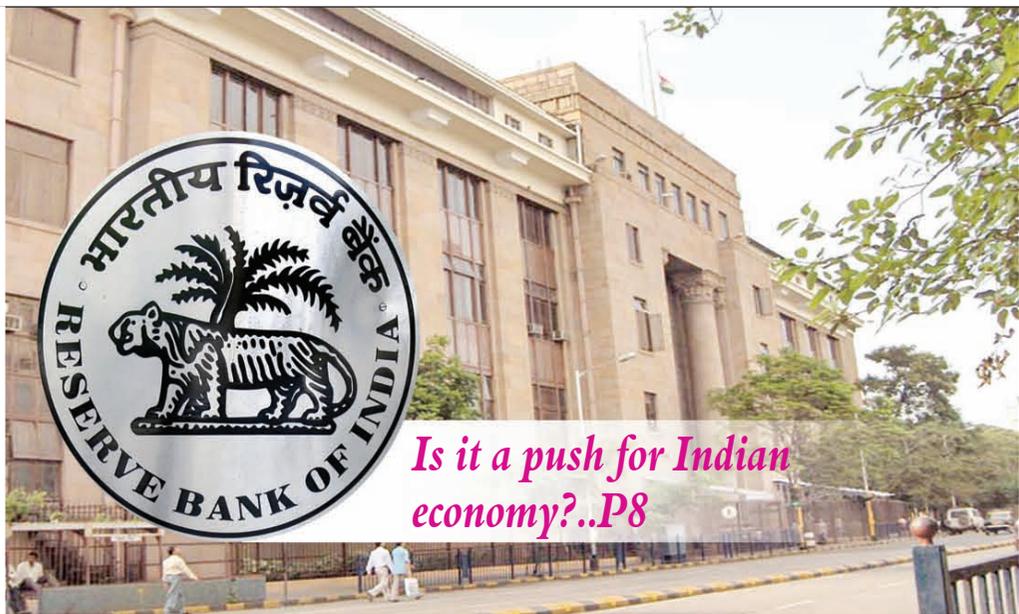


# DECCAN POST

Hyderabad's Only English Newsweekly



*Is it a push for Indian economy?..P8*

Vol. 5 Issue No. 52

February 03-09, 2013

[www.deccanpost.net](http://www.deccanpost.net)

16 Pages

Rs.3/-

# Will Jagan Surrender?



# Hectic efforts to convince Jagan to prevent 'Rayalaseema State'?

By Our Political Correspondent

Ever since, the union home minister suddenly announced the convening of an 'All-party meeting' to resolve the issue of Telangana, there has been much speculation in the political domain about the dramatic events that are unfolding regularly to the surprise of many. Several theories have come to occupy the centre stage as a prelude to the imminent division of Andhra Pradesh state. With several forces that have vested interest in preventing the formation of T-state becoming hyper active; political uncertainty is ruling the roost.

While, the discussions are zeroing on the possibility of announcement pending over Telangana state; interestingly, there is a new element creeping into the whole drama. If the creation of Telangana state was something which everyone considers

a forgone conclusion; the natural possibility of the erstwhile Andhra State (as on 31st October 1956) being restored to its pre-merger identity in Andhra Pradesh seems extremely doubtful. The clamour of 'Seemandhra' leaders from Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions to prevent the formation of Telangana State in the name of 'Samaikya Andhra Movement' is now ironically becoming a movement to keep both regions of erstwhile Andhra state intact.

Parallel to the ongoing developments on Congress and the Centre's flip flop on the Telangana since December 28th and its gross failure to ensure a culmination of sorts by January 28th, there is another story that has engaged the attention of political analysts and that is the possibility of jailed Kadapa MP and YSR Congress

president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy joining hands with the Congress. The discussion gained credence after union minister and AICC general secretary Vayalar Ravi talking about Congress exploring the option of having an electoral tie-up with Jagan in AP. Talking to reporters immediately after Congress's Jaipur conclave last month, Ravi said that: "It is for the Andhra Pradesh Congress leaders to say anything about a tie-up with Jagan".

