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Third Front Revival

Mulayam positioning well!

By Our Political Correspondent

As the next general elections to the Lok Sabha are less than a year away, the talk of third front emerging on the national scene is gaining momentum of late with both UPA and NDA failing to inspire. This time, the prime mover is none other than -- veteran UP strongman and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Mulayam Singh Yadav (MSY). Mulayam, whose party has won 23 MPs in 2009 and just won Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections last year, is positioning himself as a front runner to the Prime Minister post.

It is no secret that Mulayam wants to become the prime minister after 2014 elections, as already his son Akhilesh Yadav has firmly ensconced in the chair of UP chief minister. So, there is no way, Mulayam would be interested in replacing his own son to occupy that post he held so many times. That's why, the SP supremo's next big elevation in political life is nothing short of the PM post, a logical aspiration indeed.

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Coming from the erstwhile socialistic brand of politics, Mulayam justifiably is keen on the revival of the third front in the country. And, he knows this is the best time to promote the idea so that there will be enough scope for his political ambitions immediately after the elections. The timing of Mulayam's talk about the third front may be just right. The ruling UPA-2 is losing steam on many fronts and its pre-poll allies like TMC and DMK who were contributing 37 MPs have left the coalition and the BJP, i.e. happens to be the principal opposition party is still in tatters with several allies like JD-U in the NDA turning combative.

Travails of Sonia Gandhi

The problems of Congress which won 206 MPs in 2009 and leading the UPA-2 are growing day by day. Though, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been enjoying a much better position in leading the UPA-2, compared to the earlier edition of UPA-1, her situation is not at all comfortable, thanks to the attitude of her son and political heir Rahul Gandhi who is revealing monumental reluctance in leading the party itself forget being interested in assuming the office of the Prime Minister his father, grand mother and great grand father held for a record 38 years.

She was hoping that her son Rahul, who was earlier anointed as the AICC General Secretary, will eventually take over the reins of PMO after the mid-term of the UPA-2, sometime around 2011. But, this shy MP of Amethi has failed to come up to his mother's expectations and staked his entire reputation in the political landmine of UP assembly elections in March 2012. Even after extensively campaigning in the UP, Rahul could not better his party's position in the key state which has got crucial 80 Lok Sabha seats. As a result, though the Congress which won 21 MPs from the UP in 2009, today it is not in a position to repeat the feat. At the same time, SP is hoping to bag a minimum of 40 MPs from this state, thus paving way for his prime ministerial journey. Now it is clear that in UP, only Mayawati's BSP can be the principal opposition to the SP, but not Congress and not even the BJP.

Mulayam is confident of winning around 40 plus MPs from his UP, if elections are held immediately. This is the reason for his talk of early elections to the Lok Sabha, preferably by October/ November this year. The senior Yadav doesn't want his son's government earning a bad name due to corruption and goondaism in UP which would pave way for anti-incumbency by next year. The general public perception has been that Akhlesh's administration has been quite soft on Goon politicians. The recent cold blooded murder of DSP Zia-Ul-Haq allegedly by SP's strongman Raja Bhayya has sent shock waves throughout the state.

That is why; Mulayam is impatient and too eager to have early polls for Lok Sabha. The ground situation in the country too is favourable to him. The sudden decision of DMK to withdraw support to UPA and a pull out of its five ministers over the Sri Lankan Tamils issue came at an opportune time for Yadav. Now, the UPA government which has officially been reduced to minority in Lok Sabha is depending on the outside support of SP and BSP.

In fact, it is a miracle, how the Congress is managing to secure the support of two bitter rivals in the UP – SP and BSP – to its government at the centre. The BJP leaders many times alleged that the ruling party has been using the CBI cases to tame both Mayawati and Mulayam to its advantage. However, both the leaders deny the charge some times and accuse the Congress of using CBI against them selectively.

Significantly, both Maya and Mulayam have a strong support base among Muslims in UP. To keep this key vote bank in tact, they need to maintain a distance from the BJP and this strategy obviously is benefitting the Congress at the centre. Whether or not the CBI cases are a factor to their support, both Maya and Mulayam backed the UPA to appease the crucial 18% Muslims of the UP state.

Third Front possibilities:

The growing isolation of Congress has made Mulayam rethink on his strategy to stay with UPA at the centre. He is patiently waiting for the right time to strike at the Congress, so that he will be the prime beneficiary of the possible third front. Mulayam first encouraged Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banarjee to leave the Congress on the eve of voting on FDI. But, then he stayed back with the Congress led UPA, apparently to

maintain a distance from the BJP, thus earning a secular image. Mulayam supported UPA's presidential candidate Pranab Mukherjee, so that the Bengali Babu will sometime in future come to his rescue. If there is a hung Lok Sabha after 2014, the role of the president will be all the more important.

The desertion of DMK on Tamils plight in Sri Lanka and growing mistrust in the Sharad Pawar's NCP towards the Congress and quitting of minor players like MIM from UPA too came in handy to Mulayam. Anyway, AIADMK Supremo and Tamil Nadu CM Jayalalithaa however is not so happy with BJP although she is dead against Sonia led Congress. However, her personal rapport with Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi might compel her to join NDA as and when needed.

Other regional players like Biju Janata Dal chief and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik and JD (S) leader and former PM Deve Gowda and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah are ready to back anyone who can provide an alternative leadership, if their autonomy is respected. The old Ram Manohar Lohia background may bring old buddies like Mulayam, Lalu Prasad Yadav and Ram Vilas Paswan one side if there is no better opportunity available. Even TDP president Chandrababu Naidu too is a friend of Mulayam. So, Mulayam can bank on all these leaders' support. While funnily, Akhilesh Yadav is wooing YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy presently lodged in prison facing charges for embezzlement of state properties. DMK's Karunanidhi, for all that he can win in Tamil Nadu, it would be most comfortable to sail with Mulayam on Mandal type caste politics.

Modi controversy:

On the other hand, the BJP which is now leading the NDA with 159 MPs is mired in internal problems. The party's Gujarat CM Narendra Modi has emerged as its PM candidate in 2014,

brushing aside other aspirants like veteran LK Advani, Sushma Swaraj and Rajnath Singh. But, there is also strong opposition to Modi from some of the NDA constituents like Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, whose JD (U) commands 20 MPs.

So, a possible sinking Congress and with the BJP not growing as much as it ought to, the political vacuum for UPA and NDA have proved to be the right combination for the growth of the third front in the country. Anyway, the support of the Left parties will be there for this Non-Congress and Anti-BJP front. The Left parties will always look for someone who can provide a stable and secular alternative at the centre.

Mulayam knows that only Mayawati will not come with him from the non-Congress and Anti-BJP camp, but still he can go ahead and form a third front, at least months before the next general elections. And, what, the Congress, if it fails to secure a majority in 2014, will have to back and prop up a third front government led by Mulayam Singh Yadav, like it did to the United Front regimes in the past.

India is heading for a third front before next general elections. The only question is who all will ally be and who will lead them before the polls need to be tackled.

Veteran Educationalist says
"I did my level best as a MLC"...

