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The sacred tree of Christmas... Page 8



## Rahul Gandhi ready to take over as Prime Minister?



**By Our Political Correspondent**

The present phase in national politics appears like a lull before the storm. After the drubbing of the Congress in the just concluded assembly elections in four states, many political pundits are writing off the grand old party from retaining its power at the centre and also betting that its vice-president Rahul Gandhi, who is being projected as the congress party's prime ministerial candidate in 2014 elections has absolutely no chance of ever becoming the Prime Minister of India given his non-committal approach to public life that is increasingly becoming a demanding job than ever before.

*Continued on Page2*

There was so much enigma about Rahul when he entered Parliament nine years ago; many expected that he will replace Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after the UP assembly elections held in March 2012. Die hard congress party loyalists got tired pleading with Rahul to take over. There was elation when he was formally appointed the Vice President of the AICC. But even after that he has not shown the level of interest the grass root congress worker expects. Much seems to have got evaporated in the past few years as Rahul himself appeared shunning everything that was offered on a platter. Obviously, there are less takers now for an unwilling leader who is seen acting only under parental compulsion. The secularists are a worried lot with Namo mania spreading like wild fire. All eyes on Sonia Gandhi for salvaging what it requires. She doesn't have a magic wand to stop the mania. But what can she do?

### Congress only hope:

A lot of drama beneath the surface appears to be going on within the close confines of 10 Jan Path, the residence of party president Sonia Gandhi. According to reliable sources, Sonia Gandhi has almost made up her mind to install her son Rahul in the post of prime minister even before the next general elections due in May 2014. The game plan goes like this: Sonia, who is apprehensive of a possible rout to Congress in the next elections, is neither ready to see her son in the Opposition benches after the general elections nor is in a position to wait for another five years, till 2019, to make an attempt to project him as the prime minister. As a doting mother with serious health issues, Sonia has every reason to see Rahul perched in the top post as easily as possible. Sonia who is also leading the congress party since past 15 years is certainly tired of managing the hectic work. As such she desires that Rahul also takes over the twin responsibility of heading the congress party which happens to be the biggest political set up in any democratic system across the world.

The Congress by playing its cards carefully scored two points at a time. On the one hand, it has won over the compliments of Anna Hazare who has a massive following among middle-classes and educated sections of the country and on the other hand managed to extend an olive branch to the rapidly emerging political shrewd (green) horn Arvind Kejriwal who led his fledgling Aam Admi Party to an unexpected great show by winning 30% of the popular vote and 28 seats in the Delhi Assembly. Rahul Gandhi did a lot of back room work to ensure the reluctant Arvind Kejriwal led AAP form its government with the outside support extended by the Congress. This move infact is surely forcing the AAP to form its government or get lost.

These two measures are expected to go a long way in keeping the middleclass and urban educated youth at a distance from the BJP, the principal opposition party roaring to challenge the ruling UPA in the next Lok Sabha elections. By wooing both Anna and Kejriwal at a time, Congress has neutralized, if not won over the youth who are very angry with it since some time, thanks to the series of scams



and ever rising price rise. The unending price rise of essential commodities has hurt the image of the congress badly overall but it really hurt its traditional vote base as the real victims of price rise are the poorer and weaker sections.

### Rahul's good show in Lok Sabha:

Many opine that Rahul has been a reluctant leader. Despite being the second in command in the massive congress party; he has rarely shown any inclination to join the government. Rahul also has not taken any lead in the Loksabha while debating many important issues in the Parliament. He spoke on very few occasions and that too with great discomfort. Compared to his previous speeches, Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday put up a

good show in the Lok Sabha, while participating in the debate on the Lokpal bill. Of course, this is not his first speech in the last 10 years as MP in Lok Sabha, but this time, he spoke consistently and confidently and stuck to the subject unlike in the past, when he sounded too emotional and incoherent.

Rahul also dropped enough hints that the Lokpal Bill intended to curb corruption in high places is not the only bill that was expected from the stables of the ruling UPA before the elections to meet the aspirations of the people. He specifically mentioned around six more bills that need to come up for debate and enactment in the coming days. However, many political observers attach a lot of significance to the three bills in the pipeline.



Among them are: The Communal Violence Bill, Women's Reservations bill and the Telangana State formation bill. Rahul is known to be keen on pushing through these bills in the coming session due in Jan-Feb. Although, there is not much difficulty with the Communal Violence Bill and T-bill, there is however great trouble in the form of Women's Reservation Bill.

### Sonia's Trump card:

Eventhough Sonia would have to use her trump card at this stage to manage revival for the dwindling fortunes of the Congress; that is the reason she said that the Congress can revive from the recent near decimal performance in the four state assembly elections. The trump card she is holding and surely going to play is none other than the 'Women's Reservations bill'. This crucial bill hanging fire for the last nine years with the congress led UPA is likely to be passed in the current Lok Sabha only amidst lot of fire-works which may further boost the image of Sonia Gandhi in the eyes of the women across the nation. That is the reason why Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kamalnath told the media on Wednesday that the winter session is not the last session of the Parliament to transact business. That means--the Parliament will meet sometime in 2014-January last week to pass two key bills - Telangana bill and the Women reservations bill, besides some other significant laws. While the T-bill is likely to enhance Sonia Gandhi's credibility even further; the women's reservation bill will certainly transform the polity far more than anticipated.

### Rahul's installation by Jan end:

If Sonia approves this timing, Rahul Gandhi will be made the prime minister by January 20 or 21 and will attend the Republic Day parade in the capacity as the country's youngest PM. While President Pranab Mukherjee will inspect the Republic Day Parade from Raj Path, Rahul Gandhi might as well be in all smiles waving to the young audience across the country, like his late father Rajiv Gandhi, three decades ago in 1985.

Once Rahul is anointed, as the PM, the UPA would possibly unleash a host of progressive measures including passage of Women reservation bill, which enjoys the support of the BJP too. The latest example of how Congress rushed through the Lokpal bill, with the help of BJP, even after a stubborn opposition from the Samajwadi Party of Mulayam Singh Yadav; it could be a repeat of the same for the Women reservation bill too. If the Women's reservation bill is adopted, close to 180 seats in Lok Sabha will have to be reserved for Women and the Election Commission might need some significant time to complete the identification of reserved seats. This may require postponing the general elections to a maximum period of say six months or one year, till April/May 2015. As the delay is meant for a good cause, no party may oppose this deferment of elections as a constitutional amendment also would be brought to extend the five year tenure of Loksabha to six years.

