countries shifts on to the country as the suggested pre-poll surveys doesn't give edge to the ruling UPA coalition. While at the same time, opposition NDA - though ahead at the moment is not comfortably placed to own a simple majority with the numbers required. So a dicey situation leading to speculative political discussions on the global front vis-a-vis emergence of a foreign policy alongside likely trade shifts in the Indian sub-continent and world alike. When that is the scenario relating to the global front on our general elections outcome, similar yet a complex situation seems to be on the cards as the erstwhile partners in such coalitions are parting ways to embrace the other side and some remaining non-committal (conveniently rechristened as Third Front..!). All this certainly, leading to an upsurge in expectations of one and all -never witnessed hitherto.

At the state level, the political scene in relation to general elections doesn't correspond to the national scenario. Here too alongwith general elections, there will be elections to Municipalities, Panchayat Raj a three tier hard grind for all. Post state bifurcation after the passage of AP Reorganisation-2013 bill by both the houses of Parliament in February-2014, a paradigm shift was noticed. Every other party in Telangana region started to take credit for the statehood to the region while giving different connotations in Seemandhra (now AP) region by the same parties adding to the already surcharged atmosphere pre and post-bifurcation scenario. Political opportunism is reigning supreme in such atmosphere confusing the best of the critics. This has certainly been encashed by certain Seemandhra media to highlight and repeatedly telecast eulogizing stories helping one community dominated political party. The other contemporary not losing opportunity to churn out the sympathy factor along with welfare slogans. This obnoxious hype has allowed cross imports into the parties (in Seemandhra while the opposite in Telangana) more so into one political party which promises 'Samajika Telangana' on one side but clandestinely the opposite in Seemandhra or AP region where the said community wants to beckon power. In a simple way, where there is no representation or meaningful presence of such community, through rank opportunism they shamelessly play the 'BC or Minority' card degrading the self respect of such communities who are now on the threshold of enjoying their rightful share in power politics on their own fateful skills across the country - a welcome sign. This



certainly augurs well for our Parliamentary Democracy as many from such down trodden communities SC, ST and Women are also equally knocking at the power echelons to garner their rightful share to rule the country.

In the same vein, national politics-vis-à-vis the present Parliament too harbours many such distinguished parliamentarians cutting across the party lines who have played a stellar role to pass many bills of strategic importance upholding our divine constitution affirming the faith of the people of the country in these institutions. As far as state bifurcation goes it would ensure all round development in both the new states of Telangana and AP. Three women at the national level from different backgrounds and political faiths have played an important role in the formation of Telangana state, while the two are from ruling and opposition coalitions-Sonia Gandhi and Sushma Swaraj, the other though a contemporary politician from ruling coalition got anointed to a prestigious constitutional post-Speaker of Lok Sabha Meira Kumar. How crucial and important role these women

politicians have played in case of important bills-issues-like Lokpal, food security, new land acquisition policy and AP State Reorganisation Bill-2013-the entire country is a witness. They together with wisdom based politics steered the country out of a crunch situation, thus receiving accolades from all quarters.

What if such type of quality leadership being women on the other hand wish to contest elections from a constituency other than their own patented within their own-parent state. That would certainly raise curiosity amongst voting populace while generating enormous ground swell of support or consolidation in favour of such political parties on whose 'B' form they wish to contest. This would lead to pooling of popular positive vote for such parties certainly helping the loose ends if any in their endeavour to capture power or for a notable presence. In that context, if any among these three experienced women politicians with distinct appeal and commanding capacity to attract voting public decide or if their

party authorizes them to contest from Telangana region in the wake of bifurcation of state. It would lead to windfall gains for such party while at the same time helps to build opinion in their favour. While both Sonia Gandhi from Congress and Sushma Swaraj from BJP have resolved to contest from their respective constituencies which they have been holding (at the time of publication of this story) to boost their parties' chances, will Madam Speaker Meira Kumar although authorized to contest from Sasaram in Bihar be fielded from Telangana region.

In view of TRS ditching, the strategic planning going on in ruling Congress that is determined to capture power in Telangana. For this reason, the party's think tank have taken stock of the situation post bifurcation politics as TRS backed out on its word of merger once Congress led UPA granted statehood. Soon after TRS announced its intentions to be a political force on its own by capturing power in the ensuing elections to Municipalities, Panchayat Raj (MPTC, ZPTC) alongside general elections to the Assembly and Parliament, the political climate in

Telangana region took a centre stage necessitating tie ups opening new avenues. In such a scenario, TRS's existence would kill whatever aspirations TDP was holding in Telangana region post bifurcation as a result of TDP President Naidu's media hyped antics (entire world is a witness) to derail the said process of Telangana state formation and his latest diatribes against those all who supported such process. TDP-Naidu is ambiguous when it comes to importing MLAs, MPs, Ministers from same Congress-UPA alongside pestering BJP-NDA for an alliance-when everyone from his own party have been criticizing them for Telangana bill passage? Now another Seemandhra actor turned politician-Pawan Kalyan (Jana Sena-no one from Telangana..!) eulogizes to be in the same league as TDP's Chandrababu Naidu confused (same community based another Seemandhra party Lok Satta too in the same mould..!), ambiguous and not knowing how to go ahead from hereon..! In these circumstances, Congress though



espouses such sympathy amongst Telangana voting masses after its role in passage of Telangana bill in Parliament is riding a rough shod due its own policies-delay in Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee formation, no clarity on alliances (CPI may join) and non-co-operation from TRS. In this related scenario, the Congress top brass have been pondering with the idea of fielding a national figure-who directly or indirectly contributed to Telangana statehood to enthuse positivity in the cadres while galvanizing sympathizers to hold onto the party ideology.

