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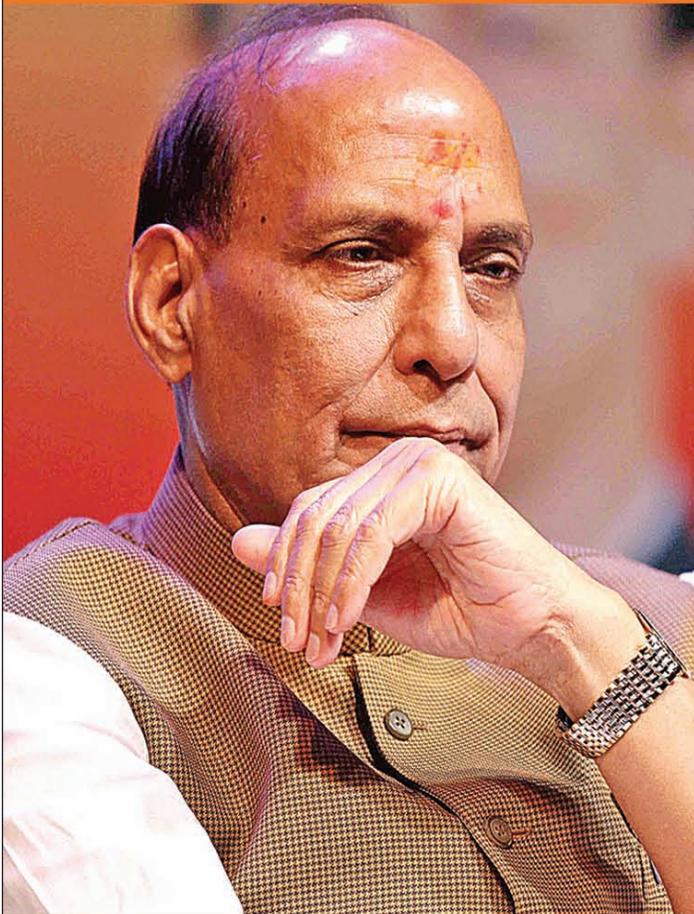
Feb 09-15, 2014

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## BJP faltering over T-bill; Can it honour its promise?



By Our Political Correspondent

The determination displayed by the Congress led UPA government at the Centre on the contentious issue of Telangana has surprised many political observers not only in the state but all over the country. Not many believed that the Manmohan Singh led union cabinet would go ahead and approve (Andhra Pradesh State Re-organization Bill-2013 popularly referred to as the T-bill) or the Telangana bill on Friday night and sent it to the President for his formal recommendation which is mandatory as per Article 3 of the Indian Constitution for tabling the same in the Parliament in the ongoing session.

*Contd. on Page2*

A majority of the political pundits who appeared on the national television channels have expressed doubts over the cabinet passing the bill, in the light of hectic developments that were witnessed in the national capital last week. First was the move of the former AP state Chief Minister and TDP president Chandra Babu Naidu making and YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy appealing to various parties and leaders in rejecting the T-bill. All this was followed by a Dharna staged by Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy and many Congress ministers and MPs, MLAs at Jantar Mantar protesting against the determination of the Congress led union government going ahead with process to introduce the T-bill. Thereafter Kiran Reddy also met the President to make an appeal about keeping the AP state united at any cost. Before that, the Chief Minister managed to pass a resolution in the Assembly rejecting the Telangana bill referred to it by the President, after a seven week long debate in the House. The CM claimed that his resolution rejecting the bill was akin to a 'Brahmastra' against division of the state. For this resolution, Kiran took the help of Seemandhra MLAs from TDP and YSRCP too.

Though knowing well that such an Assembly resolution lacks any sanctity and would be useless as the division of the State comes under the purview of Article 3 of the Constitution which empowers the Centre and Parliament to decide on the matter in an all most absolute manner, the Chief Minister amidst complete pandemonium forced a rejection over the resolution mainly to appeal to the principal opposition BJP whose support is considered crucial for the passage of the bill to take a note of it.

It appears including all Seemandhra leaders like CM Kiran Reddy, TDP President Chandrababu Naidu and YSR Congress President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy are pri-



marily pinning their hopes of stalling the division of the state on the behest of BJP. That is the reason why Chandrababu Naidu after dumping the Left Front, made it a point to court BJP and its Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi for the last few months.

Chandra Babu Naidu who once considered Modi, a small fish in the BJP has woken up to the reality and began wooing Modi with the support of Venkaiah Naidu and with an offer of unconditional alliance and unstinted support only to wean away BJP from the bifurcation process that stood high on their agenda. Chandrababu Naidu realized that it is the RSS which is firmly supporting statehood to Telangana; and only thru Modi one can influence the Sangh to defer a decision on the issue, and neither BJP chief Rajnath Singh nor LoP Sushma Swaraj could be managed over this issue. Accordingly, Chandrababu Naidu has been implementing the game plan prepared by Venkaiah Naidu to put pressure on Modi

to ensure the BJP does not cooperate with the Congress on the bifurcation issue. In fact, Chandra Babu in a desperate situation took upon the responsibility of winning many anti-congress political parties onto the side of the NDA just to win the goodwill of Narendra Modi and BJP.

#### Sonia Gandhi steps in:

Despite all these strenuous efforts of Seemandhra leaders, the BJP sprang a surprise by endorsing the Congress decision to back the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganization Bill - 2013 last week. Only after securing BJP's support, the UPA government convened its cabinet to accord a formal approval to the T-bill on Friday night and sent it to the President on Saturday. The major reason for this change in BJP's approach is the intervention of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi who sent feelers to BJP on Thursday and Friday urging them to realize the consequences of their conduct.

In fact, she has been sending firm feelers

to the leaders of the saffron camp on the Telangana issue. According to reliable sources, Sonia personally called up senior BJP leader LK Advani, while other senior congress leaders are in touch with other BJP veterans. Besides, a small group of ministers led by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kamal Nath are in touch with several opposition parties (exclusive of BJP) in ensuring their support to the T-bill. On one hand, the Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram (a well-known legal luminary) is known to be in touch with Arun Jaitley who happens to be the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and one reckoned as a constitutional expert besides having the experience of dealing with the bifurcation of three states during his stint as Union Law Minister in the NDA government. On the other hand, the Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, who is piloting the T-bill, is known to be in regular contact with Sushma Swaraj. While Shinde happens to be the Leader of the Lok Sabha; Sushma happens to be the Leader of the Opposition besides being a strong proponent of Telangana state.