## FRUITFUL FASTING



**Anna Hazare breaking his 9 days fast after both houses of the parliament pass the Lokpal bill**

Moreover, internal differences in the BJP too are already showing. Will that be a blessing in disguise for the Congress as

Rahul takes over? Since past few months ever since the Gujrath Chief Minister Narendra Modi was declared by the BJP

as their Prime Ministerial candidate his clout has been growing bigger and bigger within the party; many seniors like LK

Advani, Sushma Swaraj, Yashwant Sinha and Arun Jaitley are known to be feeling nervous. For them, the women reservation bill may come in handy to avoid Modi's ascent to the top post as is evident today. The women empowerment is bound to change the electoral prospects. In case of BJP performing well things might be different from what they are now.

In such a scenario, the leading lady of the BJP, Sushma Swaraj is likely to emerge as a strong contender to the PM post, as there would be clamour for a woman PM, after the reservations to the fairer sex are enforced. So, the BJP top brass too may not be averse to an extended term of Parliament for a year. This one year time would be utilized by Congress led by Rahul Gandhi to consolidate his image among the young generation besides establishing a strong hold on its traditional vote base comprising of the Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities.

Whether he will be emerge successful or not; at least he must try. Just by trying sincerely, he will emerge as a credible leader worthy of public trust. Even if he loses the next elections, there will be favorable chances for him and congress coming back to power in future. It is important for Sonia to ensure that Rahul's leadership is established and not questioned by unknown elements later. All in all, the country is likely to witness massive political developments in the coming two months. Let's see how the dramatic events unfold. ♦

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## A Thank You from the bottom of Our hearts!!

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

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

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

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

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



## Telangana Constitutional Rights Protection Forum

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# AP Legislature begins debate on State bifurcation

By Dr.T.Siva Prasad Reddy-Special Correspondent

**T**elangana Draft Bill sent by the President of India on state bifurcation has been tabled in the A.P. Legislature after vain efforts by those opposing it on 16/12/2013 after the said bill reached the state on 12/12/2013. Amidst sponsored confusion and artificial pandemonium dictated by Seemandhra Legislators (cutting across party lines..!), hon'ble Speaker Nadendla Manohar led the tabling of T Bill with Assembly Secretary-Raja Sadaram reading out the key notes along with the purpose of the said bill. It was followed by the distribution of T Bill copies to all members along with translated copies in Telugu and Urdu which were also made available instantly. Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy was conspicuous by his absence while leader of the opposition in State Assembly Chandra Babu Naidu heading the TDP in State remained out of bounds on that historic day of tabling the Draft Bill on Telangana State formation.

## Commotion follows in A.P. Legislature after tabling of T Bill

Soon after the tabling and distribution of T Bill in both the houses-Assembly and Council (much to the surprise and shock of Seemandhra Legislators) both the houses stood adjourned amidst chaos. Slogan shouting Seemandhra legislators tried to snatch the copy from the Secretary while trying to rush to the Speaker's podium to stop the tabling of T Bill when the house lost the order. Same situation prevailed in the Council too. The scene then shifted to the media point in the Assembly premises as TDP Seemandhra Legislators led by Devineni Uma started to tear the copies of T Bill while castigating UPA, Congress and others. This act was strongly resented by TRS MLA-Gangula Kamalakar(shifted his loyalties from TDP to TRS) along with others and tried to take away bill copies from TDP Legislators arguing that T Bill is like a Bhagavat Gita/Bible/Quran for Telanganites. They tried to reason with them saying that after decades of struggle the dream of T people is coming true and any acts opposing that would hurt them all this in the full media glare..

YSR-CP MLA's too didn't lack behind and they went one step ahead by not only tearing the T Draft Bill but also burnt those copies in the Assembly premises much to the amusement of Media-more so to Seemandhra..! Congress Chief Whip G Venkatram Reddy who was around tried his best to thwart that while T MLA's supported him but in vain and these scenes have certainly ignited the already surcharged atmosphere in the Legislature premises..Elders- Council also witnessed similar scenes wherein Seemandhra TDP, YSR-CP MLC's tried to

enact the same drama with T Draft Bill to be equally countered by T MLC's led by Swami Goud and others. This resulted in an unfortunate fall(accidental push by MLC-Satish Reddy in scuffle with T MLC's) of TDP MLC-Nannapuneni Rajakumari-escaped unhurt but became a tool for seemandhra media to continue to highlight those episodes rather than the historical importance of T Draft Bill and the significance of it's tabling...!?

## Assembly initiates discussion on T Draft Bill

In the meanwhile Assembly reassembled for the evening session with Deputy

Seemandhra MLA's stormed the well with YSR-CP insisting for united state resolution while T MLA's cutting across party lines resolved for continuing the discussion so that the T Bill can be send back to the President before the granted time of 6 weeks to end on 23/01/2014. But the Seemandhra MLA's had other idea and for the first time after tabling of T Bill, both CM-KKR and Opposition Leader TDP-Babu mark their presence alongside YSR-CP to repeat post Dec 2009 events, but already tabled bill and discussion on that forces them to realign their strategies...! Expectedly house gets repeatedly adjourned for a forced BAC towards after-

in doubt about the events to be followed..!

**President of India (cites historical necessity for creation of new states) arrives in Hyderabad on 19/12/2013 for winter sojourn.**

But, the decisions taken in the BAC in both the houses for a just discussion on T Draft Bill to protect interests of respective regions so as to be sent to the President remained a distant mirage..? No discussions on Wednesday and Thursday too, while President of India lands in the city for a winter sojourn to end on 31/12/2013. A.P. Legislature witnesses acrimonious scenes as both the houses get



**President of India Pranab Mukherjee being welcomed warmly by AP Deputy CM Damodar Rajanarasimha**

Speaker-Bhatti Vikramarka in the chair. As the slogan shouting continued Legislative Affairs Minister-Sridhar Babu was asked by the chair on behalf of the govt to initiate discussion on President's T Draft Bill, which he did by congratulating UPA, PM, Sonia, Rahul and GOM alongside Union Cabinet for the historic T Draft Bill to the satisfaction of T MLA's. This was followed by the Chair's call to Leader of Opposition-TDP Nara Chandra Babu Naidu to continue the discussion on T Draft Bill when disorder reigns supreme for the house to be adjourned by the chair to meet next day at 9 AM.