It is in this situation Speaker Meira Kumar (daughter of late Babu Jagjivan Ram-Ex Deputy PM who carved a niche for himself amongst downtrodden and others alike) is being thought of as the one who would if fielded from Warangal Parliament (reserved) constituency can galvanize the Telangana Congress Party (Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee). After Siddipet became general, Warangal got the SC reserved status on rotation in the last general elections, thereby YSR – the then CM got it allotted to yes boss clan Rajaiah (present MP). He is an import from Karimnagar within three months after retiring from Panchayat Raj under dubious circumstances as he was trapped by ACB in disproportionate assets case only to be exonerated by utilizing special powers vested in with CM-YSR (helped by Ex MP after) as ACB opposed it tooth and nail..!? After the death of YSR, the equations changed and Warangal became the centre stage for holding on Telangana agitation as the student and employees along with rural masses intensified Telangana struggle. But the



Congress, inspite of it's said role in Telangana statehood couldn't establish it's supremacy as the present MP tried to trade with TRS only to be shunned culminating in his pro-active role subsequently.

In the prevailing circumstances, the Congress in

unable to find a suitable candidate and a such the need to identify someone whose stature ensure not only retaining the prestigious Warangal Lok Sabha seat but also ensures a huge swing in favour of the Congress party under these circumstances how advantaged Congress would be in by fielding a sober, highly read Meira Kumar-who stole the limelight and became a national icon after her dignified performance as the Speaker of Lok Sabha is anybody's guess.

It may become difficult for Congress to find a replacement to match her status in Bihar, but if she wishes to contest from Warangal (if congress adopts a tactical move), it would propel other Congress candidates on a victory mode in the neighbouring districts of Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Khammam and as well as Warangal. As such her mere presence in the heart of Telangana region with a strategic campaign plan would boost the electoral prospects of congress candidates throughout Telangana. As such no one may dare to attack or use connotations to downgrade congress party if it fields a towering a personality like Meira Kumar and congress to consolidate its traditional vote bank of SC, ST & Minority communities on a large scale. This would allow congress to breathe easy in the neighbouring states too. Can the congress high command field Meira Kumar from Warangal which would surely contribute to the development of not only Warangal which is the next most resourceful and developing city after Hyderabad but the whole Telangana state, remains to be seen. This would allow congress to breathe easily in the neighbouring states too. ♦

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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.



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Can TRS go alone?

By Our Political Correspondent

The Congress-TRS wordy duel has now escalated into a full-blown war. KCR, who had earlier promised to merge his party into the Congress once Telangana is formed, has accused the Grand Old Party of being a wolf in sheep's clothes. In a scathing retort, Telangana Congress leader and former deputy chief minister Damodar Rajanarsimha called KCR an 'arrogant feudal lord'.

Only a few days ago, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Ponnala Lakshmaiah criticized KCR for being unfair and dictatorial. Suddenly, a group of TPCC leaders including working President Uttam Kumar Reddy charged KCR with trying to bring back the feudal rule and foist his family members on the people of the region.

This is a surprise aggression from the TPCC leaders, otherwise are known for their docile nature and mild manners. But, they are forced to attack thanks an early attack by KCR himself. While reacting to the Congress demand that he keep his word on his party's merger with the Congress, KCR said that he was under no such obligation.

KCR's logic is that he never gave a



unilateral undertaking that he would merge the TRS with the Congress. His one-time offer in 2011 as part of the 'Sakala Janula Samme' was to achieve the statehood so that the Telangana youth could be dissuaded from taking

their lives. "I had only said that I will discuss the issue of merger with my party colleagues and my party has decided against the merger," he said. Of course, none can find fault with KCR if he seeks to retain the identity of his party and continue its journey in the new state. He and his party leaders are talking of actively participating in the reconstruction of Telangana and feel they have a role to play even after the state formation on June 2, 2014. KCR and his acolytes are confident of winning over 70 MLAs and 12 MPs on their own.

KCR has been quoting few opinion polls which projected a lion's share of votes and seats to the TRS. NDTV's survey predicted a sweep for the TRS in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. KCR is talking of coming to power and forming the government on his own and fulfill the aspirations of people.

That explains why KCR is not keen to have even an alliance and much less a merger. A harried Congress had at least hoped for some kind of political tie-up. The AICC general secretary in-charge of AP affairs had invited TRS leader and MP K Keshav Rao for talks, but the latter hasn't evinced little interest.

Many believe that KCR is after all



right about his growing political strength. But, there are many who are worried about a possible split of pro-Telangana votes and feel it would only benefit the TDP, which is waiting for an opportunity to grab power in the region.