## Ball in Jagan's court?

The deliberations about creating a state of Rayalaseema comprising of four districts besides adding some parts of Prakasham and Nellore districts that come under Coastal Andhra are baffling to many Samaikya Andhra leaders. Taking it as the official line, some state Congress

leaders welcomed the idea and hinted at an electoral understanding with Jagan.

But, YSR Congress leader and former MP MV Mysoora Reddy dismissed the proposal saying that it was a "One sided Love affair" from Congress. According to Mysoora Reddy, Jagan is in a better position than that of Congress. That may be true for outside consumption. But, inside drama indicates that Jagan is afraid of his being jailed till 2014 elections, unless he bends before the Congress. Also, the frequent talk of Congress leaders that Andhra Pradesh might be divided into three states – Telangana, Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema – too sent shivers in the Jagan camp.

Jagan knows well that if that happens, his chances of becoming the CM of at





least Seemandhra would be spoiled. Then, he will be limited just to Rayalaseema, with four districts which is not an attractive proposition to someone who dreamt of becoming the CM of Andhra Pradesh with 23 districts. The Three way split of AP is a death knell to Jagan. So, Jagan too is contemplating to surrender to the Congress high command to prevent the trifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Instead, he prefers at least bifurcation of AP into Telangana and

Seemandhra. This way, he can assume power in a state with 13 districts and 175 MLAs and 25 MPs. Moreover, various surveys project a clean sweep of YSR Congress in Seemandhra whenever elections are held.

The threat held out by the Congress high command to Jagan would be to split AP into two, if he surrenders to it or else, it would be divided into three states, a devastating proposition to him. Now, the bargaining will be for a better option from

Jagan's side. His advisers like Anakapalle MP Sabbam Hari and others are cautioning that it is better to settle for a two-way split, instead of a three-way division. As of now, Jagan is reluctant to bend before the Congress high command, saying that he has no need for compromise, at a time when his party is expected to fare well in the elections. According to an India Today - AC Neilson's survey last month, Jagan might win around 190 assembly seats and 30

MPs, if Telangana is not carved out by the Congress. Congress was projected to win less than 40 MLAs and 4-5 MPs. This survey has caused more damage, than benefit to Jagan. A panicked Congress high command keen on preventing Jagan from coming to power in Andhra Pradesh, has begun the process of forming Telangana state at the earliest, and even began the talk of dividing Seemandhra into two states - Andhra and Seema, to weaken Jagan.





That is the reason for the high command encouraging Rayalaseema leaders like TG Venkatesh and Byreddi Rajsekhar Reddy, who are gunning for a separate Rayalaseema state; if at all Andhra Pradesh is divided into Telangana and Seemandhra. These leaders made it clear to the high command, including the union home minister last month about having a separate Rayalaseema state as and when Telangana state is formed. Till now, Jagan is hoping that at the worst, Andhra Pradesh will be divided into two states, Telangana and Seemandhra but it is not an entirely bad proposition to him. But if it is three states, it would be nightmarish to him as he does not fancy a stature of being a leader of insignificant Seema state. As

can be seen from several examples, whenever big states got separated, leaders of one region lost their clout in the other regions. Ex. Morarjee Desai, ND Tiwari, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Digvijay Singh and a score of several others.

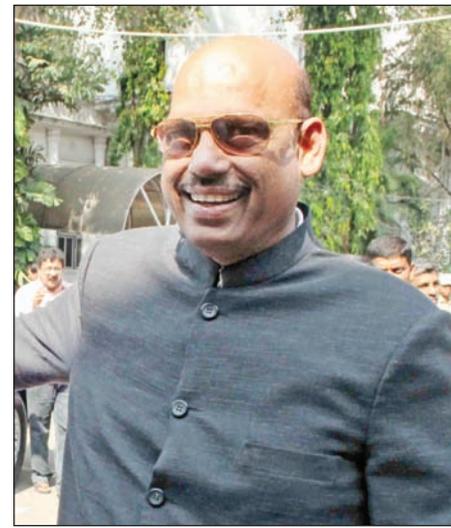
#### Congress desperate for allies?