In the last two days, senior minister Jairam Ramesh who played a vital role in the Group of Ministers involved in preparing the T-bill met senior BJP leader Venkaiah Naidu twice on this issue. Incidentally, Venkaiah Naidu hails from Seemandhra region of AP state. While senior congress leaders Ahmed Patel, Digvijay Singh are known to be in touch with the BJP President Rajnath Singh, to wrest an assurance from the BJP leadership to see to it that the main opposition party doesn't block passage of the Telangana bill in both Houses of Parliament whenever it is introduced in the coming days of the current session. BJP's support although is quite crucial to the Congress led UPA to pass the bill smoothly; there appears to be alternative plans to ensure its passage even otherwise.





#### Genuine demand of people:

Sonia has made it clear to the BJP leadership that Congress is not forming Telangana state out of political considerations. Contrary to the allegations of Sec-

mandhra leaders that Congress is dividing Andhra Pradesh only for electoral gains; Sonia brought it to the notice of the BJP leaders that the bifurcation would not yield any additional dividends to it politically. It is a simple fact that Andhra region

has been a strong bastion to the congress since decades.

Congress knows well that it can gain more MP seats; if it stops Telangana process in the middle as Seemandhra peo-

ple would give it almost all the 25 seats in the region, instead of 17 MPs in Telangana. Even if Congress grants Telangana, the party cannot hope to win all the 17, as TRS and others like MIM may win at least 6-7 MPs.

Sonia and other Congress leaders made it clear that they were going to form Telangana state only because the demand of the people of the region is genuine. Sonia is understood to have admitted to the BJP top brass that the demand for Telangana state is six decades old and that the region has suffered since the formation of Andhra Pradesh state in 1956, which itself was a historical wrong. Experts are of the view that already hundreds of youth have sacrificed their lives for the cause of Telangana statehood and now at a time when all political parties have endorsed their decision to bifurcate the state; any going back over resolving the issue would be disastrous as nothing short of a civil war would break out in case of another perceived betrayal. The country can ill afford such a situation. The onus is on national parties to comprehend the situation and seek out the inevitable solution of granting statehood to Telangana.

#### BJP has no Option:

The BJP's vacillating stand has become a major debating point. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her ministers are pointing out that the Centre has done enough homework on the issue in the last 10 years. It is not right to criticize the Congress to say it has slept over the issue all

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# Coming Soon

Voice Of Telangana  
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## Hyderabad Broadcasting Company Ltd.

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these years and was trying to create the new state in a hurry. Sonia has told the BJP that it was Congress which recommended the constituting of a Second States Reorganization Commission to look into issue of Telangana and other fresh demands in 2001. The demand was rejected by NDA regime when it was in power. The NDA was categorical in stating that "there is no need for any SRC to grant or consider formation of new states". It also quoted that "Article 2, 3, and 4 of the constitution are a perfect foil for formation or reorganization of new states".

Given this backgrounder, the congress is

now questioning the BJP ... "You have rejected 2nd SRC, so what else you expect us to do now? How can we ignore the sentiments of the people of Telangana, through repeated by-elections in the last few years? We have set up Sri Krishna Committee which too felt that there was injustice to Telangana and suggested that T-state must be formed if the state cannot be kept united. So, should we postpone a decision on this even now?" Sonia asked BJP leaders. BJP leadership sensing backlash and loss of nationwide credibility is treading cautiously as of now. While BJP chief Rajnath Singh, Sushma assert there is no going back on lending support to T-bill; the likes of Venkaiah Naidu are trying

and exploring all options to scuttle the formation of Telangana state.

The role played by Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy too has embarrassed not only the ruling congress but all other parties supporting the formation of Telangana State. The BJP leadership which wanted to create troubles to Congress on the issue is however guarded as the conduct of Kiran Reddy is unfathomable. After the CM himself has come out openly against the legitimate demands of people of Telangana, leaders of the BJP from Seemandhra thought they cannot sit neutral and cooperate with the Congress over Telangana. In this case, Kiran played

the role of a spoiler. BJP knows that but is cautious not to err.

#### Desperate CBN failed to convince BJP?

The desperation shown by Chandrababu Naidu too shocked the BJP leadership. The way Chandrababu has been trying to woo leaders of different parties – from the Left parties of CPI and CPM to Shiv Sena and Akali Dal – has stunned the BJP top leaders. They understood that Naidu's offer of an alliance in AP was only a pretext to delay Telangana.

Moreover, BJP leadership has been surveying the mood of the people towards TDP and Chandrababu Naidu and sources state that the reports gathered by BJP opinion makers tells them that the TDP cannot win any seats in Telangana including Khammam or Malkajgiri given the intensified efforts by Chandrababu to scuttle the formation of Telangana. Besides, the TDP is also not favoured to win more than five to seven seats in Seemandhra out of 25 seats. If at all anyone is going to benefit out of TDP-BJP alliance, it would be TDP because of a under current running in favour of Narendra Modi amongst the backward classes.

So, can BJP decide to ignore Chandrababu Naidu's alliance offer and fully back the Telangana bill in Parliament or risk its carefully crafted credibility for the sake of two desperate Naidus out to stall the formation of T-state at any cost? These developments going either way are sure to pave way for many surprises. ♦

editor.deccanpost@gmail.com

## 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

# Alleged scams taking place in Commercial Taxes Department?

By Our Crime Correspondent

The latest revelation by the Vigilance Department that a huge scam to a tune of more than 500 crores of rupees has raised the eyebrows of one and all and people are not able to understand how the officers of the cadre of Additional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners can indulge in such a massive scam and yet they are scot free. In the past, many times it has been reported many times that many Commercial Taxes Department officials have been indulging in alleged corrupt activities and doing favours to the people from whom they have allegedly received Mamools and bribes.

In the latest incident, on reacting to a complaint filed by a NGO called Forum for Good Governance the Directorate of Vigilance & Enforcement officials have known to concluded that severe irregularities have taken place in the remittance of Value Added Tax (VAT) as per law in respect of projects taken up under Jalayagnam like Klavakurti, Nettampad, Bheema etc. It is also been alleged that the allegedly corrupt officials have refunded huge amounts to more than 60 contractors in the name of legal technicalities during the last 4 years.

The sources reveal that the officers of the cadre of IAS & IRS are allegedly involved in the illegal refunds case and a detailed probe report has been sent to the government for taking appropriate action in this regard and the officials are waiting for the Chief Minister to respond to the report.

On the other hand it is also being alleged that a huge amount of money has taken place in the transfer of the Commercial Taxes Department officials and the powerful officials are influencing the higher authorities to get the fruitful postings to their followers.

In the past many allegations leveled against the Commercial Taxes Department



**It is also been learnt from the reliable sources that few complaints have been made to the Anti Corruption Bureau and The Hon'ble Institution of Lokayakuta regarding the irregularities taking place in the Commercial Taxes Department but the complainants are awaiting for any action against the allegedly corrupt officials**

ment authorities and have enquiries have been initiated into such irregularities and many enquiry reports too have been submitted but there has no action been taken

by the government or the competent authorities reasons best known to them.