By Dr T Siva Prasad Reddy - Special Correspondent

After serving as a MLC for six years, Chukka Ramaiah, 86, laid down his council seat on March 29th. Even though, he was elected as a MLC from the Teachers' constituency, this educationist always strove hard to raise issues of all sections of society in the legislative council during his stint. After laying down his MLC seat, he spoke to ***Special Correspondent Deccan Post.*** Excerpts:

Do you think legislative council is useful? How was your role in it?

It is very useful and my role is quite satisfactory. There are some times which left me disappointed, but I can confidently say that never I was a sleeping member in the Council. I was active all through the years and raised many issues in the Council. Thanks to the goodwill and cooperation of the Chairman, I could draw the attention of the entire House whenever I rose to speak. That way I am satisfied about my stint.

Years ago, when late NTR abolished the legislative council saying that it was a waste of resources? I cannot agree with it. Compared to the legislative Assembly, the Council is a better forum to discuss people's problems in depth. Usually, in the council we cannot find the passions and emotional swings that are common in the assembly. Because of its smaller size and the maturity of the members, the debates in the council are sober.

How was your experience in the council?

It was mixed. I being the leader of Progressive Democratic Front in the council raised a variety of issues and succeeded in achieving many of them. Whether it is the issue of revised pay scales for teachers or

improving the conditions in SC/ST hostels, or improving the mid-day meal scheme in schools, we have secured a positive response from the government.

Apart from teachers' issues, we have also raised many other issues like open cast mines problems in Singareni collieries at Kothagudem and fluoride issue in Nalgonda district and delinking high schools from junior colleges, but unfortunately, the response of the government was not encouraging. We could stop farmers being forced into cooperative farming in Ibrahimpuram in Warangal district.

Apart from teachers' problems, you have devoted to other issues also?

Yes, as an MLC of teachers' constituency, I have a responsibility to take up others issues too. Teachers are the only profession (besides graduates) provided for representation in the council. So, I though we should not restrict to teachers issues alone. Eminent teacher MLCs like Raghavachary and Manikya Rao etc; too had fought for general public problems. I also worked on Telangana statehood issue.

Even at 86 you keep good health, why didn't you opt for another term?

Look, there are two reasons – One is my advancing age, at 86 years, I thought I cannot take up this kind of physical work. Two, the UTF which propped me up was not ready to back separate Telangana, while other pro-Telangana teachers' organizations are not ready to support me and led to some tension. So, I opted out from the race for a Second term.

What according to you need to be done to better education sector?

Foremost is the need to improve primary education and strengthen it from grassroots level. For instance, I played a role in setting up separate IIT-EAMCET coaching institutes for SC/ST students in AP. Second is the need to improve the quality of higher education. Unlike in the past, higher education is no longer a luxury for the elite.

If India to compete with other developed nations, we need to mass produce quality human resources at the higher education level. Research and development should be accorded top priority. Universities too should be made to focus more on the needs of people of the region. We need to build many more centers of excellence in India.

What are your future plans?

I want to focus on education sector. I am right now advising many educational institutions and mentoring them too. I also want to promote quality standards in higher education to make our country a developed one. I want to spend more time with students and the youth. Of course, reading and writing for media will be there anyway.

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Addicted to
Alcohol or Drugs?

Helpline : +91 77 99 91 92 93

Do you know that addiction is a disease and it is treatable?

Addiction is a chronic brain disease that is more about the neurology of the brain rather than the outward manifestations of behavioural problems and poor choices.

Addiction is treatable and all that is required from the individual is to have the willingness to take the first step towards a life of freedom from drugs/alcohol one day at a time.

Self-assessment for Addiction :
1. Are you having control over your ADDICTION (drink or drug) ?
2. Is your work getting disturbed because of your ADDICTION ?
If your answer is "yes" you have a problem

Treatment
Motivational Interview and Behaviour Therapy
Relapse Prevention Program
Adult Substance Education Program
Family and Marital Counselling
Life Skill Enhancement
Medical Assessment and Detoxification
Psychiatric & Psychological Assessment
Psychotherapy
AA / NA 12 Step Program
Management of Emotions and Feelings
Individual and Group Counselling

PHOENIX FOUNDATION
Rehabilitation Centre for Substance Abuse and Behavioural Addiction
38, Anupuram Kapra, A.S. Rao Nagar, Secunderabad - 62. A.P. India
Contact : +91 888 696 55 66, 88863 33112, +91 40 27169999, 65865558
Email : info@phoenixrehab.co.in
www. phoenixrehab.co.in

TDP desperate to appease people

By Dr T Siva Prasad Reddy - Special Correspondent

As curtains come down on a brief pre-budget session(to meet again in April) in March, Govt. was cornered on many a issues-Telangana, No-Confidence Motion and most importantly power crisis affecting rural and urban alike. Power crisis has a cascading effect inflicting severe damage to the crops already sown(while others didn't opt because of irregular power resulting in water shortage) in rural while debilitating industries big and small in urban and semi-urban in a similar way threatening closures and thereby unemployment. !

Assembly discusses power crisis but hike inevitable and no-power

After discussion on no-confidence, house took up short discussion on power after repeated adjournments. Leaders cutting across the party lines highlighted the need for alternate arrangements for power to combat a severe shortage on account of lack of water (hydro-electric) and also on account of lack of grid to streamline power from other sources.

TDP led by its second line leadership - Payyavula Keshav initiated the debate focusing on various aspects. He castigated the congress and the Govt. for its failure to implement election promise of 9 hours quality and uninterrupted power while comparing with the erstwhile TDP regime. He also lambasted the Govt. and officials for not planning in advance in-spite of prevailing situation in water reservoirs. He also criticized the move of the Govt. to hike the prices without actually supplying the power. He also came down heavily on the Govt.'s support to private entrepreneurs in providing them with resources. TDP blamed respective Congress governments for present situations under YSR, Rosaiah and NKR.

TRS- led by its energetic voice Harish Rao challenged the Govt. to come clean on 7 hour power supply in Telangana by quoting Govt.'s official website-wherein except Telangana all other regions received 7 hours supply thereby exposing the duplicity and step mother attitude of Seemandhra leaders and politicians run Govt. resulting in official apathy too. He also criticized the Govt. for totally surrendering to private entrepreneurs - Lanco, GVK, GMR etc wherein gas was allotted to them KG-Basin etc while the sold the power to other states for higher tariffs to make landslide profits at the cost of the suffering of people. He also questioned the attitude of the Govt. on slow pacing of power projects in Telangana like Bhupalpally etc by not allotting gas and money while allowing the projects in Seemandhra regions to prosper. He also demanded for due compensation to the victims of power shocks and snake bites along with compensation to the farmers for losses being accrued on account of severe water shortage due to lack of power and it's erratic supply. He demanded that the resources in Telangana should be utilized for the region to generate adequate power so as to enable agriculture, industries-small and big, hospitals etc to cater to their respectable societal needs-as they are a must. He blasted the Govt. and official machinery for their enthusiasm to hike power prices from April in-spite of shortage as per the demand. He equally blamed both TDP and Congress as equally responsible for power crisis in Telangana.