17/12/2013 house meets at 9 AM only to be adjourned instead of continuing with the discussion on T Draft Bill as

noon chaired by the Speaker attended by the leader of the house CM-KKR, Deputy CM-Damodar Narasimha, Ministers Sridhar Babu, Raghuvira Reddy, Anam Ramnarayan Reddy alongside Congress, TRS, BJP, CPI, YSR-CP, CPI(M) Floor Leaders, Whips and surprisingly 2 representatives from TDP-M Narsimhulu( T region) and Gali Muddu Krishnama Naidu(Seemandhra..!) instead of Babu..? BAC decides to continue with discussion on T Draft Bill in the present session itself if the need be by extending it and also by allotting specific time to the parties. As expected and planned TDP Gali Muddu Krishnama Naidu(Seemandhra) along with YSR-CP both vying for Seemandhra honours in the event of elections stage a walk out leaving no one

adjourned without any business much against the spirit of BAC...! Come Thursday CM-KKR all of a sudden makes appearance in the Council to present his state of mind by articulating his theory that further discussion on T Draft Bill should take into cognizance of the past discussions held in UP, MP and Bihar Assemblies at the time of bifurcation in those states..! TDP Ramakrishnudu demands for fixing of time while Congress T MLC Yadav Reddy derides it saying that those were different instances as they had unanimously resolved for bifurcation while here in A.P.it is on different lines and hence not applicable..Soon Council gets adjourned after ruckus while Assembly never.

*Continued on page 5*

While the uncertainty reigns supreme in both the houses Assembly gets adjourned and a bulletin is issued on behalf of the leader of the house saying that house would meet on 3rd January for 2 sessions of 13 days till 23/01/2014 (deadline) to discuss about the T Bill.. T MLA's cutting across party lines stage a dharna in front of the Speaker's chambers to shift to the well of the house for an overnight sit in dharna. As per confidential reports this has been done only to escape the notice of the President who will be staying put in Hyderabad till the end of this month.. But the way BAC was over ruled and house adjourned-T MLA's of TRS, CPI, BJP staged continued their agitation till late in the night to be forcefully evacuated from the house... President arrives to a warm welcome and categorically states that the demand for new states is a historical necessity as the population of India has increased from 45 crores (Independence) to 125 crores presently. His comment on T has also invited much attention- 'how can you force one to be with you when someone doesn't wish so'....



**YSRCP MLAs set fire to T-bill copies at media point in the Assembly**



**Seemandhra TDP MLAs seen tearing the T-bill copies at the media point in AP Assembly premises**

### **Seemandhra MP's No-Confidence move dies in the din**

While the T Draft Bill generated enough heat in the state Seemandhra MP's-Congress, TDP, YSR-CP went ahead with No Confidence Motion (ridiculed by many..) on different grounds but only on one principle of somehow creating hurdles to see that T Draft Bill never reaches Parliament.. Their acrimonious scenes didn't invite much attention except for pandemonium for sometime as important bills took the centre stage like Lokpal which was passed by both Rajya Sabha and Loksabha to satiate Anna Hazare who was on hunger strike for more than a week. In spite of various tricks BJP, CPI and UPA remained committed to Telangana and they in fact offi-

cially demanded that T Bill be tabled in the ongoing winter session itself much to the chagrin of the Seemandhra MP's...! Soon after both the houses were adjourned indefinitely leaving the plans of Seemandhra MP's high and dry.. They were taught in their own way which they implemented in A.P. Assembly successfully for decades to bulldoze Telangana sentiment and T Legislators voice... a smart strategy indeed..!

### **Parliament to meet in Jan 2014 to take up T Bill**

As per the confidential reports emerging from Delhi, both houses of Parliament are destined/expected to meet in January from 27th onwards for a short session to take up Telangana, Women's

bills alongside other bills on graft to strengthen Lokpal as desired by Rahul Gandhi... Likeminded opposition parties have also consented for such proposal..! Similarly congress high command is also mulling on the action to be taken against it's Seemandhra MP's who have crossed Lakshmana Rekha in becoming a part to no confidence motion against UPA govt along with TDP and YSR-CP. They are to make it public about the discussions the party high command had with these MP's before arriving at a historical decision on Telangana.. They are also contemplating to bring out the various selfish/greedy acts these MP's have indulged to bolster themselves on all fronts while taking advantage of party positions..? On similar lines they have a planned agenda to be im-

plemented at the state level against backstabbers and coverters while strengthening the party in Seemandhra decisively (many surprises in store..!) and also gaining extensively in Telangana... Many a shocking disclosures in the pipeline in the state.. So, come January 2014...

In spite of various theories and criticisms on T Draft Bill-it looks to be the one which is going to direct the fortunes in the future. Every stake holder should utilize their optimum time for voicing their region's concerns vis-à-vis T Draft Bill's various clauses so that justice is done and at the end of bifurcation (imminent now) no one is left with any hard feelings..! Everyone should be a winner ready to prosper. ♦

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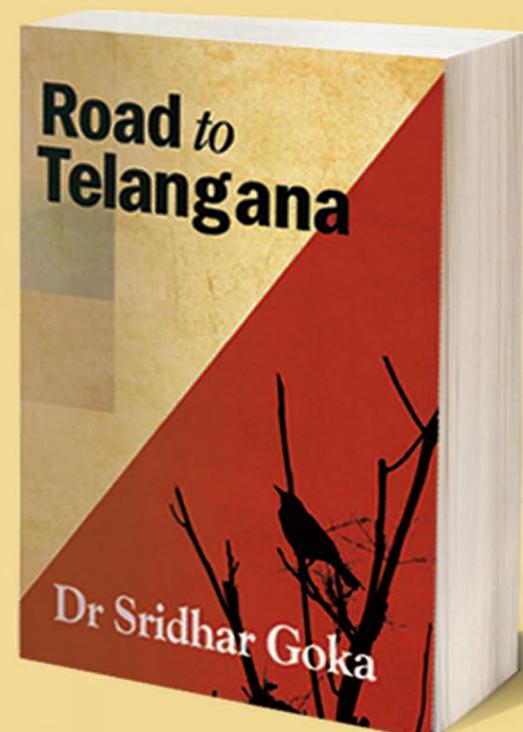
# Road to Telangana