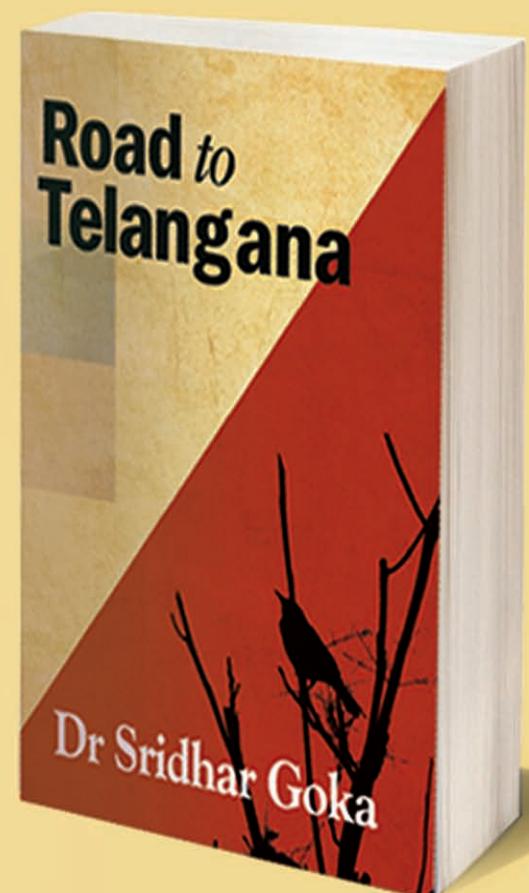
Road to Telangana

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TDP is trying to go for an alliance with the BJP as part of its strategy to strengthen itself in Telangana. But, BJP leaders from the region are suspicious of TDP chief's hidden agenda. We will come to the possibility of TDP-BJP storming to power later, but before that let us analyze whether KCR can win majority seats in Telangana on his own.

The developments of the last few days belie this confidence. KCR is inviting all and sundry into his party almost like a man possessed. He has been wooing the Congress and the TDP leaders alike by offering them party tickets, much to the annoyance of his party leaders, who stood by him during testing times. If he is so confident of winning majority MLA and MP seats, why he should encouraging poaching like this?

Results of local polls, litmus test:

Much depends on the outcome of the upcoming Municipal elections. Unless TRS fares exceedingly well, KCR cannot afford to go it alone in the Assembly and Parliament elections. But, as the trends suggest, TRS is unlikely to make huge impact in five out of nine Telangana districts. Reports reveal that TRS has minimum presence in Adilabad, Khammam, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and Ranga Reddy districts. TRS influence is still confined only to Karimnagar, Warangal, Nizamabad and Medak districts. This indicates that unless TRS joins hands with Congress, it cannot sweep south Telangana districts.

The same will apply to Panchayat Raj elections too which will be held April first week. By the time the results of Panchayat Raj elections are announced,



it would be the time for last date of filing of nominations. Panchayat Raj elections too are expected to throw up a disappointing result for the TRS and of course, for the Congress too if they go separately.

So a last minute compromise or understanding between the two parties cannot be ruled out if they fail to meet their respective expectations. If TRS is found to be strong only in four North-Telangana districts and parts of Medak, it may not be advisable for it to go it alone. In that event it is likely to fall short of the target of winning 70 Assembly seats and 12 MP seats.

On the other hand, Congress cannot afford to dream of winning more than 60 MLAs and 7 MPs and form a government in Telangana, on its own. Though the party is spread all over the region, it cannot hope to go strong, without the help of TRS. The reason for this is that the two parties are seen as responsible for securing Telangana state.

Apart from the civic and panchayat polls, another factor that may force TRS and Congress come together is the possibility of emergence of a grand alliance of TDP, BJP, Jana Sena and the Lok Satta. The ground for this alliance has already been laid by the decision of Jana Sena founder and Power Star Pawan Kalyan

to back BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi.

Pawan Kalyan went to Ahmedabad, met Modi on Friday and announced his decision to join hands with the BJP in both the regions. Already, the BJP top brass has made up its mind to go with the TDP, the alliance among the three parties is sure to emerge soon. Lok Satta's Jayaprakash Narayan is certain to join this alliance for his survival in Hyderabad. If this happens, TRS and Congress too might reconsider their strategies and decide to come together to prevent split of votes among them. ♦

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Much ado about Advani

The veteran BJP leader LK Advani has done enough damage to the image of the BJP. Finally, he has bowed down to the party's Central Election Committee's decision to field him from Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency of Gujarat. His climb-down has come not before he had created a scene by insisting on contesting from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. He relented only after the RSS intervened and persuaded the BJP leadership to leave the choice to Advani himself. The BJP agreed to it too. But, before that Advani caused enough embarrassment to the BJP top brass, including Narendra Modi and Rajnath Singh.

Advani's preference for Bhopal is on two counts: First, he, of late, perceives Gujarat Chief Minister and BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi as his rival. He feels Modi is out to thwart his ambitions of occupying the country's top political executive post. So, octogenarian Advani feels it isn't safe to contest from Modi's fiefdom of Gujarat.

Second thing is that Advani wants to fight the polls from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, where his 'shishya' Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the chief minister. We still remember how Advani had during the MP Legislative Assembly elections last year sought to indirectly compare Chouhan with Modi and pronounced that there was more development in MP than in Modi-ruled Gujarat.

In fact, both Modi and Chouhan are three-time chief ministers and have



won consecutive terms. Though, Chouhan had never nursed any grudge against Modi or had ambitions of becoming the prime minister, it was Advani who tried to cleave a wedge between them. Now, by preferring Bhopal to Gandhinagar, Advani wants to vitiate the atmosphere among the BJP cadre once again. Advani feels that he cannot harbor prime ministerial

dreams if he contests and wins from Gandhinagar with Modi's help.

In that event, Advani feels, his opposition to Modi would be seen as unethical. But, if he wins from Bhopal, there will not be any such moral obligations to him.

If he can win from Bhopal, which again is a safe seat for the BJP, Advani

can raise a banner of revolt and project himself as the prime ministerial candidate especially if the BJP falls short of the required numbers in the Lok Sabha. Moreover, Advani feels there is a lesser possibility of sabotage in Bhopal.

Whatever be his political calculations, Advani is expected to abide by the decision of the BJP's all powerful Central Election Committee. Advani has no other option but to fall in line and as expected, he has fallen in line albeit after a lot of sulking. Apparently, Advani has not realized the amount of damage he has caused to the party at the national level.