It was said that the government has brought a senior bureaucrat like the present Commissioner of Commercial Taxes Department for better performances as there were several allegations of favouritism and biased behavior of the then Commissioner of Commercial Taxes in dealing with the recommendation of the officers who were eligible for conferment of IAS cadre to the officers of the Commercial Taxes Department and as everyone knows the matter has gone taken upto the Supreme Court of India.

It should not be forgotten that the Commercial Taxes Department generates more than 50 percent revenue of the state out of the taxes collected from its citizens. It is also pertinent to mention here that such a crucial and important department

is functioning without a minister since a very long time resulting in a lot of chaos in the department.

It is also being alleged that few officers of the cadre of Deputy Commissioner are allegedly favouring the Dealers with supplying them with High Court and Supreme Court Orders to evade tax and cause huge loss to the state exchequer.

Many opines that the investigations taken up by the officials of Directorate of Vigilance & Enforcement will not be a matter of concern to those accused officials and these officials are so influential that they can manage to escape from the departmental enquiries as well as the action as till today no stern action has been taken against any CT Department official.

It is also been learnt from the reliable sources that few complaints have been made to the Anti Corruption Bureau and The Hon'ble Institution of Lokayakuta regarding the irregularities taking place in the Commercial Taxes Department but the complainants are awaiting for any action against the allegedly corrupt officials.

It's high time that the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes Department as well as the concerned and competent Government officials to take note of the allegations and accusations seriously and initiate appropriate action at the earliest to stop the huge loss to the state exchequer otherwise many state sponsored welfare schemes will be jeopardized and many deserving beneficiaries will be deprived of their well being. ♦

editor.deccanpost@gmail.com



# Impose Prez Rule & Stop Anarchy

Anarchy is ruling in the state of Andhra Pradesh as a result of total chaos on all fronts. The flash strike resorted to by around four lakh government employees belonging to Andhra Pradesh Non-Gazetted Officers (APNGOs) that began from 6th February and said to continue till 22nd February is unprecedented and meaningless from any angle. The employees demand essentially to protest against the Centre's decision to go for bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh towards forming the State of Telangana is nothing short of gross misconduct and interference in the governance.

Trying to hold the government to ransom in this brazen manner is ridiculous as the decision making of the Parliament is not in the purview of the State government under which these employees work. It's an open secret that the State government headed by Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy and the ministers belonging to the Seemandhra region have joined hands with the APNGOs in the strike. Otherwise, the government would have declared this strike illegal as it is against their conduct and service rules.

The APNGOs or the employees from Seemandhra have begun their strike protesting against something which is fall-out of political demand from the people of Telangana region.



The struggle for statehood to Telangana is historical and has culminated in the decision of many political parties deciding to honour the people's movement. After a long drawn process of consultations with the stake holders and building consensus among parties across the political spectrum within the Parliament and State Assembly; the Congress Working Committee has given its nod on 30th July, 2013 to form state of Telangana. The Congress led UPA government has firmly made up its mind to go for the division of the State in the current session of Parliament after meticulously following the procedure prescribed under Article 2, 3 & 4 of the Indian Constitution. Knowing well this reality, the Seemandhra government employees are striking work.

This will hit people in entire Seemandhra region and also in Hyderabad too, as most of the headquarters of departments are bound to be impacted by the strike. Needless to say, that the day to day administration in coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema districts would be completely paralyzed, and the common people would be put to great hardship, due to this meaningless strike.

The APNGOs have called for shutdown of Seemandhra for three days from February 10th, forcing closure of all private and commercial activity too in the region. This is nothing but continuation of the 42 day strike they had observed last year, protesting the moves to divide the State for creation of

separate Telangana state. The staff called off their strike last time, without any specific assurance from the State government that the State would remain one.

When they called off the strike, the APNGOs got back strike period as leave and it was agreed that the loss of salary would be made up by necessary adjustments. Perhaps, the APNGOs would argue that this is in line with what had happened when the NGOs of Telangana went on six week long strike two years ago. Of course, they may be right too.

But, the APNGOs are not clear what they would achieve by calling for another spell of strike now, especially after the whole debate on state bifurcation has ended in both the houses of state legislature and now when all ready to be introduced in both houses of Parliament. Now that the matter is out of the hands of the State government and that it is before Parliament that is seeking to discuss and approve the T-bill; at best the State employees' strike would just be a symbolic gesture with no positive benefits emerging from it. Everyone knows the intensity of sentiments of APNGOs against the bifurcation of AP but it has a danger of hurting the sentiments of Telangana people who have been showing extraordinary patience.

The current round of strike could at the best be described as a paid holiday for Seemandhra staff. It is astonishing to watch the role of a silent spectator played by the State government. Only a few days ago, we have seen how the Chief Minister went on a Dharna at Jantar Mantar in Delhi streets, to protest the division of the State and with Seemandhra ministers joining him and the ministers belonging to Telangana being showed away.

The Chief Minister's attitude since past several months has been quite immature and his covert dealings with the employees of Seemandhra have a potential to create unwarranted disturbance in Telangana thereby jeopardizing peace and tranquility in the state. The only way to save the State from this lawlessness and anarchy apparently backed by the belligerent Chief Minister himself is to dismiss the Kiran Kumar Reddy government and impose President's Rule under Article 356 of the Constitution. Otherwise, this free for all situation would be continued for obvious political reasons disrupting normal life leading to severe hardships to people of both regions. With polity divided completely on regional lines resulting in breakdown of constitutional machinery; appropriate steps like imposing President's Rule must be considered forthwith to protect the rights of the people. ♦

editor.deccanpost@gmail.com

## Kiran transforms into a Class 'Bluff' Master?

I am a regular reader of Deccan Post and I must say that many people like me would agree with your last week's cover story that our Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy is doing nothing but bluffing and fooling the people of the Seemandhra region and hurting the sentiments of the Telangana people repeatedly. The way Chief Minister acted in the Assembly and gave a notice under Rule 77 of the Assembly and the way the way the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganization Bill 2013 was rejected by voice vote is very condemnable and unconstitutional and the higher courts must take suo moto action against the leader of the house for practicing such illegal things in the state legislature. The way Kiran led the dharna at Jantar Mantar in Delhi would have really irritated the congress party leadership and no one should wonder if the congress party takes firm action to sack him. On the other hand the elections for Rajya Sabha also concluded and I feel that now the time has come to see the President's Rule in AP as it would not be useful to replace Kiran Kumar Reddy when the general elections are about to held shortly after due limitation of the SC & ST constituencies. Now, Kiran will be sent home and nobody taking his bluff anymore.