To prevent the formation of Telangana, some senior Seemandhra leaders like Rajya Sabha member KVP Ramachandra Rao have taken upon themselves the task of bringing Jagan around to a tie up with Congress. Congress high command, which is worried over making Rahul Gandhi as the next PM after 2014 elections is desperate for bagging MPs from AP. In 2004 and

2009, the party came to power at the Centre solely because of the seat tally from AP. This time too, the party wants to retain its tally of 33 from AP. For this to happen, it knows, it should have a pre-poll ally – KCR of TRS and a post-poll ally – Jagan of YSR Congress. That way, it can tackle TDP and BJP which are minor forces now in AP.

Moving towards this goal, the party already put in place a mechanism to browbeat its rivals-cum-future allies – TRS, YSR Congress and MIM. TRS will be checkmated by announcing Telangana state which might take place anytime around the budget session of Parliament and YSR Congress will be pressurized to surrender by the threat of Telangana and MIM with the fear of jailing its leaders – Owaisi brothers. Jagan's mother Vijayamma already went on record that nothing matters to her other than the immediate release of her son from jail. She so far, called on President Pranab Mukherjee twice and urged him to ensure the release of her son and she is understood to have told him that she was ready for any adjustment with the Congress. This was also told by Jagan himself, before his arrest last April, that he would never join hands with the BJP and prefer to sail with the UPA even after 2014. "At the most, I may seek a portfolio for my party at the Centre with public importance like Agriculture," he told the media then. Now, Vijayamma is on a weaker wicket to secure her son's freedom.

Congress high command is using the Telangana weapon to tame MIM leaders too. The talk of Hyderabad being made a temporary Union Territory is chilling for the



MIM leadership. Even by announcing T-state with Hyderabad as its capital, Congress desires to render belligerent MIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi helpless. All through the time, MIM increased its strength by bargaining with combined Andhra Pradesh leaders. Once Telangana is formed, its bargaining too will be limited. If Telangana state is formed, MIM cannot benefit much with YSR Congress.

So, now the ball is in the court of Jagan. He has two options – one, by surrendering before the Congress leadership in Delhi, he can prevent formation of a separate Rayalaseema state, and two - by refusing to surrender, he may indirectly contribute to the creation of Rayalaseema state. Sonia Gandhi and her coterie will wait for another one month to hear from Jagan on this. ♦

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# Cyberabad Police lost control?

By B Shivkant, Crime Correspondent

Last week, everyone saw how the Cyberabad Police nastily misbehaved with the ruling party MLA Dr P Shanker Rao. The police officials did not even consider that Dr Shanker Rao is a former minister and a six time MLA hailing from the Dalit community. Leave about the positions he held and holding but the police did not even care that he is an elderly man who recently underwent a bypass surgery and suffering with several ailments like fluctuating Blood Pressure and variation in Blood Sugar Levels. Thanks to the media persons especially the cameraman who shot the video of the brutal arrest of this senior legislator being abused and manhandled like a hard core criminal—that the world has come to witness how our Police goons go about their job if ordered from above.

The video and audio of the arrest is crystal clear evidence of violation of the fundamental rights enshrined in our Indian constitution which gives specific rights to any accused. The police did not even allow the senior legislator to wear proper clothing and it is also heard that they did not even allow him to take his medicines along with him. It is being further said that Shanker Rao has been denied a chance to inform about his arrest to his legal counsel.

The brother-in-law of Shanker Rao, Dr G Vivek, a congress MP from Peddapalli in Karimnagar District told the media that the Neredmet police officials coming under the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate did not even produce the arrest warrant at the time of arrest and instead provided a Notice for Investigation and cited that few accusations are pending against the Secunderabad Cantonment legislator for some alleged cheating in Greenfields plots case. Not stopping there, the Neredmet Police officials who came to arrest Dr Shanker Rao filed a complaint with the Musheerabad police station stating that Shanker Rao has threatened them with dire consequences and used unparliamentarily language during the arrest and tried to prevent them from discharging their official duties.