Right from the beginning, Advani has been steadfastly opposing Modi – whether it was his elevation as the campaign committee chairman or his anointment as the party's prime ministerial candidate. This 86 year old patriarch has not realized that age simply is not on his side and that the rank and file of BJP and for that matter, the RSS is not on his side.

Today, Modi has grown to such a stage that entire BJP and RSS are with him. Even among the general public too, there is a lot of craze about Modi. The people appear to believe in his skills to revive the economy and to bring in development. If Advani doesn't like to witness the rise of Modi, he should realize that it is about time he quits politics and retires from public life in a manner that is graceful. ♦

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Cong injects Social Justice

With the appointment of two separate committees of Andhra Pradesh Pradesh Congress committee headed by N Raghuvendra Reddy and Telangana Pradesh Committee headed by Ponnala Lakshmaiah the congress appears to be eying the Backward Classes voters as they are considered to be the strong supporters of anti congress party. I believe that congress made a smart move by anointing BC leaders as they state committee heads

Telangana congress committee President but it came to shock to many congress leaders. Moreover with the declaration of a Dalit leader to be the next congress chiefs minister it not only favoured social justice but tried to keep its traditional voters intact. Hope the congress will succeed in Telangana for keeping its promise.

D Raghv, Aghapura

Pavan Kalyan's antics show.....

Many people in the state like me awaited with eagerness and anxiety for the launch of the Jana Sena Party under the leadership of popular Telugu actor Pavan Kalyan, the younger brother of mega star Chieranjeevi. The wait proved to be useless and meaningless as Pavan Kalyan had no idea or vision for his party and its role in the contemporary politics. Pavan's speech was full of emotions and punch dialogues and lacked seriousness and maturity. The youth were mesmerized with his well written and scripted speech but he could not state why he started his party, what is

the need of another party especially when his elder brother's party failed to make any impact and what is the ideology of his party. I believe that Pavan's party also will be a failure like his elder brother's and end up reaching nowhere. All the Best Pavan.

Devyani Sharma, Khairtabad

Don't postpone Panchayat Polls

I am a regular reader of Deccan Post and fan of its analytical articles especially its Editorial columns. As everybody knows that the Panchayat elections are pending since a long time which is marring the development in the rural and remote areas and functioning without a proper governing body and solely depending upon the in-charge officers on one or the other pretext. The Supreme Court's direction to the election commission is a welcome sign and the election commission must conduct the Panchayat polls smoothly and handover the reins to the elected representatives otherwise the funds of the union government as well as the



state government will be of no use and will be diverted where which will put the rural people to great hardship and amount to depriving of their right of getting facilities and infrastructure which is equivalent to their urban counterparts.

Anjaneyulu Swamy, E-mail

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and keeping the traditional Reddy community leaders away. By appointing the new state committees the congress appears to be with a clear vision that it is trying to bring social justice and give power to the downtrodden sections of the society such as BCs, SCs, STs and Minorities. Many believed that Jana Reddy or Jaipal Reddy would be made

Beware of U-turn taking Politicians

By Shivkant Bichkunda

The people of India especially Telangana and residuary state of Andhra Pradesh witnessed how politicians cutting across the party lines are changing their stands and taking U-turns on their previous stands or philosophies.

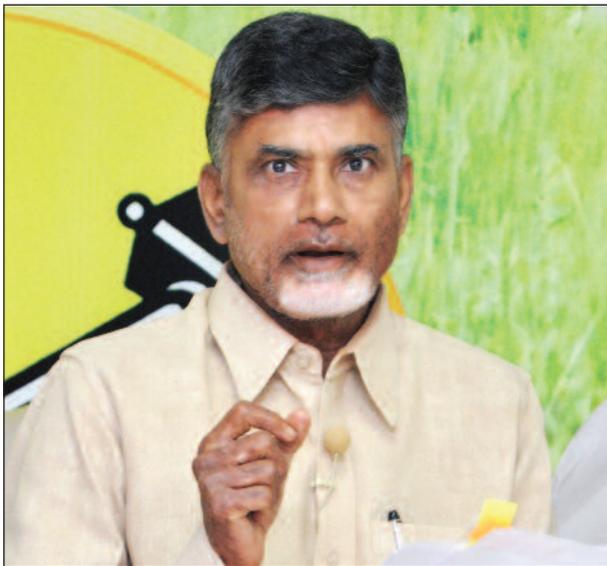
Many so called and self declared staunch protagonists of Telangana such as G Venkat Swamy, Marri Chenna Reddy etc in the past held the flag of Telangana statehood demand and surrendered to then governments and kept quiet after being rewarded with lucrative positions such as Chief Ministers or Union Ministers.

In the year 2001, the then opposition leader YS Rajashekara Reddy masterminded the formation of the TRCC led by Chinna Reddy and sent a letter to the congress party high command demanding the formation of Telangana state which was opposed by the state government led by TDP's Chandrababu Naidu and due to his crucial support to the then union government led by BJP, nothing had been done to the demand of demerger of the Andhra Pradesh state.

Later on many political unemployed such as Indra Reddy, T Devender Goud etc. have joined the bandwagon and failed to make any impact and could not succeed in keeping their own identity alive.

Then YSR played his cards smartly and tied alliance with emerging Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) led by K Chandrashekara Rao (KCR) in the 2004 general elections with the promise of forming of Telangana state and the TRS also joining the state government as well as the central government and enjoyed being in power. This honeymoon could not remain for long and both the congress and TRS parted ways as there was no move on the front of formation of Telangana state as YSR played a crooked role in obstructing every step which was being taken in favour of Telangana formation even after appointing Pranab Mukherjee Committee or keeping the Telangana issue in the Common Minimum Program of the then UPA government.