SN Murthy, Madinaguda

## Passing Women's Reservation Bill in LS

As we all know how the congress party is in a hurry to introduce few crucial bills such as Anti Riot Bill, Women's Bill and Telangana etc. The much awaited Women's Reservation Bill has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha and now it appears that the UPA government and the congress party under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi will get the Women's Reservation Bill passed in the Lok Sabha as the elections are fast approaching. No doubt this act will definitely help the congress party as well as Rahul Gandhi as Rahul has become very active these days and strongly supporting and opposing the acts within his own party and UPA government and now UPA under Rahul would not miss this golden opportunity to see that Rahul becomes the next Prime Minister. I would agree with you suggestion that providing 33% quota to women is not feasible as the women must be provided with 17-20% to empower them at all levels. Lets see what is in store for Women of this nation.

Dr Kausalya, Padmarao Nagar

## Congrats Deccan Post

I am a reader of **Deccan Post** since its first issue came into the market and I rarely missed an issue of the **Deccan Post** all the while. It was great to know that **DP** has entered into 7th year and I really got amazed and very happy that the Hyderabad's only English Newsweekly with unique style of News, Views and Analysis has grown to commendable heights. I wish to see Deccan Post reaching new highs of success. At the same time, I would like to suggest that **DP** will be unbeatable if it comes as a Daily Newspaper too as I personally feel that few other English publications publishes the routine reporting and offcourse full of advertisements. It would be good to have an excellent publication like **DP** as a daily paper. Consider my advice and once again congrats to all the **Deccan Post** team and management for their achievements.

K Radha Krishna, Himayatnagar

Readers are requested to send in their feedback to  
editor.deccanpost@gmail.com

# Is BJP playing double games on Telangana?

By Shivkant Bichkunda

Many Telangana protagonists have blindly believed that the Bharatiya Janta Party will support the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganization Bill 2013 (Telangana Bill) whenever it is introduced on the floor of the Parliament and render its unconditional support for passing the same to create the new state of Telangana as the BJP has promised to form Telangana if it comes to power.

But all those promises seems to be weak this time as many are believing that a political game is being played by the crooked politicians like Venkaiah Naidu in BJP in the alleged nexus of TDP President and former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu just to create obstacles in passing the Telangana Bill in the parliament and see that the formation of Telangana state can be stopped for their political and personal gains.

The BJP people must remember that they have committed for the Telangana state in the year 1989 by the slogan 'One Vote Two States' and now when the Telangana state formation seems to be inevitable the BJP seems to be in dilemma and serious confusion whether to back out or support the bill and few vested interest politicians are trying to gain political mileage out of supporting the cause of Telangana state.

On the other hand the Congress party led UPA government has taken almost 10 years of time for wide range of consultations with all the stake holders and decided to go ahead with the people's aspirations to create a new state of Telangana by demerging the present state of Andhra Pradesh and expected the full cooperation from the principal opposition party BJP. Many leaders from Telangana region differing with their party leadership have joined BJP because its unconditional support for the same are now tensed as few top BJP politicians are trying to take disadvantage of the situation.

For passing the Telangana Bill in the Parliament the Congress Party is in a decisive mode and even ready to suspend its own party



MPs from Seemandhra region for the smooth passage of the bill. While on the other hand, the main opposition party BJP is not in favour of suspension of any member of the house reasons best known to its leadership.

If this kind of hurdles keep troubling the Parliament then how the house will conduct its business? Why BJP is playing political games when the Telangana creation reached to its peak? Why BJP is not able to realize that its hard earned credibility is at stake? Why the top BJP leadership is not realizing that if the same precedent continues in the parliament what is the guarantee that they will create separate Telangana state if they come to power under the so called dynamic leadership of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi?

It is a well known fact that the Telugu Desham Party and its President Chandrababu Naidu is desperate to forge an alliance with the BJP for reaping political benefits in the state of Andhra Pradesh and the BJP believes that the people of the state are not in a mood to accept the leadership of TDP due to its double standards. Many are not able to understand the concept of Equal Justice to the Seemandhra People. Many are questioning what it really means. It is also been revealed from reliable sources that many senior leaders in the TDP are not comfortable in continuing with the Party due to its double stand and standards over the state bifurcation issue.

It is being said that the UPA government led by the Congress party that it has devised

multiple strategies to go ahead with the Telangana bill with or without the support of BJP and it's the duty and responsibility of the BJP to fulfill its promise of supporting Telangana as repeatedly committed by its top leaders like LK Advani, Sushma Swaraj, Rajnath Singh and Arun Jaitley.

The BJP must remember that people are observing everybody's moves so keenly and they will not spare anybody if they feel that they are cheated and took for granted thus the top BJP leadership should not adventure into cheap political gimmicks and support Telangana bill and keep its own commitment otherwise they will have to pay a huge price. ♦

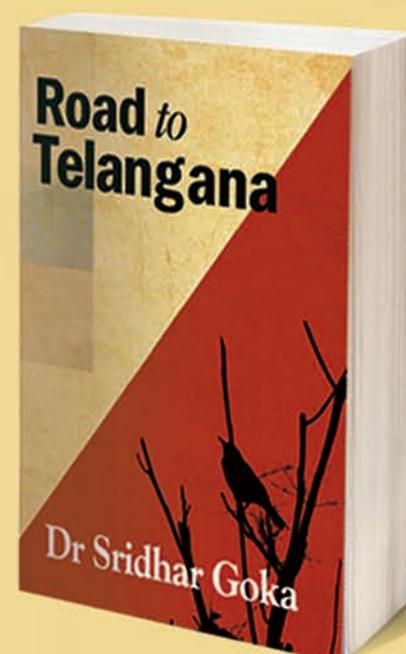
shivkantb9@gmail.com

## Road to Telangana

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Hyderabad - 500 044.  
Phone : 040-27678430





By Jaywant Naidu

A robot is a mechanical or virtual agent, usually an electro-mechanical machine that is guided by a computer program or electronic circuitry. Robots can be autonomous or semi-autonomous and range from humanoids such as Honda's Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility (ASIMO) and TOSY's TOSY Ping Pong Playing Robot (TOPIO) to industrial robots, collectively programmed 'swarm' robots, and even microscopic nano robots. By mimicking a lifelike appearance or automating movements, a robot may convey a sense of intelligence or thought of its own.

The branch of technology that deals with the design, construction, operation, and application of robots, as well as computer systems for their control, sensory feedback, and information processing is robotics. These technologies deal with automated machines that can take the place of humans in dangerous environments or manufacturing processes, or resemble humans in appearance, behavior, and/or cognition.