YSRCP – YS Vijayamma and Shobha Nagi Reddy all along reminded congress and NKR Govt. that YSR as CM never burdened a common man and he never increased power charges during his regime while the present Govt. had liberally done the same in the last 4 years as was the case during TDP regime. They blamed congress for not taking it seriously in-spite of the impending situation while criticizing TDP for allowing congress to survive no-confidence motion in-spite of it's glaring failure to come to the rescue of a common man by supplying 9 hours un-interrupted power as promised in the congress manifesto by the then CM-YSR-thereby negating the promises.

CPI, CPI (M), Loksatta, MIM, Telangana Nagara came down heavily on the Govt. for it's non serious attitude in tackling the power crisis as it destabilized agriculture and in the process of destroying the growth of industries to have a serious shortage of food grains alongside unemployment. When Govt. is in no position to meet the demand-how can it allow the escalation of prices-they questioned. They lay the blame on congress and the Govt. as they were busy settling terms with one another to safeguard their interests rather than on real power crisis.

CM-NKKR reeling out figures attributed the failure to the severe water shortage on account of deficient rainfalls and also on non-commissioning of other projects on expected lines. While accepting ground reality he emphasized that congress in the state and at the centre played a crucial role in getting the nod for supply of gas along with increase in the quota other than promised and expressed confidence that all the pending projects would be commissioned at the earliest reducing the shortage. He also emphasized the need for exploration of alternate energy sources like-solar on roof-tops to combat any such shortage in the future and promised that Govt. would come out with a policy to subsidize any methods by people to utilize alternate sources of energy. He also blamed TDP for its failure to ground sufficient projects in it's 9 year rule while reminding them about the famous Bashirbagh protest by left parties and congress-when the then TDP under Babu as CM unleashed such brutality resulting in death of protesters. All the while, Legislative Affairs Minister – Sridhar Babu, Chief Whip G Venkatramreddy and Whip - Dronamraju Srinivas came to the rescue of the Govt. with witty remainders.

Opposition Stages Protests-TDP at Old MLA Qts - Not satisfied opposition stalls and protests while TDP members stage a sit in-in the well of the house after the adjournment to continue indefinite hunger strike at old MLA Qts later while the rest of the parties chalked out their protests. TDP continues its hunger strike by 28 MLA's, MP's and MLC's till 29/3/2013 midnight addressed by TDP-Babu's son-Lokesh, when police forcibly shifts them to NIMS on the orders of Speaker as the health of some starts deteriorating-many in TDP criticize midnight drama while TDP-Babu's wife Bhuvaneshwari offers lime juice in NIMS. TDP's strike attracts sympathy and support by it's erstwhile deputy leader in the house-Nagam Janardhan Reddy as he castigates Govt. on its regular failures resulting in MLA's and others taking to streets to assuage the feelings of suffering humanity. TDP decides to intensify and announces support to April-9 Bandh called by Left parties.

Meanwhile Left parties stage Dharna at Indira Park for more than 2 days by resorting to hunger strike by CPI-Narayana, CPI(M) - Raghavulu and scores of others while the assembly was in session inviting the attention of the elected representatives and the suffering alike. TRS, Telangana Nagara, YSR-CP proclaim their support to left parties' hunger strike. Police forcibly shifts all agitators to Gandhi Hospital and spoil the strike. Various leaders visit the ailing at Gandhi hospital.

Left Parties call for a Bandh on April – 9th supported by all parties as the agitation against the congress government on it's handling of power crisis intensifies with many parties calling for Dharnas at Mandal and District levels as a run up to the Bandh.

Can these struggles improve power supply by forcing the state Govt. to effectively bargain with the UPA Govt..? Will UPA yield to such bargains when Karnataka is to go for polls..? Would Karnataka and Maharashtra allow flows into the state in case on less rainfall or..? Can Telangana with abundant natural resources (water, coal…) can ever dream of having at-least 9 (at-least 7..?) hours uninterrupted quality power in rural and semi-urban on par with Seemandhra as promised in congress manifesto (2009)..?! Will power along with Telangana derail ruling Congress and TDP (as it supported Govt. during no-confidence motion) in Telangana region..?! Then can left parties in toe with TDP in such a scenario intensify the agitation against the power crisis and the congress Govt..?

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Kiran turns state into "Andhera" Pradesh

People of Andhra Pradesh were astounded to hear harshest comments from the incumbent Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy in the assembly on the power crisis. He unabashedly told the House that the State had not witnessed this type of power shortage in the last 25 years; and people will have to bear with it. But, perhaps no other CM in the history of our state could have been so brutally harsh with people on power crisis and shortage issue.

It is true that the total requirement of power in the state has touched 370 million units (MU) per day and the supply is just around 300 MU, leaving a gap of 70 MU per day. It is also a fact that the Hydel power generation has come to a standstill, thanks to depleting water levels in both Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailam Reservoirs, two major suppliers of Hydel power.

If there are no rains, the water levels in reservoirs will come down, that is an act of nature and not much is there in the hands of a government. But, what is shocking is the failure of the government and the public sector units in keeping generation levels at various thermal stations sustainable, which are depending on coal and gas as fuel.

When there was "Sakala Janula Samme" in Telangana last June, this very CM blamed the strike for the shortage of power saying that it had hit the coal production in Singareni Collieries Company Limited. But at the same time, he had permitted the Transco to import thousands of tonnes of coal from abroad at high cost, thus leading to charges of corruption too. At that time, it was mentioned in a section of press that Andhra Pradesh Congress

Committee President Botsa Satyanarayna had carried a secret report against the CM alleging that the brother of Kiran Kumar Reddy had played a key role in coal import and that there was massive money changing hands as kickbacks from coal brokers.

However, we have not heard of any probe to find out the truth in those charges. Both Kiran and Botsa in the recent assembly session had denied there being a scam in the coal imports. Many are opining that it's a quid pro quo for raids on liquor syndicate. What puzzled the public more is the severe shortage of power even a year after the Sakala Janula Samme and even after importing coal from abroad. So far, none gave an explanation.

Kiran Kumar Reddy's close circle in the ruling party last year projected some stories saying that the power crisis in AP is something to do with the injustice done to the state in the supply of gas from the centre. This circle blamed the then Oil and Gas minister S Jaipal Reddy for the injustice in the gas allocations to AP.

It was an open secret that Kiran Kumar Reddy had a running feud with Jaipal Reddy who was believed to have encouraged Telangana Congress leaders against the CM. But, it is more than five months since Jaipal Reddy has been shunted out of Oil and Gas ministry and Veerappa Moily has taken over the charge of the ministry. Then, why cannot the CM manage to secure a bigger gas quota to the state from the centre? Who is the real culprit for the unending power crisis in the State? How can the CM escape from his failure to supply a minimum hours of power to people? Thanks to his clumsy management of power and lack of administrative experience, Kiran, who also hold the power portfolio, has turned Andhra Pradesh into "Andhera Pradesh" (Land of Darkness).

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letters TO THE EDITOR

One More Chance?