At the same time a lot of drama was enacted by actor turned politician Chiranjeevi who formed his Praja Rajyam Party with the slogan of social justice and Social Telangana. After the debacle in the general



elections he had no other go except to merge his party into the congress and joining the union government as well as AP state government.

On the other hand, principal opposition party leader Chandrababu Naidu had already gave a letter to the union government consenting and demanding statehood for Telangana but unluckily his gimmicks could not work and he lost the second consecutive elections and had no role either in the state or in the central politics.

It is well known fact that the BJP had announced its support for Telangana much before all other parties i.e. in the year 1989 and promised that it will create the Telangana state if it comes to power in the centre but BJP also failed the people of Telangana after coming to power in the name of coalition compulsions.

Latesty, the power mongering YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, President of YSR Congress Party also stated that his party cannot stop the formation of Telangana state or have the strength to grant statehood and demanded in All party meets that the union government must act according to the constitution of India and it's the union government to decide on the contentious issue.

Recently it was notorious Nallari & Company which was at the helm of affairs in the state government had stated that all the partymen will abide by the decision taken by the congress party high command and nothing is in their hands and they are neither in favour of Telangana or against Telangana formation.

With the frequent change of stands in leaders like Chandrababu Naidu of TDP, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of YSRCP, Venkaiah Naidu of BJP, Chiranjeevi, the then founder of Praja Rajyam Party Chiranjeevi, the new entrant of dirty and shameless politics Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy most of the people of this nation who boasts about the democratic, secular, federal and republic set up of the nation are feeling shocked and wondering how these responsible politicians can take frequent U-turns and change their stands without any valid reasons.

Now all these politicians must understand that the congress party granted the statehood to Telangana after much deliberations and delay and the Telangana will be the 29th official state of the Indian Union from 2nd June, 2014 and the people of Telangana should not forget all the games, gimmicks and dramas played by crooked politicians irrespective of their political affiliations.

On the other hand the Election Commission of India must act as a watchdog over the promises made by the political parties to the people of this country and take stringent action against such parties if they fail to fulfill the promises made by them during the election times. At the same time the political parties must think hundred times before making any promises to the people and remember that as people's representatives they are accountable to the people and should not try to fool the people and take disadvantage of their trust otherwise people surely will not forgive them for their ill deeds. It's high time that the people must be vigilant of the wolfs in the skin of sheep and teach them a fitting lesson as they got the mighty right of vote in the upcoming elections otherwise the politicians will be scot free to fool again and again in the name of democratic aspirations of the different sections of people. ♣

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Fire and fury on the sacred Seshachalam



By Jaywant Naidu

A wildfire is an uncontrolled fire in an area of combustible vegetation that occurs in the countryside or a wilderness area. Other names such as bush fire, forest fire, desert fire, grass fire, hill fire, peat fire and vegetation fire are also used to describe it.

A wildfire differs from other fires by its extensive size, the speed at which it can spread out from its original source, its potential to change direction unexpectedly, and its ability to jump gaps such as roads, rivers and fire breaks. Wildfires are characterized in terms of the cause of ignition, their physical properties such as speed of propagation, the combustible material present and the effect of weather on the fire. Wildfires are a common occurrence in Australia; because of the generally hot and dry climate. In the United States, there are typically between 60,000 and 80,000 wildfires that occur each year, burning 3 million to 10 million acres of land depending on the year. Fossil records and human history contain accounts of wildfires.

Wildfires can cause extensive damage, both to property and to human life, but they also have various beneficial effects on wilderness areas. Some plant species depend on the effects of fire for growth and reproduction, although large wildfires may also have negative ecological effects.

Strategies of wildfire prevention, detection, and suppression have varied over the years, and international wildfire management experts encourage further development of technology and research. One of the more controversial techniques is controlled burning: permitting or even igniting smaller fires to minimize the amount of flammable material available for a potential wildfire. While some wildfires burn in remote forested regions, they can cause extensive destruction of

homes and other property located in the wildland-urban interface: a zone of transition between developed areas and undeveloped wilderness.

While wildfires can be large, uncontrolled disasters that burn through 0.4 to 400 square km (100 to 100,000 acres) or more, they can also be as small as 0.001 square km (0.25 acre; 1,000 m²) or less.

CAUSES OF WILD FIRE:

The four major natural causes of wildfire ignitions are lightning, volcanic eruption, sparks from rock falls and spontaneous combustion. The most common cause of wildfires varies throughout the world. In Canada and Northwest China, lightning is the major source of ignition. In Mexico, Central America, South America, Africa, Southeast Asia, Fiji, and New Zealand, wildfires can be attributed to human activities such as animal husbandry,

agriculture, and land-conversion burning. Human carelessness is a major cause of wildfires in China and in the Mediterranean Basin. In the United States and Australia, the source of wildfires can be traced to both lightning strikes and human activities such as machinery sparks and cast-away cigarette butts. On a yearly basis in the United States, typically more than six times the number of wildfires are caused by human means such as campfires and controlled agricultural burns than by natural means. In the year 2010, almost 1.5 million acres were burned by human-caused wildfires, and over 2.1 million acres were burned by naturally-caused wildfires. In the year 2011, almost 5.3 million acres were burned by human-caused wildfires, and only about 3.5 million acres were caused by naturally-derived wildfires.