Many of today's robots are inspired by nature contributing to the field of bio-inspired robotics. These robots have also created a newer branch of robotics. From the time of ancient civilization there have been many accounts of user-configurable automated devices and even automata resembling animals and humans, designed primarily as entertainment. As mechanical techniques developed through the Industrial age, they appeared more practical applications such as automated machines, remote-control and wireless remote-control.

Electronics evolved into the driving force of development with the advent of the first electronic autonomous robots

created by William Grey Walter in Bristol, England in 1948. The first digital and programmable robot was invented by George Devol in 1954 and was named the Unimate. It was sold to General Motors in 1961 where it was used to lift pieces of hot metal from die casting machines at the Inland Fisher Guide Plant in the West Trenton

section of Jersey. Robots have replaced humans in the assistance of performing those repetitive and dangerous tasks which humans prefer not to do, or are unable to do due to size limitations, or even those such as in outer space or at the bottom of the sea where humans could not survive the extreme environments. There are concerns about the increasing use of robots and their role in society.

Robots are blamed for rising unemployment as they replace workers in some functions. The use of robots in military combat raises ethical concerns. The possibility of robot autonomy and potential repercussions has been addressed in fiction and may be a realistic concern in the future.

**ERWIN (EMOTIONAL ROBOT WITH INTELLIGENT NETWORK):**

ERWIN (Emotional Robot with Intelligent Network) is the world's friendliest robot, built by an Indian student in UK, capable of expressing five basic

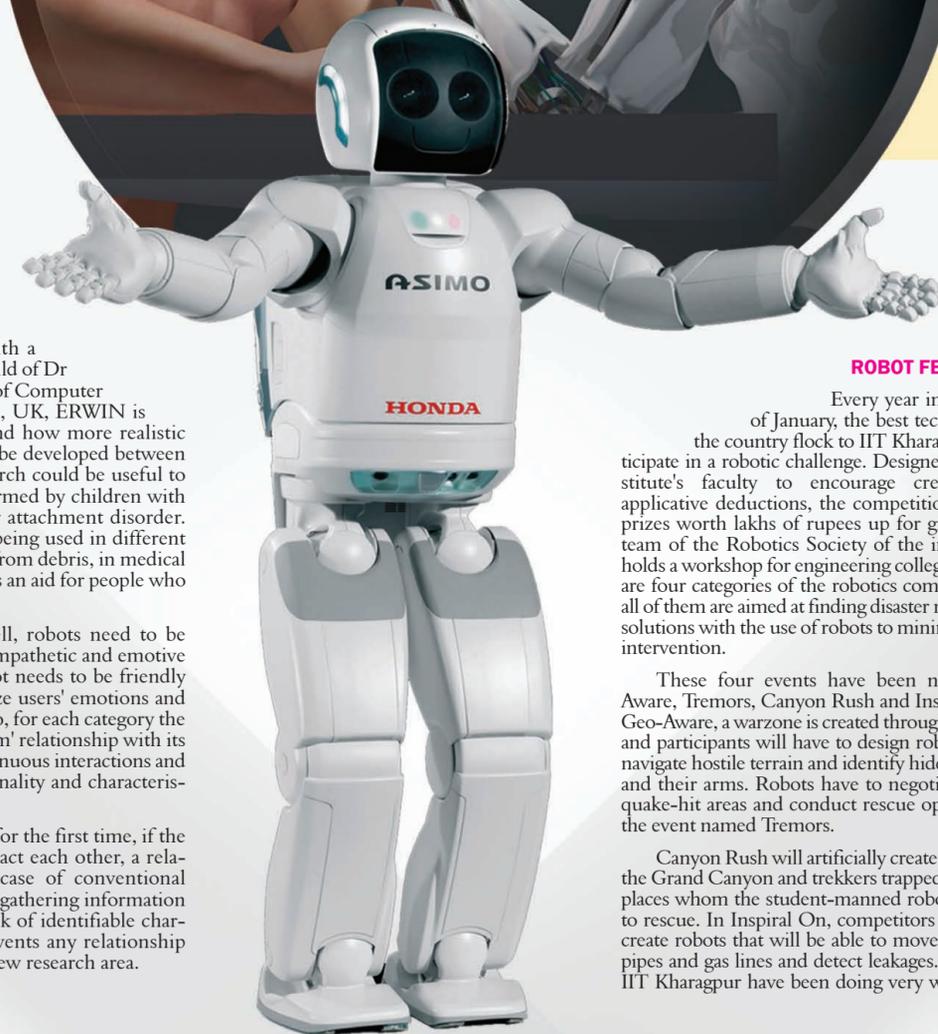
emotions while interacting with a human. Originally, the brain child of Dr John Murray from the School of Computer Science, University of Lincoln, UK, ERWIN is helping scientists to understand how more realistic long-term relationships might be developed between humans and robots. This research could be useful to know how relationships are formed by children with autism, Asperger syndrome or attachment disorder. Today, robots are increasingly being used in different fields, such as rescuing people from debris, in medical surgeries, elderly support and as an aid for people who have autism.

For all this to happen well, robots need to be friendly and relatively more sympathetic and emotive to its users. A companion robot needs to be friendly and have the ability to recognize users' emotions and needs, and to act accordingly. So, for each category the robot needs to form a 'long-term' relationship with its users, which is possible by continuous interactions and the robot having its own personality and characteristics.

When two people interact for the first time, if the two different personalities attract each other, a relationship forms. But, in the case of conventional human-robot interaction, after gathering information about the robot, the robot's lack of identifiable characteristics and personality prevents any relationship bond developing. Hence this new research area.



# HUMAN BECOMES ROBOT



# OR ROBOT BECOMES HUMAN?



**ROBOT FESTIVALS:**

Every year in the month of January, the best tech schools in the country flock to IIT Kharagpur to participate in a robotic challenge. Designed by the institute's faculty to encourage creativity and applicative deductions, the competition will have prizes worth lakhs of rupees up for grabs. A core team of the Robotics Society of the institute also holds a workshop for engineering colleges and there are four categories of the robotics competition and all of them are aimed at finding disaster management solutions with the use of robots to minimize human intervention.

These four events have been named Geo-Aware, Tremors, Canyon Rush and Inspiral On. In Geo-Aware, a warzone is created through simulation and participants will have to design robots that can navigate hostile terrain and identify hidden enemies and their arms. Robots have to negotiate through quake-hit areas and conduct rescue operations for the event named Tremors.