With reference to your last week's cover story I must say that it's the ground reality of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and T-JAC headed by Prof Kodandaram. You rightly said that the J-JAC has become a subservient instrument in the hands of the TRS party and only trying to please KCR who is very much infamous for his dictatorial and monarchy style of functioning and that seems to be the reason behind other pro Telangana activists are not welcomed by the T-JAC. Recently, a Cartoonist in Mumbai has been arrested on the charges of sedation and he declined to obtain bail which compelled the government to withdraw all the charges leveled against him and his fight succeeded resulting in his unconditional release from the jail. As you rightly opined that if our T-JAC leaders have stayed in jail for few days then the situation would have been totally different and would have garnered the support of all the Telangana people. With the style of functioning of TRS and TJAC it is now becoming clear that they are working for their agenda of winning elections and strengthening themselves and not truly for the cause of Telangana. I don't really think they deserve one more chance and by now the people should have understood the selective agitations and the agenda of this crooked politics and will opt for a credible leadership to achieve Telangana.

Mallikarjun Rao, Tukaramgate

Should Sanjay be given clemency?

I am a regular reader of Deccan Post and requesting you to publish my opinion about the article titled "Should Sanjay be given clemency?'. A lot of debate is going in media about the pardoning of Sanjay Dutt the famous bollywood actor and the people of the stature of a head of quasi judicial institution like Press Council of India are going to the extent of open support for clemency in favour of Sanjay Dutt and whereas Sanjay Dutt has declared that he will not appeal for clemency and honour the Supreme Court Judgment and will surrender within the stipulated time. I agree with the correspondent that he is just an actor and gets huge remuneration for entertaining the audience and this reason definitely can not make him eligible for pardon especially when his connection with Underworld Mafia have been confirmed and the weapons like AK-56 have been found from his residence. India is one and its law should be equal to one and all and if it is proved that one is guilty then he should not be spared. Finally law is taking its own course.

Harsh Vardhan, Barkatpura

SC firmly asserts Indian Sovereignty

The last week's editorial of Deccan Post was a good piece. One and all are applauding the stand taken by the Supreme Court of India and our Prime Minister compelling the return of the Italian marines who are accused of killing innocent fishermen in the Indian territorial waters. Sadly the game of taking credit started and the politics started playing and everyone from the opposition party and ruling party started the war of words just because nobody affords to lose the credit. As Deccan Post viewed the whole scenario and gave the credit to our Indian Constitution I agree with DP's opinion and strongly believe that our constitution and its guardian the Supreme Court of India should be given credit for compelling the return of the Italian marines to face the pending trial even though the European Union stood by Italy and the Foreign Affairs Minister of Italy has resigned in protest of Italy sending its marines to India. Finally I must say that everyone is equal before the law and has to respect the Constitution and the return of Italian marines is a landmark proof of the same.

Sagarika, E-mail

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

High time, we tackle our Power crisis

By Sridhar Rama

It has become a common sight in our country that angry people taking to the streets protesting against frequent power cuts often leading to law and order problems on account of agitating people going berserk. Typically, the state governments blame the centre for not allocating enough electricity to their states. The central government in turn blames the states. We know that the 'power or electricity' is subject listed in the concurrent list of the Constitution. However, it is the responsibility of the centre to generate power and make it available through a national grid. The responsibility of distribution of power rests with the states. It is noteworthy to know that the losses on account of distribution or transmission losses account for over 30% across India.

There are various ministries at union government level involved in energy production. The power ministry, environment ministry, the coal ministry and the heavy industries ministry all have a major role in shaping the broad policy for efficacious generation and augmentation of energy resources. There has been a serious conflict between these ministries with each one trying to adhere to strict policy implementation. The power ministry acts on the advice of the Central electricity authority which desires adequate power generation. The environment ministry is concerned about the climate change as coal based power generation has been destroying the green belt as it opines that the envisaged mining of coal would be ecologically unsustainable.

In the present globalised world, if all-round economic development is to take place and quality of life is to be improved in our country, we should have enough energy resources like coal and hydel water for electricity, oil and natural gases, minerals like uranium, iron ore, plenty of fresh water etc. All these would enable required infrastructure to be built to meet the modern needs of our people. Rising energy demand concomitant with economic growth has created a perpetual state of energy crunch in India. As it is India is poor in oil resources and is currently heavily dependent on coal and foreign oil imports for its energy needs. With the US dollar appreciating gradually vis a vis our Indian Rupee, import burden will naturally be a huge concern.

Ever since the invention of the energy producing engines, mankind has become increasingly dependent on energy sources like water, coal, petroleum, and natural gases. Of late, uranium too is being increasingly used to generate nuclear power. Though, India is rich in Thorium, the same is not the case with Uranium, which we need to import from other countries. None of these sources of energy or fuels which are mined from the earth are renewable and as such are liable to be exhausted within a few more centuries. If we are to conserve these precious energy sources and ensure that they last longer, we should increasingly use renewable sources of energy like hydel power, solar power, wind power, biomass power and so on. For instance, the coal reserves, which are one of the prime sources of energy, are estimated at 206 billion tonnes in our country. From the present consumption pattern, it is estimated that these reserves may last for about a few hundred years. Coal is one of the main sources of electricity generated at many of our thermal power stations. The electricity that is generated at present by all manner of generation is unable to meet the actual demand in the country. If the thermal power generation whose primary source is coal is hiked considerably to meet the growing power needs, the coal reserves may not last even for the estimated period.

Coming to oil reserves, India had about 125 Million metric tonne of proven oil reserves as April 2010 or 5.62 billion barrels as per EIA estimate for 2009, which is the second-largest amount in the Asia-Pacific region behind China. Most of India's crude oil reserves are located in the western coast (Mumbai High) and in the north-eastern parts of the country, although considerable undeveloped reserves are also located in the offshore of Bay of Bengal (Krishna-Godavari Basin) and in the state of Rajasthan. While, India has about 1,437 billion cubic metres (50.7×10^12 cu ft) of confirmed natural gas reserves as of April 2010. A huge mass of India's natural gas production comes from the western offshore regions, particularly the Mumbai High complex. The onshore fields in Assam, KG basin in Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat states are also major producers of natural gas. As per EIA data, India produced 996 billion cubic feet (2.82×1010 m3) of natural gas in 2004.

If the energy crisis that is looming large is to be averted in near future, we should sooner than later switch over to renewable or non-conventional energy sources like solar power, bio-mass power and wind power in a big way. India is rich in certain energy resources which promise significant future potential - clean and renewable energy resources like solar, wind, bio-fuels (jatropha, sugarcane). During the last 25 years, significant effort has gone into the development, trial and induction of a variety of renewable energy technologies or non-conventional energy sources. Several renewable energy systems and products are now commercially available. In fact, India is now implementing one of the world's largest programs on renewable energy sources that are not only serving the primary purpose of exploiting renewable sources but also conserving the ozone layer. Thus, India is able to contribute a great deal towards preserving our environment by relying on green energy.