FOREST FIRES IN INDIA:

As per the latest state of the forests report of the

Forest Survey of India, the actual forest cover of India is 19.27% of the geographic area, corresponding to 63.3 million ha. Only 38 million hectares of forests are well stocked (crown density of above 40%). This resource has to meet the demand of a population of 950 million people and around 450 million cattle. As such, country has to meet the needs of 16% of the world's population from 1% of the world forest resources. The same forest has also to cater for the 19% of the world cattle population. The forests of the country are therefore, under tremendous pressure. Forest fires are a major cause of degradation of India's forests.

While statistical data on fire loss are weak, it is estimated that the proportion of forest areas prone to forest fires annually ranges from 33% in some states to over 90% in other. About 90% of the forest fires in India are created by humans. The normal fire season in India is from the month of

February to mid June. India witnessed the most severe forest fires in the recent time during the summer of 1995 in the hills of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. The fires were very severe and attracted the attention of whole nation. An area of 6,77,700 ha was affected by fires. The Forest Survey of India identifies 50% of the forest areas as fire prone. This does not mean that country's 50% area is affected by fires annually. Very heavy, heavy and frequent forest fire damages are noticed only over 0.8%, 0.14% and 5.16% of the forest areas respectively. Thus, only 6.17% of the forests are prone to severe fire damage. In the absolute terms, out of the 63 million hectare of forests, an area of around 3.73 million hectare can be presumed to be affected by fires annually.

THE FOREST FIRES ARE MAJORLY OF FOUR TYPES:

- Ground fires are fed by subterranean roots, duff

and other buried organic matter.

- Crawling or surface fires are fueled by low-lying vegetation such as leaf and timber litter, debris, grass, and low-lying shrubbery.
- Ladder fires consume material between low-level vegetation and tree canopies, such as small trees, downed logs, and vines.
- Crown, canopy, or aerial fires burn suspended material at the canopy level, such as tall trees, vines, and mosses.

FOREST FIRE IN ANDHRA PRADESH:

In 2013, the number of forest fires rose to 2,357 in Andhra Pradesh compared to 1,113 the previous year. But the accidents in Tirupati division showed a declining trend with only 159 forest fires in 2012 compared to 205 in 2011. There has been a need to appoint 150 forest watchers and couple of

coordinating officials on the 35 km Ghat road. Prime importance is on Sheshachalam hill ranges which has rare wood species of red sanders. The massive fire raging in the Hills of Tirupati has required the help of Indian Air Force to quell. The fires are slowly spreading to the slope close to the Lord Balaji temple. Shops along the walking path were shut down as thick smoke was causing breathing difficulties and reduced the visibility.

This is the first time in the temple's centuries-old history that the sacred steps have been shut. A wind energy plant on the Seven Hills leading to the temple has also been shut down as a precaution. Officials also herded to safety dozens of spotted deer, wild boar, Indian giant squirrels, and other animals as the fire spread. Officials said vegetation and stretches of slopes that had dried up resulted in the fire spreading so quickly. ♦

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Ugadi astanam in Tirumala temple on March 31

The temple court ceremony will be performed on the occasion of the Telugu New Year Day on Ugadi on the 31st of this month at the in Tirumala temple. As a part of the celebrations on the auspicious occasion, temple cleansing (Suddhi) and Thomala Seva (in Ekantam) will be performed after the Suprabhata Seva. Later, the processional deities are provided with Vissha Samarpana and the deities are taken inside the Bangaru Vakili, where Asthanam is performed. Before that the presiding deity of Lord Venkateswara, Utsava Murthis and also the Commander-in-Chief of Lord Sri Viswakshena will be dressed in new clothes. After that Sri Jaya Nama Panchanga Shraavanam will be rendered by the scholars.



TTD has cancelled Vissha Pooja, Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, Arjitha Brahmotsavam and Vasantotsavam in the temple owing to Ugadi.



LAUGH OUT LOUD

Pappu's Attitude In Exams.
They Give Me Questions Which I Don't Know.
So...
I Give Them Answers Which They Don't Know.
Why???

"Tit For Tat"

Teacher: Google is a girl or a boy..?

Student: Google is a Girl.....because it won't let you complete the whole sentence and start guessing, suggesting.....and you ask only one question.....but get hundreds of irrelevant answers in seconds...

Teacher: What is half of 8??

Rajnikant: 4

Santa: Depend karta hai agar horizontally

aadha karo to '0'

Aur vertically kaato toh '3'. Santa rocked.

Rajnikant shocked

Santa Banta looking at an Egyptian mummy.

Santa: Look so many bandages, pakka truck

accident case!

Banta: Aaho, truck nambar bhi likha hai:

BC-1760!!

HEALTH TIPS

Home remedies with saffron

1. Make a paste of sandal wood and saffron. Dilute this with little water and apply it as face pack. This helps to reduce acne, pimples, dark circles, dark pigments and increase fairness and glow of skin.

2. Saffron paste when applied on wound accelerates healing process.

3. When sandal wood and saffron paste mixture is applied on forehead it helps to reduce fever and head ache.

4. A mixture of rose water and finely ground saffron instilled in eyes help to strengthen the vision.

5. Fry 4-5 almonds in ghee. Grind these almonds with saffron and milk to make a fine paste. Mix this paste to a cup of milk to get rich, thick golden yellow kesar badam milk. Consuming kesar badam milk at night helps to rejuvenate male and female reproductive system. This helps men who are suffering with erectile dysfunction, low sperm count, low sperm motility and premature ejaculation.