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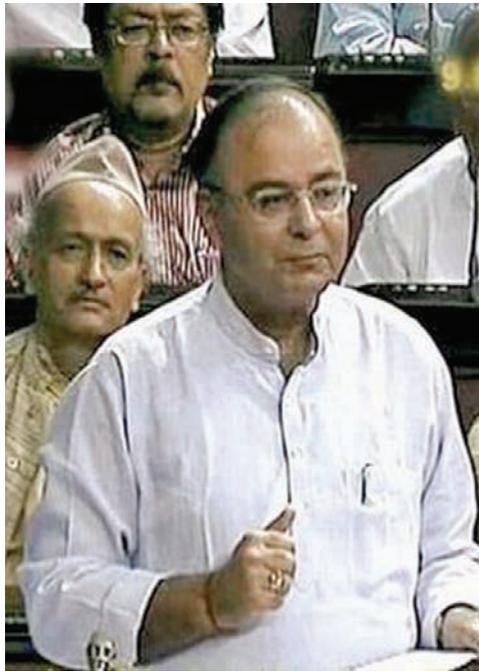




# LOKPAL is Welcome! Much More Required Please...

After a long struggle Indian Parliament passed the Lokpal Bill in both houses of the Parliament. The Lokpal bill also referred to as the Ombudsman Bill, is an anti-corruption bill that was drafted and drawn up by civil society activists in India seeking the appointment of a Jan Lokpal, an independent body to investigate corruption cases. This bill amended in the Rajyasabha provides for improvements to the Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill 2011, which was passed by Lok Sabha in December 2011. The Rajya Sabha passed the Lokpal Bill on 17 December 2013 and the Lok Sabha passed the Bill on 18 December 2013 accepting the amendments made by the select committee of the Parliament. The Lokpal bill that got passed has tougher provisions as compared to the bill cleared by Lok Sabha in December, 2011. The bill, comprehensively reworked by a select committee of the Rajya Sabha, was considered afresh by Lok Sabha on Wednesday and in a display of rare unity obtained sanction from both treasury and opposition benches within a span of less than one hour.

Although, the Jan Lokpal Bill's aim was to effectively deter corruption, compensate citizen grievances, and protect whistle-blowers not all these are found in Lokpal bill. The prefix Jan (translation: citizens) signifies that these improvements include inputs provided by "ordinary citizens" through an activist-driven, non-governmental public consultation. Gandhian Anna Hazare who repeatedly fasted several times ultimately succeeded in convincing the lawmakers in the Parliament to pass the Lokpal bill. Anna went on a fast for nine days this



time breaking it only after nine days on 18th December when finally it was approved by Loksabha. It is to the credit of all parties and MPs in both houses that this bill could be passed with near unanimity.

In order to draw the attention of the government, a focused campaign "India Against Corruption" (IAC) was started in 2011. Anna Hazare headed the civil society movement which brought Arvind Kejriwal into limelight. Ever since the numerous twists and turns Team Anna has taken finally culminating in the formation of the Aam Aadmi which put up its spectacular performance in the elections to the Delhi Assembly.



While speaking in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi rightly sought the extension of the winter session to pass six bills that are 'part of the comprehensive anti-corruption framework' of the UPA government. Rahul said that "Lokpal bill alone is not enough to fight corruption. What we need is a comprehensive anti-corruption code," he said. Rahul elaborated "the UPA government has prepared an anti-corruption framework. Eight new central laws have been brought..." "We should complete the unfinished work of fighting corruption... Six anti-corruption bills are pending. If necessary, can we not extend this session of parliament?" Rahul Gandhi asked. Noting that the Lokpal bill was part of

this comprehensive framework, the congress vice president said the RTI law was the first on the UPA list. The other bills include the right of citizens for time-bound delivery of goods & services; areas of public procurement; foreign bribery; judicial accountability and protection for whistle-blowers.

Yes, if our MPs really take up these aforesaid pending bills then they really have utilized the chance to make history. Having got badly shaken by series of scams till now, the congress led UPA must only attempt at making a concerted effort to root out corruption from our midst. ♦

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## Politicians must cooperate with the T-bill

The said T-bill reached the state legislature. If the CM and his group of ministers are telling there people that they would discuss the bill clause by clause and raise every injustice done to their region. But they seem not interested in doing so, because they are not honest with what they



are telling Seemandhra people. Your article rightly exposed there game plan to insure that the debate on the bill is delayed to the maximum extent possible. All politicians like Kiran Reddy, Jagan Reddy of the



YSRCP and Chandra Babu Naidu of the TDP must know that it is not possible to defeat the T-bill by majority voting against it as Article 3 of the constitution doesn't permit any voting in the state legislature. It is high time they stop their tactics and cooperate with the inevitable.

## Time to amend Sec377 of IPC

I am a fan of Deccan Post for its publication of good articles and editorials. Your article It's time to amend Sec377 of IPC was educative. In fact, the judgment of SC declaring gay sex as illegal is not totally against the interests of the homosexuals. It's true that the present IPC was made by the British rulers during their colonial days. But a lot of life style changes have been happening in the world and India is no exception. Many federal states in the USA and several countries in the conservative Europe had ac-

cepted same sex marriages and made lose to tolerate gay sex. Let's keep in sync with the changing times.

## Save the National Animal

Your article on The National Animal was interesting. India holds over half the world's Tiger population. Your article highlighted the need for increasing the population of Tigers in India. Despite the penalties poaching, the laws are difficult to enforce. There are more than 900 tiger related court cases, but only a few of these have resulted in convictions and most are still pending in the courts. Let's preserve the species of Tigers otherwise our generations will only have to see the kind of jungle in books and magazines.

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

*Lessons from Devyani episode:*

# India Must Stand Firmly

By Srinivas Bhuma

The brazen arrest and humiliation of Devyani Khobragade, India's Deputy Consul General at New York, this week is a shocking example of how Indian dignitaries are getting ill-treated in United States of America repeatedly. This time, there has been a massive uproar across the country, condemning what has happened to the 39 year old Indian diplomat in a trivial issue of payments to her maid servant. Devyani had hired an Indian woman Sangeetha Richards as a domestic assistant in November 2012.