On the other hand, it is prudent to ensure that we are not at the mercy of the crude oil producing countries as our budget estimates are being upset with the increase in the prices of crude oil products. The earlier we switch over to solar energy, wind energy and biomass energy the better as it will save a lot of foreign exchange which can be used for better purposes. If we do not go in for renewable energy sources in a big way, we are sure to be caught in a debt trap as we have to borrow heavily to pay for the increasing prices of the crude oil products in the international market. In case we cut down the crude oil imports to conserve the foreign exchange and do not put the renewable energy sources in place before doing so, our country will face a major energy crisis as coal and hydel (power) alone cannot suffice our current energy needs. So, the sooner we switch over to the renewable energy sources the better. For this to happen, it is high time we declare "energy emergency" in our country to produce efficiently, to distribute with least amount of transmission losses and to use optimally.

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The Black and White of Indian Economy

By Jaywant Naidu

Black money could refer to funds earned, on which income and other taxes have not been paid. The total amount of black money deposited in foreign banks by Indians is unknown. Some reports claim a total exceeding US $ 1.4 trillion are stashed in Switzerland. Other reports, including those reported by Swiss Bankers Association and the Government of Switzerland, claim that these reports are false and fabricated, and the total amount held in all Swiss Banks by citizens of India is about US $ 2 billion. The Government of India had commissioned a study on unaccounted income, wealth both inside and outside the country bringing out the nature of activities engendering money laundering and its ramifications on national security. The study was assigned to three national institutes; National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM); with inputs from various ministries/departments. In the recent past, the Government of India decided to create a web-based platform to seek comments from all stakeholders, including experts, bankers, industries and the general public about suggestions to curb the black money circulation in India.

The strategy was to:

(i) Join the global crusade against black money,

(ii) Create an appropriate legislative framework,

(iii) Set up institutions for dealing with Illicit Funds

(iv) Develop systems for implementation (new manpower policy); and

(v) Impart skills to the manpower for effective action (constant training for skill development).

Joining the global crusade against black money:

Black money does not limit itself to the geo-political boundaries. It transcends borders and has become a global problem. The countries across the world have started a concerted global effort and as a part of global effort against black money, India has played a proactive role in pointing out deficiencies in the assessment of various countries by the Peer Review Group of the Global Forum. India has joined the Task Force on Financial Integrity and Economic Development in order to bring greater transparency and accountability in the financial system. India has joined as the 34th member of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on 25-6-2010. FATF membership is important as it will help India to build the capacity to fight terrorism and trace terror funds and to successfully investigate and prosecute money laundering and terrorist financing offences. India has joined the Asia Pacific Group (APG) against Money laundering. The 14th Annual Plenary of Asia Pacific Group (APG) was held in Kochi from 18 - 22 July, 2011.

India has gained Membership of the Eurasian Group (EAG) in December 2010. India has joined the Egmont Group which is an international network fostering improved communication and interaction among Financial Intelligence Units (FIU). India is an active member of G-20 and has played a key role both in identifying issues and drafting communiqués. In the G-20 Seoul Summit, November 11-12, 2010, a clause "countries to further enter into Tax Information Exchange Agreements wherever required by the partner country" was incorporated in the communiqué at the instance of India.

Creating an appropriate legislativeframework:

The Government has been constantly trying to strengthen the legislative framework to control generation of black money in the country as well as control the flight of such illicit fund to foreign shores. In pursuance of this, India has so far completed negotiations of 22 new Tax Information Exchange Agreements with various tax heavens. Nine of these agreements have also been approved by the cabinet. India has initiated process of negotiation with 75 countries to broaden the scope of Article concerning Exchange of Information to specifically allow for exchange of banking information and information without domestic interest. As on date, it has completed negotiation with 18 existing Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) countries. These agreements have also been initialed. 22 new DTAAs have also been finalized where the Exchange of Information Article is in line with the international standards. In short negotiations/ renegotiations of DTAAs with 40 countries have been completed. DTAAs with Switzerland (amendment), Norway (revised), Mozambique (new), Colombia (new), Ethiopia (new), Georgia (new), Taipei (new), Lithuania (new) and Tanzania (revised) have been signed. The protocol amending our tax treaty with Switzerland was signed on 30th August, 2010 and has been approved by the Swiss Parliament (on 17th June, 2011). There are certain countries or territories outside India which do not effectively exchange information with India as an anti-avoidance measure. The Government has enacted legislation to prescribe a tool box of counter measures against these non-cooperative jurisdictions.

For this purpose, section 94A has been inserted into the Income Tax Act through Finance Act, 2011. This section gives an enabling power to the Central Government to notify any country or territory outside India, having regards to lack of effective exchange of information by it with India, as a notified jurisdictional area. Once the country/territory as such is notified as a non-cooperative jurisdiction, transactions with residents of such country/territory are subject to higher withholding, certain disallowances and the transactions are also subject to transfer pricing regulations. The Government has proposed the following specific new measures for unearthing black money in the Direct Taxes Code Bill: For the purpose of levy of wealth tax, taxable assets have been defined to include deposits in banks located outside India in case of individual, unreported bank deposits in case of others, interest in a foreign trust or any other entity (other than foreign company) and any equity or preferential shares held in a controlled foreign company. The General Anti Avoidance Rule (GAAR) has been incorporated to deal with aggressive tax planning devices used to circumvent tax laws. Specific Controlled Foreign Company (CFC) rules have been incorporated to bring to tax passive income earned by residents from substantial shareholding in companies situated in low tax jurisdictions. A reporting requirement has been introduced making it obligatory on the part of resident assesse's to furnish details of their investment and interest in any entity outside India in the form and manner as may be prescribed. According to the Global Financial Integrity Report, major channel for illicit outflow is transfer of funds through mispricing which accounts for 77.6% of total illicit outflows. The existing transfer pricing provisions of the Government, which were introduced in the year 2001, are not detailed provisions as compared to transfer pricing provisions of developed countries. It was felt that there is need to upgrade these transfer pricing provisions to meet the challenges of growing intangible economy and various complex cost sharing arrangements.

Setting up institutions for dealing with illicit funds:

Government has decided to set up Exchange of Information (EoI) Cell for an effective exchange of information to curb tax evasion. Efforts are on to put the cell in place under Foreign Tax Division of CBDT. Government has approved the creation of the Directorate of Income Tax (Criminal Investigation), in the Central Board of Direct Taxes. The DCI will perform functions in respect of criminal matters having any financial implication punishable as an offence under any direct tax law. Government has set up Income Tax Overseas Units in two Indian Missions abroad. Eight more such units are being setup in the current Financial Year to strengthen information exchange mechanism. In order to augment the reach of the Directorate of Enforcement, the Government has approved upgradation of five existing Zonal offices as Regional offices and five existing Sub-Zonal offices as Zonal offices. It has also approved creation of a new Zonal office and 16 new Sub-zonal offices of Enforcement Directorate across the country. The Process of filling up the additional posts sanctioned by the Government as also for upgradation of the existing offices and setting up of new offices of Enforcement Directorate has started. As per the Action Plan, the Ministry of Finance is filling up the Group A posts of the Directorate in three phases.