6. Saffron has to be administered in pregnant women from third trimester. (7th month). Around 5-6 stigmas of saffron should be ground with milk and later mixed to a cup of milk. This milk has to be consumed at night.

Precaution: Saffron should not be administered in early pregnancy as it may cause abortion.



SUDOKU 314

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

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-313

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

Answer 313: Rajeev S. East Maredpally

ASTRO FOCUS

ARIES: Keep in mind that acquiring knowledge would be a never-ending process and you all gain from sharing it with others. You are probably feeling particularly positive. You have increased self-confidence to try new things that are daring, unusual and inventive to pursue your goals for greater independence. This week brings an emotional and personal balance and promotes harmony in relationships between individuals.

TAURUS: You would face any difficult situation with courage this week. You will overcome the difficulties with your forethought. If possible, change your schedule and have a firm belief in yourself. You will perform religious activities at home. You seek the trust and confidence of others and must be prepared to compete in business transactions.

GEMINI: This week happy news from a friend or a close relative will boost your spirits and bring cheerful moments. You have to control your temperaments and do not exchange harsh words. You are likely to get enough exposure to practical skills at professional front. You use your knowledge wisely and prudently and you gain great respect from all who get to know you.

CANCER: You are likely to witness some adverse situations at domestic front but it is in your hands to handle the situation. Remember it is a decisive period so a special care needs to be taken to give way to success in life. You may be called upon to participate in a secret investigation, or testify in a court of law soon. You may have to keep something that you know a secret.

LEO: You will definitely pick up valuable suggestion if you listen properly. You will find yourself bubbling with loads of energy and your intuition will be helpful in making crucial decisions. You shall get opportunity for higher education and scholarship. You need to use your intellectual power to your benefit! Financially, a rewarding time and colleagues will be helpful and supportive. Work conditions will continue to be favorable.

VIRGO: Your family will be standing with you in your decision. Inclination towards religious ceremonies likely. It gives you spiritual contentment. Better earnings this week will resolve many of your problems. Your will get more financial benefit. Acquisition of assets and many more things or gifts this week may delight you.

LIBRA: You have decided that you need to learn more, do more, and have a more direct connection with your faith. In some cases, you may even decide to take the step forward. To take business to newer heights businessmen are likely to induct highly motivated professionals with excellent communication skills.

SCORPIO: If you are planning a business trip though, there could be challenges and disappointments. Research, education and learning for fun also trump the more serious studies that interest you now. Your originality comes to the fore and you will produce remarkable work. Fresh negotiations for work could run into a few problems. A big investment opportunity will come to your way.

SAGITTARIUS: You may be misunderstood if you are too outspoken, especially in print or online. Be extra careful with your written communication as you may make mistakes in fact or form that will come back to haunt you. You need to maintain your focus to succeed in professional Endeavour. You get new profitable opportunities but it is now up to you to use them to your benefit.

CAPRICORN: It is going to be a high-energy week with a lot of confusing, conflicting energies that come largely from friends, companions, groups or clubs. People in general will be hyperactive, dramatic, excitable and unfocused. Your intuitive senses are on target with your business, professional or domestic goals. You are inclined to be more ambitious for material wealth and status.

AQUARIUS: You will be more in touch with your emotions than usual and will display more sensitivity toward the feelings of others. This time is favorable for involvement in advanced ideas in information, communications and transportation. Cooperation is needed to avoid difficulties in dealing with partners and equals.

PISCES: You have incredible ideas that seem to come from some extraterrestrial channeled source. They are so outside your normal way of thinking. Give them a chance to percolate and develop. It is a fortuitous time for business contracts, sales and negotiations. Your career is in focus now. You can make a good impression on others through your kind ways.

Collaborate, connect and Co-create

NASSCOM National President, R Chandrashekhar was in Hyderabad at the Annual ITsAP SME Conference 2014. He spoke to Deccan Post.

What is the IT sector doing in India?

The IT industry is evolving constantly. Businesses are increasingly influencing technology. IT-BPM industry is the largest private sector employer with 3.1 million people. It is the largest private sector of women employer giving employment to 1 million women. It is the highest attractor of \$ 2.4 billion Private Equity and Venture Capital investment.

What are the worldwide indicators in the IT sector?

The worldwide GDP growth is set to increase from 3.1 percent in 2013 to 3.7 percent in the year 2014. Unemployment is set to decline. World Inflation is set to reduce. Commodity prices are coming down. The Global Sourcing is growing by 2X of IT BPM spend. The industry is expected to aggregate \$ 118 billion in FY-2014.

What about 'start up' companies in India?

There are about 1,200 big-time players in India. Around 20,000 small size players are there and Bangalore is a very hot destination.

What has been the outsource business for India?

There is an increase in million dollar clients by 50 percent in the last five years. About 100 percent of clients have gained productivity improvements from India. Over 70 percent have derived global emerging marketing solutions from India. India is a dynamic market place with 920 million telecom subscribers, 40 million smart phones and 213 million internet users. It is the third fastest growing 'app market' in the world. It has more than 300 million 'apps' downloaded and market of more than Rs 300 crore.

What are the major challenges that you foresee?

IT will grow by 3.9 percent and BPM by 5.9 percent. But there are some challenges too. Political instability, delay in decision making, slow government projects are some of the issues. Immigration bill and dollar fluctuations have also added to the same.

What is the priority of NASSCOM during your tenure as its President?

Technology Transforming, Strategic Partnerships, Collaborations, Digital Hub and expansion to new geographies for business growth will be some of our major initiatives. In the Financial Year 2015, NASSCOM expects the industry to add overall revenues by a very



large margin. Export revenues for Financial Year 2015 are projected to grow by about 15 per cent to reach \$ 97-99 billion. Domestic revenues for the same period will grow at a rate of about 11 per cent and is expected to reach \$ 1,250 billion during this year.