Many politicians cutting across the party



lines have condemned the behaviour of the Neredmet police officials and the high handed manner in which Dwaraka Tirumala Rao, the Cyberabad CP was behaving. Many BC organizations are shocked that Tirumala Rao, an IPS officer, who himself belongs to the weaker sections has become a stooge in the hands of upper caste domination. Many Dalit leaders also condemned the ghastly act and few of the organizations have filed three different petitions before the Hon'ble State Human Rights Commission which ordered the ACP Malkajgiri and DCP Madhapur Zone to submit their report by 7th March. Several ministers including the Deputy Chief Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha, PR minister Jana Reddy, Handlooms and Textile Minister Prasad called on the chief minister to complain about the over-action of the Police

in dealing with a senior Dalit leader.

Nobody has a right to prevent any official from discharging their duties but at the same time the rule of law should be followed without any bias but it seems some invisible power centers are calling the shots behind the screen just to embarrass a senior leader who took initiative against the alleged corruption during the regime of late YSR. Dr P Shanker Rao a die-hard loyalist of Congress party was always vocal in expressing his views and many believe that could be the reason for his arrest. It was upon Dr Shanker Rao's letter written to the Chief Justice of AP High Court about amassing of illegal wealth by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy misusing his father's position; that the hon'ble high court ordered the CBI to investigate. It is well known fact that Kiran Kumar Reddy is a close associate of Jagan and

he was quite annoyed about Shanker Rao's petition paving way for Jagan's legal troubles. Despite knowing that Shanker Rao has done all this at the behest of congress high command; Kiran Reddy harbored grudge against Shanker Rao who became a member of his government. Health minister DL Ravindra Reddy has leveled several serious allegations against the chief minister but the same Kiran is not able to get rid of him.

Shankar Rao, despite being a minister in Kiran Reddy cabinet didn't hesitate to raise the issue of corruption against Kiran's family members misusing Kiran's position. Shankar Rao also made several allegations against Home Minister Sabitha Reddy for her controversial role in granting lease illegally to Gali Janradhan Reddy's OMC Company in September, 2004. The CBI is reluctant to take up this controversial GO extending the lease till 2017 that which expired in December, 2004. The reasons for CBI's selective approach are any body's guess. Just because Shankar Rao, demanded repeatedly action against Sabitha and kin of Kiran, the top police felt obligated to please the high powers that appointed them.

Many are of the opinion that arrests are not taking place for the accusations they are facing but to settle personal scores. Many political pundits are calling it an act of grudge and vendetta and that is the reason why the Government or any higher police official has not taken any action against the Neredmet police officials who needlessly manhandled the senior legislator. The police must not forget that they are human beings before being police officers and they have no right to violate one's human rights as well as constitutional rights otherwise the same 'Law will take its own course' at an appropriate time.

As if to mollify the agitating Dalits, who are enraged at the outrageous manner in which the Police are going about Dr Shanker Rao, the state government appointed a senior Dalit IPS officer to probe the matter. It will be naive to expect any thing tangible knowing how the police officers are loyal to their bosses. ♦

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## B.Eds seek Justice

By Our Correspondent

That the routine administration has come to a grinding halt in Andhra Pradesh has been proved by another instance of injustice to the candidates who had done their B.Ed degree for teacher posts. A statement made by State Secondary Education Minister Parthasarathi on Wednesday that those who had done B.Ed were eligible for primary teacher posts in AP has further indicated the confusion at the official level. Within 24 hours, the minister has changed the track and made it clear that B.Ed candidates were not eligible for primary teacher posts and his previous statement was a mistake. The communication from the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) on which the

minister based his statement was applicable only to Uttar Pradesh, but not to AP.