Developing systems for implementation:

Government has doubled the strength of Foreign Tax Division, which deals with the work of exchange of information. The Directorate of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing in the Income Tax Department have also been strengthened as major part of the flow of illicit money outside of India takes place through mispricing of international transaction. In a bid to strengthen the Enforcement Directorate, the Government has approved creation of 1,318 new posts at various levels.

Imparting skills to the manpower for effective action:

As a part of capacity building and skill development, 51 Senior Officers were sent abroad for specialized training in the field of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing in the financial year 2010-11. Since skill up-gradation in international tax and transfer pricing require substantial time and resource, a posting policy has been approved which provides that officers may be posted in the Directorate for the period not less than five years. Apart from the above, the Government has also taken the following measures:

As per the direction of the Apex Court, a High Level Committee under the chairmanship of Revenue Secretary was constituted to coordinate multidisciplinary probe in important cases like Hassan Ali by various enforcement agencies. As of now, the case of Hassan Ali and cases of persons having account in LGT bank have been discussed by the committee for coordination of investigation/prosecution by Law Enforcement Agencies. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed an order dated 4-7-2011 in the Ram Jethmalani vs. Union of India [Writ Petition (Civil) No 176 of 2009]. In the instant case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had ordered creation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) with the responsibilities and duties of investigation, initiation of proceedings and prosecution, whether in the context of appropriate criminal or civil proceedings, relating to cases involving stashing of unaccounted money in foreign banks by Indians or other entities operating in India as well as the cases relating to Hassan Ali Khan group. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide paragraph 49 of the order dated 4th July, 2011, in Writ Petition (C) No 176 of 2009, had directed that the High Level Committee constituted by the Union of India be forthwith appointed with immediate effect as Special Investigation Team (SIT) and SIT so constituted shall include, Director, Research and Analysis Wing.

Efforts made to obtain information about illicit money of indian citizen parked outside:

The Government is pursuing all the relevant leads in this regard. Information about Indian citizens having bank accounts in LGT Bank from Germany has already been collected. Similar issues with other countries are also being pursued. In addition, information is requested from various countries in specific cases where the information is needed for investigation/assessment. India has obtained data of over 700 HSBC accounts from the French government. In 80 cases, the department has detected undisclosed income of Rs 438 Crores and taxes of Rs 135 crores have been realized so far. In this context, the government has also imposed a penalty of Rs 24.66 crores on 18 individuals who have bank accounts with LGT Bank of Liechtenstein on the basis of information provided by the German authorities. Germany had last year provided the names of some Indians having secret accounts in Liechtenstein's LGT Bank. These names were part of about 1,400 stolen bank account details purchased by Germany. India according to the Finance Ministry, has so far received over 9,900 pieces of information from several countries regarding suspicious transactions by citizens, and is investigating. The Government has made more than 175 requests to our treaty partners in case of specific tax-payers in the last Financial Year. Government's sharp focus on mis-pricing, which is one of the main and new methods of transfer of illicit funds outside the country has resulted in detection of mis-pricing of Rs 33,784 crores in the last two financial years as against detection of trade mis-pricing of Rs 14,655 crores in last five Financial Years. Special attention on cross border transactions and business deals has resulted in collection of taxes of Rs 22,697 crores in the last financial year. The Government has also conducted focused searches to detect unaccounted income of Rs 10,649 crores in the last financial year, Rs 8,101 crores, Rs 4613 crores and Rs 4,160 crores in the Financial Year 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08 respectively. Based on the information received from German Tax Office, tax assessment has been completed in the case of 18 individuals. Penalty notices under section 271 (1) (c) of Income Tax Act, 1961 for concealment of income have been issued in these cases. Prosecutions for tax evasion have been launched in 17 cases (1 person is deceased).

Negotiation and signing of tax information exchange agreements (tiea) with no tax or low tax jurisdictions:

Negotiation completed (16): Argentina, Bermuda, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Congo, Costa Rica, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liberia, Macau, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Saint Kitts & Nevis.

Countries/Jurisdictions which want DTAA instead of TIEA (4): Liechtenstein, Panama, Seychelles and Bahrain: We have included this issue in G-20 communiqué.

TIEA signed (5): Bermuda, Bahamas, British Virgin Island, Cayman Islands and Isle of Man.

Entered into force (4): Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, and Isle of Man.

Broadening of scope of article concerning exchange of information with dtaa countries:

The issue was taken up in 75 treaties and current status is as under:

Negotiation completed (22): Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Finland, Indonesia, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uzbekistan, and Zambia.

Signed: Finland, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, and Tanzania.

Entered into force: Finland and Luxembourg.

No of countries with whom we are negotiating new DTAA where EOI provision has been finalized (18):

Albania, Bhutan, Chile, Croatia, Colombia, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Hong Kong, Iran, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Mozambique, Senegal, Taiwan, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Signed: Colombia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Mexico, Mozambique, Lithuania and Taiwan.

Entered into force: Mexico, Mozambique.

Negotiation underway (18):

Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Bangladesh, Egypt, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand and UAE.

Under Consideration (9):

Serbia, Belgium, Italy, Ireland, China, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Syria and Turkmenistan.

Countries which have acknowledged our request but will come back later (3):

Jordan, Belarus and Turkey.

Countries which have sought revision of other Articles or full DTAA (10):

Bulgaria, Denmark, Japan, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, UK, USA, Canada and Mongolia.

Response awaited (15): Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Portuguese, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Botswana, Kyrgyz Republic, Libya, Philippines, Sudan, Uganda and Vietnam.

All Indian citizens should decide that whether its time to be a true tax paying Citizen or to have sleepless nights with 'Black Money'.

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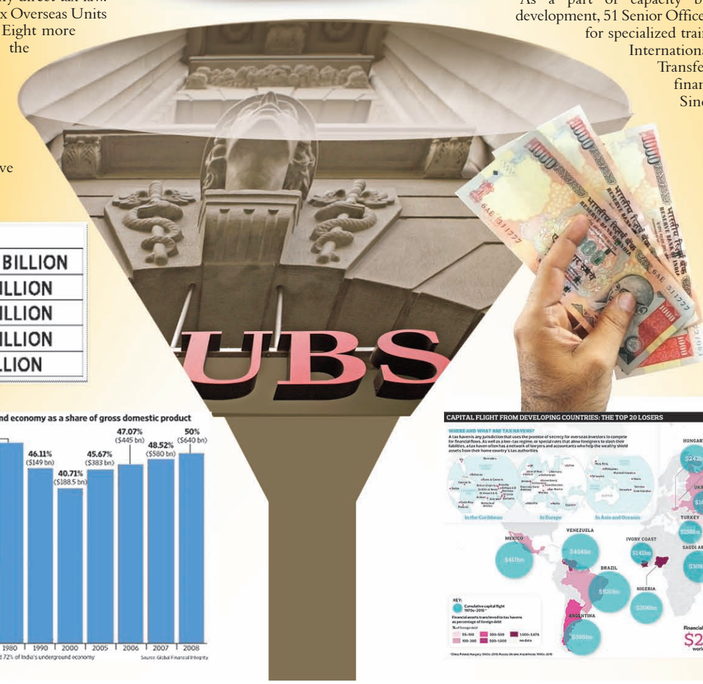
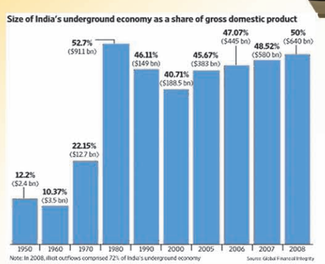
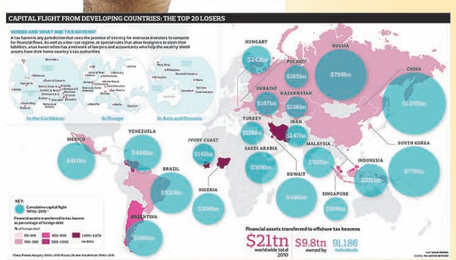