One day, Sangeeta mysteriously left for a departmental store in last June (2013) and never returned. Instead she went to an American attorney who is specialized in immigration matters and complained about the alleged Visa fraud. The said American Attorney began negotiating on behalf of Sangeeta for a settlement over what constitutes an offence of under payment. They illegally demanded Devyani to pay compensation of US \$ 10,000/- and also help regarding enabling Sangeeta to get permanent residency in the US. Upon being complained of this blackmail the Indian Embassy in the USA declared this (Sangeeta Richards) maid servant hired by her employer (Devyani) as an absconder and requested the US authorities to apprehend and deport her back to India.

Further, Devyani approached the Delhi High Court asking it to restrain her former employee from using bullying tactics overseas to exploit her. The Delhi high court ordered Sangeetha Richards not to institute any action against Devyani outside the Indian judicial system. However, Sangeeta having since become an illegal migrant in the USA, it is doubtful if Indian laws can have effective control over her.

## **The bone of contention:**

The charge is simple that Indian Dy. Consul General Devyani Khobragade has hired a domestic assistant by name Sangeeta Richards, from New Delhi in November 2012. Said Devyani failed to pay her domestic help the required 'Minimum Wages as prescribed under US laws'. At the time of filing visa papers before the US immigration services for the said maid, the Indian diplomat mentioned a pay of \$ 9.75 US dollars per hour of work. Later, Sangeeta who mysteriously left the job in July 2013 went missing for months after that she surfaced only to lodge a typical complaint with the US justice department that she was only paid \$ 3 US dollars per hour in gross violation of minimum wages law prevailing in USA for domestic servants or maids which is contrary to the contractual agreement entered into in India by the domestic assistant with the Indian diplomat. This could be a curious legal issue since the maid servant was taken to USA on an official passport and now she is enjoying super-patronization by the US state and justice department.

The actual bone of contention is that Sangeeta, (who was provided food-accommodation-periodic expenses and an amount of Rs.30,000/- monthly compensation to travel back and forth between New York and Delhi), sought permission to take up other part-time jobs and Devyani rightly refused permission, fearing that it may create immigration problems to her. But, Sangeeta went ahead and left the job with Devyani and started doing other jobs in New York. Devyani appropriately lodged a complaint against the maid with the Ministry of External Affairs and besides with the Police Department in New Delhi upon which a competent court and also India's Delhi High Court even issued a warrant against Sangeeta to immediately come back to

India and her husband Philips Richards not to leave the country. As the case is going on in India, Sangeeta approached the US authorities and complained against the Indian diplomat.

The US cops have obviously enquired into the whole matter, but kept mum waiting for an opportunity to arrest Devyani. After ensuring that the husband and children of Sangeeta obtained their passports from Indian Government; the US embassy immediately granted them US visas under T category. It appears that the US authorities waited for the husband and children of

(close to Rs 1.5 crore).

There is a talk that Preet Bharara has deep prejudices against Indians in general as he enjoys a record of convicting many of them, including Rajat Gupta of McKinsey's former head for insider trading. Preet Bharara, at the same time, let off many Russian diplomats for various offenses on the ground that they enjoyed diplomatic immunity. It is intriguing why he didn't apply the same norms to Devyani, who unlike other consular staff across the world is an Indian Foreign Service Officer. All IFS officers are trained to function as career diplomats. At least Preet Bharara cannot be ignorant of this well-known fact being an Indian Immigrant. The immediate reaction of Indian government is fine.

But, the retaliatory measures like withdrawing many privileges that are being slavishly made available to the US diplomats in New Delhi till now with no reciprocity are all the more shocking. We have learnt just now how the US diplomats and their Consular Service Officials working in Delhi and across the country in several consulates were till now provided with immense privileges besides airport passes, check-in clearances and several unwritten privileges which the Indian diplomats and Consular Officers in US are deprived so apparently. We also have become aware how the US embassy in New Delhi was accorded unwarranted barricading and other paraphernalia at the cost of Delhi's Aam admi's commuting freely in the diplomatic enclave.

## **Indian Government under public scrutiny:**

Now the Indian government is under severe attack from its people asserting their sovereignty and castigating the slavish minded political set-up; therefore it is forced to resort to several measures to address the problem. It is not unusual in the prevailing political scenario for the GOI to act tough. The MEA mustered guts to seek details of wages paid to Indian maids hired by the US diplomats in Delhi. Our star anchor Arnab Goswami on Times Now show has gone a step ahead in questioning and exposing several double standards practiced by the US across the world. All these days, India is known to swallow all types of humiliations like strip searching and frisking of our high dignitaries without a whimper of protest. We even tolerated the insults hurled at former president APJ Kalam, the then defense minister George Fernandes, union minister Praful Patel and even former lady Indian Ambassador Meera Shankar while serving in that country etcetera in their airports. We never protested.

We grudgingly acknowledged as if all that was all right. At least now, our government must begin to start believing and functioning as a Sovereign Democratic Republic of India which represents over one billion plus population. Demanding an apology from the US state department for the treatment meted out to Devyani would just be a political stunt. Instead question the US about its brazen act in justifying what they call "evacuating people like Sangeeta Richards husband-- Philips and their two children" on the pretext of possible persecution by the independent Judiciary in India. One wonders if there are any dark secrets in the whole episode. Were the Richards some sort of spies working for the USA in India that the US authorities feel obligated to protect them in their own interest? Lastly, it is equally important to ensure that our diplomats are well protected in every possible manner especially in a country like USA which preaches and practices every damn thing as is convenient to its interests. ♦

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*Devyani Khobragade, IFS*

Sangeeta to board the flight on 10th December to act against Devyani.

## **The US high handedness:**

On December 12, when Devyani was returning from dropping her daughter at a school, the US Marshal Service cops swooped on her and arrested her in public. They humiliated by handcuffing her repeatedly despite being told about her Consular Immunity. Devyani told her colleagues that she was subjected to strip search and cavity search and was held up along with drug addicts and prostitutes in the lock up. All this humiliation went on even after Devyani pleaded with the cops that she was a senior official of the Indian Foreign Mission and how she enjoys diplomatic immunity. But, the cops apparently acting at the behest of some influential higher ups didn't heed to her. New York South District Attorney Preetinder Singh Bharara, an Indian American, with troubled memories after treating the Indian Diplomat ignobly consequentially left Devyani Khobragade after she furnished a personal surety of \$250,000 US dollars

By Jaywant Naidu

A Christmas tree is a decorated tree, usually an evergreen conifer such as spruce, pine or fir, traditionally associated with the celebration of Christmas. An artificial Christmas tree is an object made to resemble such a tree, usually made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC). The tree was traditionally decorated with edibles such as apples, nuts or other foods. In the 18th century, it began to be illuminated by candles, which with electrification could also be replaced by Christmas lights. Today, there are a wide variety of traditional ornaments, such as garland, tinsel, and candy canes. An angel or star may be placed at the top of the tree to represent the Angel Gabriel or the Star of Bethlehem from the Nativity.