Canyon Rush will artificially create a likeness of the Grand Canyon and trekkers trapped in different places whom the student-manned robots will have to rescue. In Inspiral On, competitors will have to create robots that will be able to move through oil pipes and gas lines and detect leakages. Students of IIT Kharagpur have been doing very well in inter-

national robotics events. Recently, they made their mark in a high-profile event in Malaysia. Robotics as a genre is the future of engineering and is encouraged among students of the country. Robot Fest is an annual event in USA for anyone interested in the creative use of technology. It could be best described as a 'Day of Playful Invention.' It encourages makers, hackers, hobbyists, experimenters, students, artists, and engineers, young and old to share their passion for technology and creativity. They bring their creations and inventions for everyone to see and are excited to explain how they work. It features workshops and numerous hands-on activities that are a big hit with younger attendees. There will always be 'Make and Take' activities offered.

One of the goals of the event is to spark an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and happens in USA through the National Electronics Museum, Linthicum; which is a technology marvel in its own right. The Museum promotes and encourages the study of science and engineering using electronic heritage to educate and inspire students and the general public.

The Museum collects, preserves, exhibits, and makes available for research various artifacts, documents, and publications related to development of defense and other key electronics systems and the commercial products derived from them. ♦

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# "Radhasapthami" witnesses sea of humanity



The annual festival of Radhasapthami on Thursday witnessed heavy turnout of pilgrims with every inch of Tirumala being occupied by tens of thousands of pilgrims which replicated annual brahmotsavams. TTD has made elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the processions. The pilgrims from different part of the country, thronged to get a glimpse of Lord Malayappa taking pleasure ride on seven different vahanams on a single day starting from sun rise to moon rise. The devotees who have been waiting in the galleries since 5am waited for almost 15 hours till 9pm to witness the grandeur of Lord.



The day started with Surya Prabha Vahanam which happens to be the most important fete that is being observed in connection with Radhasapthami. The Lord in the guise of Lord Surya Narayana Murthy took celestial ride on Surya Prabha. The first rays of the sun touch the forehead, chest and holy feet of Lord at around 6.53am. The Tirumala hills echoed with the "Govinda Namas" with thousands of pilgrims chanting the holy name of Lord after catching the rare glimpse.

## LAUGH OUT LOUD

Once Soniya, Manmohan Singh & Chidambaram were travelling in a helicopter, Soniya drops a 100 Rs Note & says, "I made one poor Indian happy" Singh drops two 50 Rs notes & says "I made two poor indians happy" finally chiddu drops 100 coins of one rupee & says "I made 100 poor indians happy", Hearing this the pilot laughs & says "I will drop down all 3 of you and make 125 crore indians forever happy..!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I Love a girl.....  
N She broke my heart...  
Now every plices of my heart loves different girl....  
N people call me flrty its not falr yarr....

## HEALTH TIPS

### 10 Amazing Benefits of Amla

- It's an excellent source of Vitamin C:
- Amla is a highly potent form of Vitamin C, and contains much more Vitamin C than is found in oranges.
- It enhances immunity.
- It's high in antioxidants.
- Antioxidants prevent the body against free radicals. Free radicals are harmful and can damage cells, potentially leading to cancer and other possible diseases.
- It reduces inflammation.
- It is good for digestion, and helps the body to absorb and assimilate nutrients from the foods we eat.
- Amla also reduces acidity. It's a lot more slow and gentle than other herbs that aid digestion. For example, ginger is an herb/root used for digestion. It is a lot stronger and warmer than Amla. But don't get me wrong, ginger is great for anyone who can handle it. Personally, as an individual who's a bit more sensitive than most people, I tend to not have it very often. I prefer the gentleness and cooler quality of Amla.
- It strengthens the liver and helps us to flush out toxins.
- It's great for the urinary system.



## SUDOKU 308

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 1 |   | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 |   |   | 7 | 1 | 9 |   | 5 |   |
| 9 |   | 5 |   | 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
|   | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 |   | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 4 | 8 |   | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 |   |
| 5 |   | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 |   | 6 |
|   | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 |   | 8 |
| 6 | 9 | 3 |   | 4 | 1 | 7 |   | 5 |
| 8 |   | 7 | 9 |   | 2 | 3 | 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-307

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

Answer 307: Radhakrishna, Kachiguda.

## ASTRO FOCUS

**Aries:** You can look forward to a joyful week ahead. Try to meditating and introspecting and focus on higher thoughts. This will revitalize your mind and take you out of your stressful, routine existence. If thinking to change your job a meticulous planning is required on your part. You may fall in love at first sight as you meet your dream person. However hesitation on your part would delay the proposal.

**Taurus:** All travel related work will go well and would prove fruitful. Your health might experience ups and down. However you are likely to do well in routine life. The employed likely to receive a promotion, starting through a coveted post will elude them. They will have to be patient for the senior level job. Recently married couples may face adjustment problem especially if they are living in a joint family.

**Gemini:** You need to express both your fears and your fantasies. Once you admit to the limitation you have, you will be able to communicate your dreams. Try to avoid the usual pitfall and begin to make yourself happy. Some of you are likely to profit through commission work or speculation, provided you are quick to square up your dues. Exciting times are waiting for you this week.

**Cancer:** This week open up new vistas due to your past associations. You will be more active than before and more contented. People close to you will extend support. Chance of reaping rich gains and bringing financial prosperity are high. Several new business options will become available and most of them will be profitable. Exciting week as your long pending wait for affirmation in love is going to materialize during the week.

**Leo:** You are creative and have the willpower to follow through with your ideas. You might experience the feeling of enthusiasm as many good things happen around you. Sudden inflow of funds from commission, dividends and royalties would ease financial hassles. Circumstances could force you to take the help for flirting to succeed in love life.

**Virgo:** This week you might feel torn between the real world and spiritual perspectives. Keep in mind that your decision can play a greater role in shaping your future that upholds peace and harmony. The employed can look forward to a period of progress. Hard-work put in earlier will win you laurels now. You may go out of way to show someone that you care on the romantic front.

**Libra:** It is a busy period for work and career but at the same time you should not neglect your regular exercise schedule. It is necessary to devote some time to keep your physique maintained. Work and business prospects will improve this week. Your desire to recreate romantic memories may be fulfilled on meeting the hottest and happening person during the week.

**Scorpio:** This is a time of ambition, responsibility and a time to keep your cool and pace yourself. Make change in your lifestyle to keep disorders a bay. Selective trading at the stock market is likely to bring quick gains. Those who were having problems in their relationship will be able to resolve them and youngsters can look forward to an enjoyable vacation.

**Sagittarius:** This week you simply need to channelize energy to manage a comfortable life. Invitation in an award function of child would be the source of happiness. Someone important in your social or career path may ask you to take on a big responsibility. You may be reluctant at first, but the rewards could well outweigh the inhibitions. The period is favorable for the matters related to heart and love life will take an interesting turn both for the married and the single.

**Capricorn:** It is another high energy week and unexpected gains are foreseen. Do not get indulge in taking risks for some time. Those in creative field might be commissioned for prestigious projects. You may plan to nice meeting with partner in a quiet and lonely place.