TOP FIVE	
INDIA	$1,456 BILLION
RUSSIA	$470 BILLION
U.K.	$390 BILLION
UKRAINE	$100 BILLION
CHINA	$96 BILLION





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Students should apply Sadacharam in their career

Students should apply the principles of "Sadacharam" which they have learnt their sessions to make not only their lives bright but also to serve the country has responsible citizens said TT EO Sri L.V.Subramanyam. Addressing the Successful meet of "Sadacharam" at Mahathi Auditorium on Thursday evening, the EO called upon the Students to become the good citizens of india for the betterment of the society. He said "Sadacharam" aimed at inculcating ethical and moral values to the students who are the future citizens of future india. He asked the students to follow the footsteps of ancestral and national leaders who sacrificed their lives for the good of the society.

namo VENKATESAYA

Speaking on this occasion some students shared their experiences of learning and taking part in the "Sadacharam" classes that were commenced on October 2 last year on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi jayanthi. They thanked the TTD Management for introducing these classes which aimed at character building apart from a leading a life with duty, disciple and devotion. Later the students took oath that they will apply the principles which they have learnt in the "Sadacharam" classes to lead a life of values. Later the TTD EO distributed the prizes to the students who topped in the quiz competitions. TTD JEO Sri P.Venkatarami Reddy, DPP Spl Officer Sri Raghunath, DyEO Sri Umapathy Reddy, GM Sri Sesha Reddy, former HDPP Secretary Sri K Venkat Reddy, HDPP Secretaries Sri HS Brahmananda and Sri P Chenchusubbaiah were also present.

SUDOKU 263

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

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.

ANSWERS Sudoku-262

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Answer 261 : Prashanth Kamley, Gandhngar

Laugh out loud

Santa-*Oye Kya Kr Raha Ho?*
Banta-*Is Baby Ki Aawaz Record Kr Raha Hun!*
Santa-*Kyun?*
Banta-*Wo Jab Bada Ho Jaega,Use Iska Matlab Puchunga.*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Santa talking on phone.
Banta:*Kis se baat kar rahe ho?*
Santa:*Biwi se.*
Banta:*Itne pyar se...?*
Santa:*Tumhari hai.*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Santa kissed his GF in park
Gf: *Plz ye sab shaadi se pehle maat karo*
Santa: *Oh Soniye Don't worry I'm married*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Q: Why dogs don't marry?
A: Because they are already leading a dog's life!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Jyotishi-Tera nam Santa hai.
Santa-Ji.
Jyotishi-Tera 1 Ladka hai,
Tune abi 5kg gehu kharida hai.
Santa-Tusi to antryami ho.
Jyotishi-Gadhe, agli bar kundli lana rashan card nahi.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Santa Bank Lutne Gya Or gun dikha k Paisa lut liya
Par us k haath kuch nahi aaya
Qk sare paise usne manager ko diye
Or kaha: Mere a/c me jama kr do

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Santa:tu mirror k samne baith kr kyun pdhta hai?
Banta:fayde hai
1.Sath Me revsion ho jata hai
2.Khud pe nazar bhi rehti hai
3.padne ke liye company mil jati hai

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Santa College Ki Ladki se Bola I love U!
Ab Tum Mujhe Bolo
Girl:Mai Abhi Ja K sir Ko Bolti Hu!
Snta: pagli sir Ko Mt Bol Unki Shadi Ho Gai Hai.

ASTRO FOCUS

March 31 - April 6, 2013

Aries : You will have to work harder to maintain the required level of efficiency. Your leadership qualities would be highly appreciated. Foreign transaction or overseas journey will prove to be highly beneficial. Motivate yourself to the extent to get rid from your negative emotions. A spiritual person's blessings give comfort and relief. Partners would be enthusiastic about your new plans and ventures. Get involved in activities that will help you keep in perfect shape.

Taurus : Your convincing power will have a deep impact and people will praise for your efforts. Schedule in a planned manner to derive maximum results. There shall be an increase in the resources of material comforts. Sudden good news later in the week brings happiness and cheers for the entire family. It will be necessary that you take special care of your health and take extra rest this week..

Gemini : You have a remarkable week ahead provided you take advantage of the given opportunities. Inflow of income from various sources during this week indicated. You could visit some new place in the end of this week. Those natives aspiring to go abroad will get good chances. Students have to strike hard to achieve their goals. Success comes only after tremendous efforts.

Cancer: Your financial status seems to get better with new opportunities and ventures in the offing. Work should be on your top priority and you have to be focus on that. Your accomplishment will bring you good results in the long run. Some of the natives may be blessed with a position with authority. Your own health could also suffer if you do not take proper rest or take proper diet..

Leo : You would have to trying something new for this week. Look from each and every angle before you put your hard-earned money on the table. You will make much effort to consolidate your status. Arguments and confrontations should be strictly avoided, as emotional outburst will cause disharmony at home.

Virgo: This week you should search new methods to improve your earnings. Your partnership will bring you very good profits. You are required to take decisions after deliberating all pros and cons carefully. A cordial atmosphere prevails at home as spouse and children bring you happiness. Exercise more care to maintain your health..

Libra : Several good professional opportunities are likely to come your way. You may derive the maximum benefit from the available opportunities. Financial gains are likely especially for those in creative line. Start planning for a rare opportunity that will soon be in their hands. Good prospects for new entrepreneurs. Home improvement projects that you undertake would run smoothly.

Scorpio: Well planned system of working should be preferred to get better results. Efforts put in during this period would bring excellent results. Your quest for knowledge will awaken your desire to read and learn. You should have to focus your business for the long term basis. Your health might require some attention so take care of your health.

Sagittarius : Well planned system of working should be preferred to get better results. Efforts put in during this period would bring excellent results. Your quest for knowledge will awaken your desire to read and learn. You should have to focus your business for the long term basis. Overseas travel and business opportunities with foreign countries are on the cards for some of you.

Capricorn: Some of you will find suitable opportunity to prove your worth in your professional area. Your sincere efforts are going to bless you with favorable results. Things seem to be in your favour but with an element of uncertainty prevalent in your mind. Your positive outlook would impress those around you. Your health will be fine and you will feel energetic throughout this week.