The custom of the Christmas tree developed in early modern Germany with predecessors that can be traced to around the 15th century. It became popular beyond Germany during the second half of the 19th century. The Christmas tree has also been known as the 'Yule-tree', especially in discussions of its folkloristic origins. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood were scarce.

The first record of a Christmas tree in USA was around the year 1830 by the German settlers of Pennsylvania.



By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise around the U.S. It was noted that Europeans used small trees about four feet in height, while Americans liked their Christmas trees to reach from floor to ceiling. The early 20th century saw Americans decorating their trees mainly with homemade ornaments, while the German-American sect continued to use apples, nuts, and marzipan cookies. Popcorn joined in after being dyed bright colors and interlaced with berries and nuts. Electricity brought about Christmas lights, making it possible for Christmas trees to glow for days on end. With this, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across the country and having a Christmas tree in the home became an American tradition.

**Rockefeller center Christmas tree:**

The Rockefeller Center tree is located at Rockefeller Center, west of Fifth Avenue from 47th through 51st Streets in New York City.

The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree dates back to the Depression Era days. The tallest tree displayed at Rockefeller Center came in 1948 and was a Norway spruce that measured in at 100 feet tall and hailed from Killingworth,

Connecticut. The first tree at Rockefeller Center was placed in 1931. It was a small unadorned tree placed by construction workers at the center of the construction site. Two years later, another tree was placed there, this time with lights. These days, the giant Rockefeller Center tree is laden with over 25,000 Christmas lights.

**Important history:**

1. The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.
2. The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.
3. Besides evergreens, other types of trees such as cherry and hawthorns were used as Christmas trees in the past.
4. Using small candles to light a Christmas tree dates back to the middle of the 17th century.
5. Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882. Christmas tree lights were first mass-produced in 1890.
6. In 1900, large stores started to erect big illuminated Christmas trees.
7. The tradition of an official Chicago Christmas tree was initiated in 1913 when one was first lit by Mayor Carter H. Harrison in Grant Park.
8. The official Christmas tree tradi-

# THE SACRED TREE OF CHRISTMAS



Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons.

tion at Rockefeller Center began in 1933. Since 2004 the tree has been topped with a 550-pound Swarovski Crystal star. And since 2007, the tree has been lit with 30,000 energy-efficient LED's which are powered by solar panels.

9. Every year since 1947, the people of Oslo, Norway have given a Christmas tree to the city of Westminster, England. The gift is an expression of good will and gratitude for Britain's help to Norway during World War II.

10. Since 1971, the Province of Nova Scotia has presented the Boston Christmas tree to the people of Boston, in gratitude for the relief supplies received from the citizens of Boston after a ship exploded in 1917 following a collision in the Halifax, Nova Scotia Harbor. Part of the city was leveled, killing and injuring thousands.

**National/Presidential Christmas trees:**

1. In 1856 Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States, was the first President to place a Christmas tree in the White House.
2. President Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923.
3. Teddy Roosevelt banned the

4. From 1948 to 1951, President Truman spent Christmas at his home in Independence, Missouri, and lit the National Community Christmas Tree by remote control. Truman agreed to stay at the White House for Christmas 1952, and personally lit the tree.

5. In 1963, the National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22nd, because of a national 30-day period of mourning following the assassination of President Kennedy.

6. Since 1966, the National Christmas Tree Association has given a Christmas tree to the President and first family for display in the Blue Room.

7. In 1979, the National Christmas Tree was not lit except for the top ornament. This was done to honor the American hostages in Iran.

8. In 1984, the National Christmas tree was lit on December 13th with temperatures in the 70's, making it one of the warmest tree lightings in history.

**Christmas tree farms in USA:**

1. Nineteenth century Americans cut their trees in nearby forests. Today most real Christmas trees are grown on farms as sustainable crops like corn or pumpkins.
2. Ninety eight percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms, while

only two percent are cut from the wild.

3. To ensure enough trees for harvest, growers plant one to three seedlings for every tree harvested.

4. In 2012, 46 million Christmas tree seedlings were planted by U.S. growers.

5. More than 2,000 trees are usually planted per acre. On average 1,000-1,500 of these trees will survive.

6. Almost all trees require shearing to attain the Christmas tree shape. At six to seven feet, trees are ready for harvest.

7. It takes six to ten years of fighting heavy rain, wind, hail and drought to get a mature tree.

**Christmas in India:**

Midnight mass is a very important service as a part of Christmas. The whole family will walk to the mass and this will be followed by a massive feast of different delicacies, (mostly curries) and the giving and receiving of presents. Churches in India are decorated with Poinsettia flowers and candles for the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass service. Christmas includes decorations made of banana or mango leaves, Artificial pine trees or branches of native tree and bushes decorated with Christmas themed ornaments, Nativity scenes with small clay figures, Statues of or actors playing Santa Claus. ♦

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**Laugh out loud**

**Teacher: 1 se 10 tak count karke batao...**

**Chota Santa: 1, 2, 3,4,5,7,8,9,10.**

**Teacher : 6 kaha hai.?**

**Santa: aaj subha T.V pe news bata raha tha: - "ek bus durghatana me 6 ki maut ho gai...!!" :p :p**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Maa : Tu apne baal kyu nahi katwata?**

**Beta : You know mom its fashion**

**Maa : O Besharam**

**Log teri bahen k liye aaye the aur tujhe pasand kar gaye**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Very important News: Dear friends, don't eat Cadbury's chocolate and Amul icecream products**

**"Without me"**

\*\*\*\*\*

**In India, everyone is expert about mobile problems..**

**However, the most common solution would be "Switch off kar ke ON kar THIK ho jayega"**

**5 days annual float festival in Sri Kapileswara Swamy**

**O**n the concluding day of ongoing five day Annual Float Festival, the processional deity of Lord Sri KT Float Festival- Sri Chadikeswara Swamy Varu & Sri Chandrasekhara Swamy and were dragged around the holy tank amidst great religious fervor.. Tens of thousands of devotees congregated on the holy steps of the temple tank on tuesday evening. DyEO(LT) Sri Chandrasekhar Pillai, VGO Sri Hanumanthu, temple staff were also present on the occasion.