**Aquarius:** All the speculation will prove fruitful for you in all senses. Stars are now in favour for maintaining bank balance. Good week to visit a lawyer to take some legal advice. You need to trust your intuition to take any decision. Do not reveal information that is personal and confidential. Romance may remain in deep freeze with no chance of thawing.

**Pisces:** Want to buy a property this is the week go ahead with. A sudden need for money can crop up. Traveling may not be as much fun as you had anticipated. Learning and communicating would satisfy your hunger for knowledge. Try to expand your horizons for success in business. It is the time for you to set some realistic and time-bound goals to achieve them.

# I try to get rid of ideas

Photographer Thomas Luttge was in Hyderabad for an exhibition at the Goethe Zentrum (German Centre). He spoke to Deccan Post.

## What is the essence behind your photographs?

For me, Photography is not about documentation. In most photographs you will find a contradiction. There is somewhere a relationship between the different subjects that are seen in one photograph. There is also a contrast/dialogue or continuous thought process that happens within the picture. For example: A particular picture of mine is titled 'Manhattan Beach'. Anyone seeing the picture at first sight will believe in the 'beautiful beach' full of people. But in fact, there is no beach at Manhattan. It's only the sand filled land near the area that gives that feel in the picture frame.

## Why do you prefer black and white images?

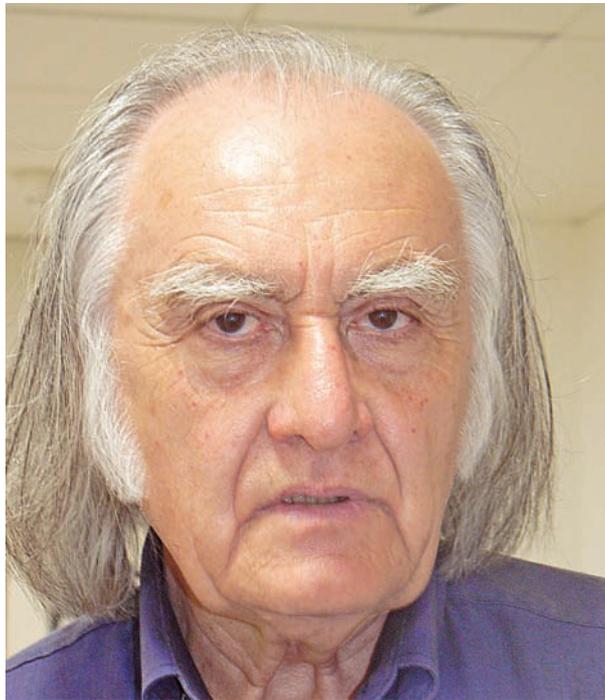
Black and white images have a very high clarity in terms of resolution. They also are very good to give a feel of the happening in the frame.

## How do you feel when you capture an image?

I try to get rid of ideas. One may want something to happen. You see something; open the eye and thing of capturing something to happen. Then in the end, nothing is in your control. I have a picture of an old bridge with a flyover going over it. But for me I wanted this to be a picture of an 'Arch', and therefore the flyover was never in my composition and the central portion of the bridge formed the 'Arch'.

## What is a good photograph?

Keep a photograph in your living room or office and look at it every day. After two weeks, maybe look at it, to decide, if



you still want to see it again. Or you want to throw it out. A good picture is something which will not bore you and you feel comfortable along with it. It's a part of your body, your thoughts and maybe your soul.

## What is your take on 'Digital Cameras'?

These cameras stop the process of viewing. It's constantly

“

I try to get rid of ideas. One may want something to happen. You see something; open the eye and thing of capturing something to happen.

readily seen and you keep reworking on an image into the dark. Too much time and energy gets lost in this process.

## How has India been to you as a Photographer?

India is a land of imagination. Every moment, in every walk of life, I can see the constant contradiction, maybe of the old and new, the urban and village, the rich and poor, the able and disabled, the empowered and the exploited and so on.

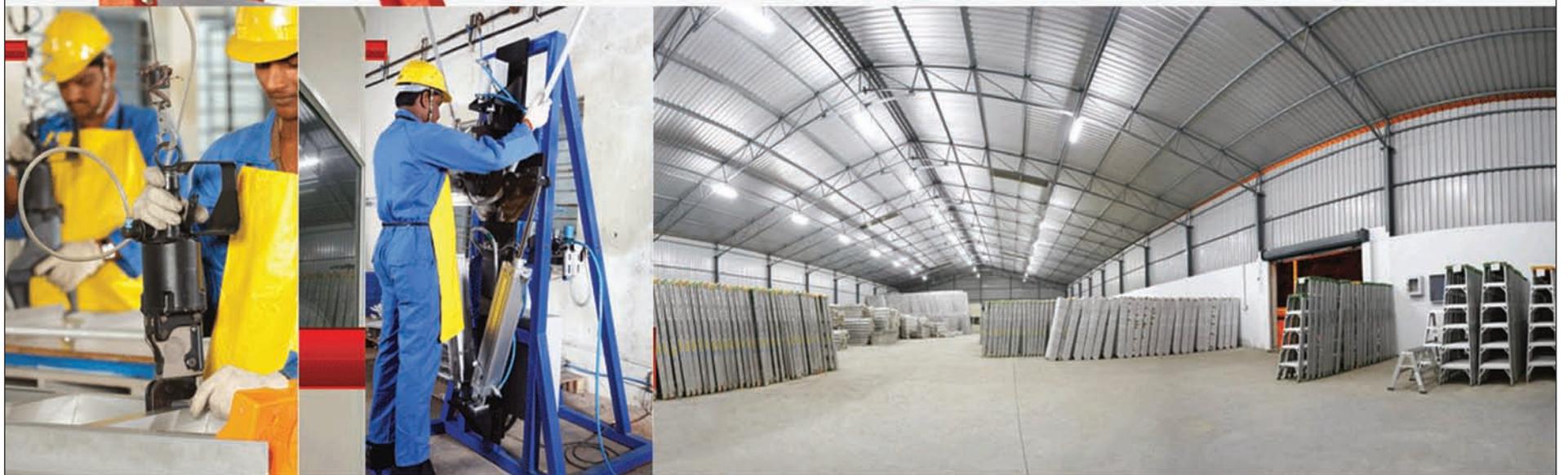
## How has been your experience in Hyderabad?

I have been to the Golconda Fort and its surroundings in the year 1975 along with Hans Winterberg, the then director of Max Mueller Bhavan in Hyderabad. I try to find little moments that speak of this city and the society here. Traffic is different, metro lines; flyovers are all fast developing here. There is hardly any tourism buzz in this city. For a city with so much heritage and important places like the Golconda Fort, Qutub Shahi Tombs and many more, there are hardly any tourists to be seen. I feel a lot needs to be done to see that more tourists come to this historical city. ♦

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# Addicted to Alcohol or Drugs?