Aquarius :Your home and personal life could be a source of encouragement and strength, provided you are willing to listen to the wise counsel. The employed will get opportunity to elevate their professional career further. Your personal friends and family members will extend excellent cooperation to you. Proper exercise and diet will be important to maintain regular good health.

Pisces : This is the time to focus your energies and spend time on completing you work. In other words, you will have to work hard to fulfil your commitments during this week. Reality checks with you are a constant need. Youngsters will be particularly audacious when undertaking new initiatives at work. They will be dynamic and professional.

The card of your life

Fareesa, a Tarot Card Reader exclusively spoke to Deccan Post about the art of reading Tarot cards and how it could help people to overcome their problems in life.

What's the history of Tarot cards?

The Tarot, first known as 'Trionfi' and later as 'Tarocchi Tarock' is a pack of playing cards (most commonly numbering 78), used from the mid-15th century in various parts of Europe to play a group of card games such as Italian Tarocchini and French Tarot. From the late 18th century until the present time, the Tarot has also found use by mystics and occultists as a map of mental and spiritual pathways. Tarot cards have been used for hundreds of years to gain insight, see patterns, give counsel and even predict the future. The most powerful sources of information come from within, the Tarot aids in coming in contact with one's Higher Self. They help me to actually know the person who comes for a Tarot reading session.

What are the Tarot decks?

There are a wide variety of Tarot decks, and no one kind is 'better' than another. All Tarot decks, however, have 3 things in common:

1) All decks are illustrated with various archetypes are experiences common to most of the people. Either you been one of the people shown on a card or you could be. Either you've had an experience like one shown on a card, or you might have one.

2) All standard Tarot decks have 22 Major Arcana cards, and 56 Minor Arcana cards. Major Arcana cards are unique cards that predict major events in life as opposed to everyday ups and downs. If your reading contains a lot of Major Arcana cards, then events are more or less out of your control. The Minor Arcana or court cards are numbered and correspond loosely to the suits of standard playing cards. These cards can deal with more mundane occurrences.

3) All decks have 4 suits that make up the Minor Arcana. These are Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles. Wands usually refer to events in their idea stage, Cups refer to the planning stage, Swords the action stage, and Pentacles the fruition stage.

What are the various types of Tarot cards?

The types of tarot cards are: the moon, the star, the tower, the devil, the wheel of fortune, strength, the chariot, the lovers, the emperor, the empress, the magician, the fool etc.

When did you first start Tarot reading?

Since the age of Eight years I have been carrying out Tarot reading. Tarot cards help in the process of locating the problem of a person and I can then work towards the solutions. I bought my first Tarot cards at 'Walden' in Hyderabad.

What are your hobbies?

I have learnt Kathak and Bharatnatyam dance for some time. But, Tarot reading has been my passion and it has overtaken them.

Do you get time for Tarot reading in your busy professional life?

I am a corporate lawyer and do consulting on the legal aspects for corporate companies. But, there is a very important time in my daily routine that I devote to Tarot reading as it can bring happiness in the lives of many people who need it.

What is your message to the public?

Don't get into problems in life. If you have one, then don't hesitate to explore the Tarot cards with me.

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- JAYWANT NAIDU

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Emraan and Huma Qureshi in lip-lock !

No disappointment for Emraan Hashmi fans who love their serial-kisser icon. The actor, who has already proven his histrionics and star power repeatedly, will be seen gently kissing his co-star Huma Qureshi in the forthcoming "Ek Thi Daayan". Says a source, "It's a passionate moment in a song sequence called Kaali Kaali and has been very aesthetically done. The set was emptied out

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and only the bare minimum technicians stood back to capture the scene." However, the kiss will not be seen in the film's new trailer, which comes out this week, given the CBFC's instruction to remove it. So the audience will have to get a 'taste' of it in the movie, when it releases worldwide on April 19.

It has been produced by Vishal Bhardwaj and Ekta Kapoor.

Varalakshmi to romance Allari Naresh !

Varalakshmi Sarath kumar aka Varu, daughter of Tamil star Sarath Kumar made an impressive debut beside Tamil Super Star Simbu in a movie titled 'Podaa Podi'. And now the latest buzz is that she she is all set to make her Telugu debut.

She has been reportedly signed up to play a lead role opposite Allari Naresh. This untitled film is going to be directed by Sai, a former associate of Srinu Vaitla. Anil Sunkara is going to produce the film and it's expected to go on floors in May this year. Varalakshmi acts as a woman don in this film.

Last year, Varalaxmi was approached for another Telugu film and she even did a photo-shoot with a young hero; however, the project was shelved. Varalakshmi will soon be seen opposite Vishal in Sundar C's Mada Gaja Raja this summer.

-DP Desk

Market continues depressed trend

By V Sundar Raja

The stock market after a decline of about 1,000 points in the last few trading sessions, it has not shown any significant change in the prevailing negative sentiment. Market continues to be subdued, with not much of an activity, with less interest from the retail investors. The Foreign Institutional Investors who have made a record purchases at major highs are seen cautious while there is selling pressure from the domestic funds. The record all-time high level of the American stock market has failed to inspire confidence in the Indian stock market.

The third quarter current account deficit (CAD) that was reported on 28th March is seen higher at 6.7% of the GDP, as compared to 5.4% in the previous quarter, which is due to higher amount of imports, due to increase in the imports of Gold and Crude Oil. But, there is expected to be an improvement in the next quarter due to expected increase in the exports.

While there is not much of interest in the equities, the attention is now focused on the commodity market. The crude oil is at major high of 5,250 rupees in the MCX commodity market, and is seen strong even after an earlier rally from 4,950 levels. The commodity has strong barrier at 5,300 marks, where there could be consolidation. Crude Oil has to sustain above the psychological level of 5300, to continue its upward march, with the next major resistance at 5,500.

The leading base metals like Copper, Zinc, Lead, Aluminum etc. were seen mixed with not much of a clear direction, indicating a possible further consolidation for the traders to be cautious in the commodity market.

The precious metals like Gold and the Silver were seen stabilizing at current levels, with a possibility of an upward bias. The yellow metal Gold is making attempts to breach the major barrier of 30,000 levels in the MCX market and in-case of a successful bid, and then it triggers a possible short-term uptrend. Only in-case of any failure to sustain above 29,000, then it indicates a short-term weakness, for the traders to be cautious.

Silver has to break-out of the current barrier of rupees 55,000 levels, to indicate a short-term uptrend, with the next possible halt at 58,000, for the short-term traders to be alert in the commodity market.

The American Dollar is seen strong against the Indian rupee at 54.5 level, and in-case of any breakout of 55, and then it could indicate a further short-term weakness for the rupee. The weather department is expected to make the weather forecast, in the next few days, which is expected to impact the stock market.

Market is seen in a medium-term weakness. It is nervously placed and is facing various macro-economic concerns including fresh unexpected political worries. All these need to settle down which may take some time indicating that there may not be an immediate bullish trend, for the investors to be cautious at current situation. Technically on the charts, Sensex has the next major support below at 18,500 and 18,000, where it could consolidate, before indicating next direction.

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

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