**Chaturmasa Sankalpam Commences In Tirumala**

About 1100 tribes hailing from East Godavari and Araku valley trekked the Alipiri Footpath route on Friday evening. Led by Pallala Surya Devi of Om Brahmasri Sri Shakti Venkateswara Girijana Sampradaya Hindu Suryanarayana Seva Sangam, the group of tribes alighted Alipiri footpath chanting Govinda Nama and singing bhajans.



**HEALTH TIPS**

**Home remedies for Acne & Pimples**

Acne is a skin condition in which there is excess production of oil from the sebaceous glands leading to the blockage of hair follicles. It is the most common problem of adolescents, therefore, it is known as Yauvanpidika in Ayurveda; Yauvan means 'adolescence' and pidika means 'pustules or papules'.

**So, here are the easy tips:**

1. Regular application of pomegranate leaves paste is useful for healthy and wrinkle-free skin. It tightens and stretches the skin to it give a new look.
2. Daily used turmeric powder paste clears all marks from the skin.
3. Daily used turmeric powder mixed with milk gives internal glow to skin and helps in blood purifying.
4. Lemon juice mixed with honey is very useful working effectively on wrinkles.
5. Holy basil leaves juice helps to remove white patches and acnes.
6. Margosa 'neem' oil helps in dandruff and itching overhead acnes. Margosa is also known for its anti-bacterial and anti-viral effects and as a very good blood purifier.

**SUDOKU 301**

	8	9	1	2	5	6		3
5	7			4	8	1	9	2
6	2	1		7	9	5		8
1		7		5	6	2	3	9
	6		2	9	7	8		4
2	9	8		1	3		5	6
9	3		5	8	1	4	6	
8	1	6	7		4	9	2	
	5	4	9	6			8	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 cant change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

**A N S W E R S**

**Sudoku-300**

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

**Answer 300: N Akhil, Begumpet**

**ASTRO FOCUS**

**Dec 22-28, 2013**

**Aries:** This week you will be benefited provided you take some bold decisions. Important decisions taken by you during this week might result in a major breakthrough in your career. Money position will also improve as pending payments get cleared. Those in love will feel more emotional and sentimental, and may spend time dreaming day and night. Take care of your diet and focus on your health..

**Taurus:** This week business improves as your pending proposals are accepted. Your communication skill will be on all time high. With hard work and dedication you will achieve the desired results. Several different pals may request favors or have some issues that seem 'similar' for some reason. Mental strain may also cause deterioration of health. Beware of minor injuries..

**Gemini:** This week your earnings will increase and financially things

look much brighter. However preparations done in advance will lead you to the desired goals. All travel-related work will go well and would bless you with favorable results. This week you are likely to be allured with new schemes and investments.

**Cancer:** This week you will be able to share your workload and responsibilities with others. At work you are likely to win appreciation and awards for your brilliant efforts. You should spend some time for recreational activities. This week is especially beneficial for artistic and educational pursuits.

**Leo:** Your high energy level will bring enormous gains and enhance your reputation. Your creative mind will be at its best, so make the most of it. Your personality and sense of humour will attract a large crowd. Determination to do something will take you closer to your goals. Some of you will receive appoint-

ment to a prestigious office with an increase in salary and other perquisites.

**Virgo:** A venture capitalist may encourage you to start an independent venture. You are required to take decisions after deliberating all pros and cons carefully. Your abilities may take you to the peak of your professional growth. Your Love/relationship will be better if you devote your much time with your partner. Your Health remains good in this week..

**Libra:** The work assigned to you during this week might be a test of your expertise and knowledge. Therefore you should put all your efforts into this task. Financially you will become more comfortable and have plenty of time for recreational and other activities. You would feel healthy both physically and in spirit...

**Scorpio:** This period would see you come up with great imaginative ideas, which would interest others. Growth opportunities will develop

through interaction with influential people. Romance would rule your heart this week as you find immense pleasure in the arms of your beloved. Health problems due to overexertion and stress are likely..

**Sagittarius:** Your work will become much broad. Most of the time will be devoted towards studies and reading books. The married will share perfect understanding and will manage to steal a few moments together despite a busy schedule and those in love are likely to have a great deal of fun. Your health might disturb you so take care of your health.

**Capricorn:** Planets will continue to help those looking for a change or first time job seekers. Those in family business are required to change the technique and methods. Some good news will bring happiness and will boost your morale. Those in love will have a happy period ahead. Leisure, pleasure, romance and creativity are highlighted during this week. Avoid overeating and visit a health club regularly to be in good

shape..

**Aquarius:** This week you should take advantage of your high spirits and meet new people and see new places. Your pioneering efforts are likely to earn you success and independence in your work. Opportunities for growth will develop through your contacts. Recent work in the field of arts will receive wide acclaim. Journeys to the overseas or foreign transactions are likely to fetch returns along with pleasures.

**Pisces:** Your success in your current venture will increase your stock in the business and financial circles. The outflow of money will still create hindrance in executing your new plans and projects. Taking opinion from people who have experience and knowledge will be important. Romantic vibrations from somebody in your neighborhood would come as a surprise and lift your spirits. Health will be normal despite a busy and hectic week..

# Believe and pursue your passion

**V**ivek Bhargava founder and Managing Director of 'iProspect Communicate 2', a Search and Social Media Specialist organization was in Hyderabad to attend The Indus Entrepreneurs Summit 2013 (TIE) meet at Hyderabad. He spoke to Deccan Post.

## How did you get into the digital world?

I actually come from a family business of dealing in musical instruments and accessories 'Bhargava Musicals'. As a child, I was always fascinated by opportunities to travel abroad whenever our business took us to participate in International Expo's.

## Can you tell us about your organization?

Communicate 2 began its operations in the year 1997 as a web development agency. In the year 2004, when SEM (Search Engine Marketing) also known as PPC started emerging, we decided to venture into this field. Since then Communicate 2 has evolved as one of the leading search engine marketing companies in India. Our expertise lies in the field of contextual advertising, lead generation and ROI solutions, catering to some of the largest clients in India and abroad. Communicate 2 offer digital consultancy as well as standalone services such as SEO, Search Marketing, Social Media, Analytics, Display, Video Content Creation, Mobile Advertising, Application Development, ORM and many more. Our company has been

providing Digital Strategies for companies such as MTV, Newscorp, Citi bank, TCS, HDFC Bank, Clear trip and Reliance in both Indian and Global Markets. Communicate 2 helps Search Agencies in Europe and US to become more profitable and flexible by providing Search offshore services.