## Test for self-assessment of Substance Use Disorder

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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?

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

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## Hot Anushka dating Virat

Though Anushka Sharma may have denied reports of being in relationship with Indian cricketer Virat Kohli, the rumours refuse to leave Anushka Sharma's side regarding this development!

According to a leading daily, Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli were snapped walking hand-in-hand on the streets of New Zealand by an onlooker. Virat is in NZ for a test series till February 18, 2014.

The Indian batting sensation has to put up a good show on the field with the rest of the team, in the meantime, his rumoured love interest Anushka has joined him off field. While Virat will be in New Zealand till the 18th of February, there are heavy rumours that this trip will be the couple's first holiday ahead of Valentine's Day!

The report further mentions that an onlooker said "Saw Anushka Sharma with Virat Kohli in supercity, so love is actually in air".

We hope Anushka Sharma who will be seen sitting on the couch opposite Karan Johar on his show 'Koffee With Karan' this week spills some beans on her alleged steamy affair with the stylish cricketer.



## Sonam sports Bikini

It's all official now. Yesteryear star hero Anil Kapoor's daughter Sonam Kapoor has donned a Bikini, for the first time in her 7-year-long-career. Raising many eye-balls, the Raanjhanaa actress sizzled in a two-piece swim suit in Yash Raj Films' forthcoming film Bewakoofiyaan. With the first trailer of the film is out, one could figure out Sonam flaunting her midriff, enviable figure in a hot pink bikini as she lazes around a swimming pool. Ayushman Khurana, who made splashy debut with Vicky Donor, plays the protagonist. The movie is due for release on March 14th. So, hold your nerves till then!

**hot &  
SPICE**



-DP Desk



# DO YOU KNOW

## Alcoholism is a killer disease?

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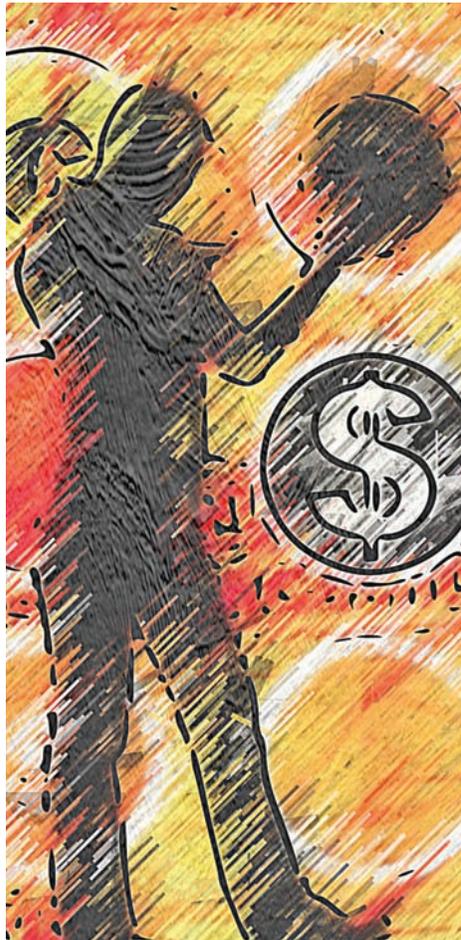
# Cautious trend continues in Market

By V Sundar Raja

The downtrend in the stock market that was triggered on 24th January lasted for few days where Sensex has lost by more than 1,000 points in few trading sessions. Sensex has found a temporary support at the major psychological levels of 20,000 and made a minor recovery. But currently, the overall trend continues to be cautious and market may need few more days for a clear next phase of a direction. Market's downtrend was primarily triggered due to a series of macro-economic events that took place in the last few days. The lowering of the GDP (economic growth) estimates, and the increase of the repo rate by the RBI (Reserve Bank of India), and the decline in the American and global markets has led to the correction trend in the market.

The Bank stocks continue to be weak, and did not participate much in the market's minor recovery and the trend continues to be weak. The metals stocks witnessed a strong recovery, due to firm global trend, and the automobile stocks too made a sharp recovery on further growth hopes.

The software stocks were subject to reactionary trend, as the stocks have seen a strong rally in the last few months and are now adjusting the overbought position. The cement stocks are seen in a recovery path after a long earlier bearish trend, while the pharma stocks were seen continuing the bullish trend. Markets are seen in a high volatile trend, while the foreign funds (FIIs) were reported to be adopting a cautious approach at current levels. The quarterly corporate financial results that reported are seen mixed and are more or less in-line with the market expectations.



The precious metal after a minor uptrend from 28,000 levels, it was subject to selling pressure at the major barrier of 31,000 mark in the MCX commodity market. It is expected to move in a sideways with a strong support at 28,000 levels. Silver is struck in a narrow range, and has to break out of the barrier of 46,000 rupees in the commodity market, for an uptrend, for the traders to be alert. Similarly, the leading base metals like Copper, Zinc, Lead, Aluminum and Nickel are seen in a stabilizing trend with chances of an upward trend.

Crude Oil after a minor recovery is seen resting near 6,300 mark, and has to sustain above this barrier for a further short-term uptrend. Similarly Rupee is extending its sideways trend, in-between the major barrier of 64 and above the support of 61, as against the Dollar.

Market has to receive positive news on the macro-economic front, in the next few weeks, for an uptrend. Technically, market seems to have put a halt to the immediate bullish trend chances and could get into a consolidation trend in the next few days. Major support is seen at 20,000 where market has to definitely sustain for safety. But in case of any further failure to sustain above this major support, then market could get into a medium-term weakness, for the investors to be cautious. ♦

mail@deccanpost.net

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

## RELATED NEWS

State-owned Andhra Bank has proposed to raise Rs 800 crore during the next financial year to fund its growth plans, a top official said today. "We are planning to raise (funds) through QIP (Qualified Institutional Placements) or from Government of India. We require about Rs 800 crore..," Andhra Bank Chairman and Managing Director CVR Rajendran told reporters. It would be decided by third quarter of 2014-15 financial year, he added.

Finance Minister P Chidambaram Saturday expressed confidence that the economic growth rate for the current financial year will be revised to not less than 5 percent. "I am confident that the final estimate will be not less than 5 percent for the whole year," Chidambaram said, while commenting on the Central Statistics Office's projection of 4.9 percent growth.

Gold hit a six-month low on December 20 (\$1,196) as the US Fed took its first step away from the ultra loose monetary policy. The Fed said this week that it is scaling back its massive bond buying scheme, winding down an era of easy money that saw gold rally to an all-time high of \$1,920.30 an ounce in 2011.

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