What is the major focus for the

present time?

The need of the hour is to work depending on potential size, market readiness and the growing significance of policy evolution. The main focus is to 'Collaborate, Connect and Co-Create.' ♦

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Rhea feels unsafe in Mumbai



Quite shockingly, actor-VJ Rhea Chakraborty was groped and molested in Mumbai on Tuesday evening. This incident took place in the evening inside the building she resides in Khar.

Rhea took to Twitter to vent her frustration. The 'Meri Dad Ki Maruti' actor tweeted "Mumbai is so unsafe, it's scary to another level. I am absolutely frustrated with the men in this country. Here this out, it's ridiculous" She tweeted further saying, "I just got groped by a very well dressed man who casually walks into my building in broad daylight, with 2 watchmen chilling in the building...Can a girl not walk in to her own building at 5 pm? Where is the guarantee of not getting molested?" Rhea said: "Luckily, I take martial arts classes and managed to kick him real hard. He screamed and he ran away. But Mumbai is suffocatingly unsafe."

Later, Rhea filed an FIR and issued a statement saying, "I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouraging words I have tweeted about this unfortunate incident only to highlight the dismal reality and ask all women to be more aware. The police are doing their job and I am confident they will get to the bottom of this matter."

Double blow for Yami

Yami Gautham, who caught the attention of Bollywood with Vicky Donor, started off her acting career in South film industry. Vicky Donor gave the first break to Yami and after that she got some lucrative offers in both Bollywood and advertising field. She continued to star in Telugu and Tamil films after that. Although her film 'Gouravam' with Allu Sirish bombed, she managed to show off in T'wood with hits like 'Nuvvila'. Yami was expecting to go to the next level this year with a couple of her films lined up for release.

But unfortunately Yami's recent Bollywood release 'Total Siyappa' tanked at the box office and her long-awaited Telugu release 'Yuddham' too had gone down the drain without even putting up a fight.

This double blow will hit Yami's hopes for sure. She badly needs a hit to get back on track. Her big ticket film, 'Courier Boy Kalyan' has been stuck in a financial tangle and only that film could save the day for yummy Yami. She needs to be extra cautious in choosing her films. She can't afford failures anymore.

-DP Desk



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Market reacts at higher levels

By V Sundar Raja

Stock market's major indices witnessed a minor correction after an earlier strong rally. Markets were seen taking a pause at 22,000 key psychological levels, after a bullish phase from 20,000, gaining a handsome 2,000 points. Technically on the charts, current reactionary trend can be termed as a minor corrective trend, while the overall major underlying trend continues to be bullish. The select frontline stocks were subject to profit booking, while few mid-cap stocks have continued to gain further. Market is seen slightly tired at higher levels due to the technical overbought position, but there is equally steady buying support is seen at lower levels, indicating a positive sentiment.

Market is also keenly awaiting the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) first bi-monthly monetary statement for the year 2014-2015 on 1st April 2014. This could indicate the next short-term direction of the market. Market has positively reacted to the recent Indian macro-economic data, which is seen encouraging, indicating a possible recovery.

Sector wise, the Bank and the Automobile stocks were seen firm even at higher levels. The fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) stocks continue to advance further. The software stocks got into a corrective mode and have wit-



nessed strong correction in the last few days, after a previous bullish trend. The pharma stocks made minor gains and could continued the sideways trend. The metals and the cement stocks made further minor gains, while the mid-cap and small cap stocks exhibited strength.

The crude oil, after a declining trend from 6,500, found minor support at 6,000, from where a recovery is seen in the MX commodity market. But it has to sustain above the next technical price barrier of 6,200, to indicate a further short-term uptrend.

The leading base metals were also subject to a reactionary trend, while the

precious metals like the Gold and the Silver were subject to selling pressure in the MCX commodity markets due to global market trends. Silver has the next support at the recent major support of 43,000, where there can be a recovery. But in-case of any failure at this major support level, then it can witness a further downtrend, for the commodity traders to be cautious. Similarly, another precious metal Gold too was unable to sustain near the 31,000 mark. This commodity has strong support at 28,500 levels, where a recovery is possible.

The next major trigger for the stock market is likely to be the outcome of the

Highlights

The Naukri job index has seen a 14 to 15 percent growth in January-February, from a bottom of 2% in June last year. Ambaresh Raghuvanshi, CFO, Info Edge says the job index is marginally higher, but it is not a solid uptrend.

The new fund offer (NFO) of the ETF, which closed today, saw Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) lap up the scheme pouring in bids of over Rs 1,000 crore alone on the last day. "The ETF today got Rs 1,600 crore worth bids with FIIs being the highest bidder. Cumulative bids for the NFO stands at over Rs 4,000 crore," a source said.

general elections. Market is likely to move in a sideways and in a consolidation trend till then. Technically on the charts, Sensex is seen restricted in a very narrow range of 500 points. Technical major short-term price support below is seen at 21,500, where market needs to recover for a positive trend. But only in case of any failure at this key level, then it could enter into a further short-term correction, for the short-term investors to be cautious. ♦

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

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- Do your friends or family members complain or worry about your drug/Alcohol use?
- Do you hide or lie about your drug/Alcohol use?
- Have you ever done anything illegal in order to obtain drugs/Alcohol?
- Do you spend money on drugs/Alcohol that you really can't afford?
- Do you ever use more than one recreational drug/Alcohol at a time?

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