## Where has the digital world taken you across?

I have spoken at global events such as Ad-tech, SES, SMX, I-com and the Apex Digital conferences in India. I have given guest lectures at IIT Mumbai, IIM Bangalore and many educational institutes. I am the Co-Chair for SEMPO Apaq and on the advisory board of DMAi, Ad-tech and DMTI.

## What is your mission?

I took the difficult path, to try and help companies in India to market their brand and product via digital mode. Media content, web portal and other areas are a challenge and the future. Communicate2's mission is to become the biggest contextual advertising firm in the emerging markets and the leading offshore contextual advertising. The company has recently been acquired by iProspect (an Aegis Media Company) and the merged entity is now called 'iProspect Communicate 2'.

## What has been your recent client strategy in the digital world?



Our company has been chosen by CRY (Child Rights and You) as a partner to help with strategies for utilizing the Google Grants sanctioned to CRY for AdWords digital spends. Google Grants is a donation programme that distributes free advertising to select non-profit organizations. Participating non-profit organizations are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 per month in advertising within the AdWords search engine marketing

platform. CRY has been working with multiple digital agencies as per different digital silos, but was looking for a partner that would help it consolidate its entire digital under one agency. We are responsible for managing the entire range of digital marketing activities spanning across performance marketing in terms of SEO (search engine optimization), SEM (search engine marketing) and social media.

## Did you at any point of time feel disheartened with the rough patches of business all along?

I was doing the digital consultancy when there was hardly any money in this area. The respect was also less in the family and society. But the passion was always there. We saw across the boom and bust of the dotcom era. When the company was acquired by Aegis Media Group, I gifted a luxury car to my father and moved into a big apartment. My father said "Beta, Tumne Meri Shyam Rangeen Kar Di" (you made my evening very colorful). Those words really made my day and my life.

## Any time for hobbies?

If I find time, it has to be Chess or Paragliding. ♦

**- JAYWANT NAIDU**  
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## Priyanka to turn producer?

After making her foothold in Bollywood and later as a singer, Priyanka Chopra wants to try her hands at producing! Apparently, the dusky beauty will be setting up her own production house by as early as next year. In fact, this rumours have been doing rounds for quite a while now but Priyanka has made nothing official yet. Reportedly, the actress wants to keep the matter as discreet as



**hot &  
SPICE**



possible so that her plans don't get jinxed. If at all Priyanka Chopra becomes a producer, she'll have a very tough time managing her already jam-packed schedule. But wethinks Priyanka will manage it quite fine. After all, she has succeeded juggling between her acting and singing career.

The Gunday actor, we hear, will be back from a vacation a day before New Year's Eve as she will be performing in Chennai at an event!

-DP Desk

## Tamannaah roped in for Baahubali

As S S Rajamouli's "Baahubali" is surely going to be high on star power. After roping in Rana Daggubati, Prabhas and Anushka, Rajamouli has now got Tamanna to join the team.

Confirming the news on his official Facebook page, the director wrote, "Tamannaah joins Baahubali team.. She plays the role of "Avanthika"

The movie will see T wood heartthrob Prabhas play a double role that of Baahubali and Shivudu. Anushka will be paired opposite Baahubali while tam will be featured opposite Shivudu. Rana Daggubati will play the role of the main antagonist.

The film is titled "Mahabali" in Tamil. It is slated to release in 2015. The film, which also features Ramya Krishnan, Sathyaraj, Nassar and Adivi Sesh, is touted to be the first Rs.100 crore budget project in Telugu.



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# Market cautious below all-time high levels

By V Sundar Raja

Stock market barometer after an earlier sudden decline for a continuous six trading sessions, it made a minor recovery on macro-economic positive news. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) credit policy on 18TH December was cheered by the market, after RBI has not made any changes in the Banking lending interest rates. This is because, market had expected a hike in the lending rates, as the key economic indicators like inflation and IIP (Industrial production) data that was reported few days earlier was reported to be negative for the economic growth. Similarly the decision of the America's Federal Reserve on 18th December, to slowly withdraw the financial buying stimulus to the American bond market was also taken as a positive move by the market.

But markets look tired at higher levels, and in spite of these two major macro-economic developments, Sensex's uptrend was short-lived and has soon slipped into a weakening mode on 19th December, indicating a cautious underlying tone in the market.

The Banks and the pharma stocks were seen leading the market's minor uptrend, as these sectors were seen beaten down in the earlier market's reactionary trend. The frontline software stocks were seen firm even at higher levels, without any major correction.

The American Dollar is seen firmly trading at the current levels of 62, with a signs of an appreciation. The currency is seen sideways, in the



last few weeks and is struck in range-bound in-between 64 and 61. The Currency is likely to get into a minor ascending trend, with the next resistance at 64 levels.

The crude petroleum trend is seen in a positive consolidation at current levels of 6000, in the commodity market. The commodity is seen firm with a possibility of a short-term uptrend, for the traders to be alert in the commodity mar-

ket. The precious metal Gold is seen in a minor weakness, in the last few days, with the rally of the equities. But technically, major support is seen below at 28,000 where a recovery is possible. Silver is seen taking support at 43000 and is seen in a minor recovery in the last few days, and in case of a further sustaining above 46,000 barriers, then it indicates a further short-term uptrend.

The leading base metals are seen continuing the short-term uptrend that was seen in the last few days in the MCX commodity market. Sensex is still seen below the major long-term resistance levels of 21,500 levels, and is showing signs of minor weakness at current higher levels. Market is unable to sustain above this major barrier levels, in the last five years, to be cautious. In-case of a further possible correction, Market has the next major support below at 20,000, where market must definitely sustain for safety of the overall uptrend.

But only in-case of any failure to sustain above the major support of 20,000, then it indicates a stronger correction, for the investors to be cautious. The activity of the foreign institutional funds (FII'S) is crucial for determining the market' direction. Market is likely to get into a sideways and a consolidation mode, in the short-term. ♦

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

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# Addicted to Alcohol or Drugs?

## Test for self-assessment of Substance Use Disorder

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

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

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