The root cause of the confusion lay in the policy decision of the NCTE which made it a mandatory after the Right to Education Act - 2010 came into force that only those who had done D.Ed Degree (undergraduate degree) were eligible for teacher posts up to Class 1 to 5. For Class 6 to 10, only those who had done their B.Ed (bachelors' degree) were eligible.

But, in our State, like elsewhere in the country, there is a terrible shortage of candidates with D.Ed degree and there are thousands of posts vacant in the primary schools. At the same time, there are thousands

of B.Ed candidates without jobs. This is a funny situation. Due to these strange rules, thousands of teacher posts in government primary schools remained unfilled.

After these new norms of NCTE came into force three years ago, several states made a request to the NCTE to relax the rules and permit the B.Ed candidates to be appointed as teachers for primary school posts, as they are better equipped to teach any class. And in most instances, the NCTE has issued state specific orders, relaxing its norms.

Strangely, though the B.Ed candidates have been agitating for long to make them to be eligible for primary school posts, AP

government has not done anything to protect their interests. In AP, there are 5 lakh B.Ed candidates without any jobs, while the number of D.Eds is only 60,000. The vacancies in primary schools are about 25,000, while those in high schools are just 15,000.

So far, several states like UP, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh have obtained this special permission from the NCTE to allow the B.Eds to be recruited for primary school teacher posts. The B.Ed candidates are demanding that Kiran Kumar Reddy government too should not waste time in getting NCTE relaxation to the norms so that they will get justice. Will this government act at least now? ♦

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# Kamal Haasan's travails must end

The controversy surrounding southern super star Kamal Haasan's "Viswaroopam" is indeed needless and unfortunate. The ban imposed by the Jayalalitha led AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu has not gained much as the film has no problems whatsoever elsewhere in the country. The TN government blocked the film since its release on January 25th, on the ground that it hurt the sentiments of Muslims.

The Jayalalitha government also contended that the film might cause law and order problem in the State if it is released for general public. But, the argument proved wrong as there have been no such disturbances elsewhere in the country, as the film's Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi dubbed versions are doing well in those states.

If the film is good for Muslims everywhere in India, including Uttar Pradesh, where Samajwadi Party which always plays the Muslim card assiduously, why should there be any problem in Tamil Nadu? The initial attempts made by Andhra Pradesh government to prevent its release for the first two days on January 25th and 26th too have proved wrong.

AP Home Minister Sabita who heard a delegation of MBT led by its leader Mohammad Amjed Ullah Khan has asked the Hyderabad city police commissioner to see to it that the film screening was cancelled for the first two days, but later it was allowed to run, without any protests from any Muslim groups in the city. Moreover, many Muslims are watching the film and took it in their stride.

Before delving into the row related to the ban of the film, let us take a look at the story of the film and its content that is objected to by few sections of Muslim groups. The protagonist, Wissam Ahmed Kashirmi, played by Kamal Haasan, is a Telugu man but works as Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Indian spy in Afghanistan.

He enters the ranks of Al Qaida there and trains them in his bid to know their secrets. In the process, he befriends with Omar, played by Rahul Bose and sees the madness of Jihadis who are ready to sacrifice their lives to take revenge against the US and NATO forces which occupied the country. There are some scenes where Jihadis are ready to suffer their families but not ready to compromise on their goals.

After second half, the story shifts to the US, where the hero takes the name of Viswanath and starts a Kathak dance training school as cover up. There he marries a nuclear oncologist, played Puja Kumar, and takes on the same Omar and his gang's plans to trigger a nuclear bomb in the heart of New York city, with the help of pigeons. Needless to say, finally, the hero succeeds and foils their attempt.

There is not a mention of India or Hindu-Muslim conflict or even the mention of Muslims being the villains of the piece. But, still some Muslim groups have been opposing the film, just because the story revolves around Jihad. Of course, there are scenes of Muslims offering prayers, Jihadis raising slogans of "Allah O Akbar" and reciting of Quran verses,



but the hero too is a Muslim.

One should not forget that this is an out and out commercial film, intended for general audience. It is foolish to expect every ideological aspect into the film, so as to satisfy every Muslim, including the fundamentalist elements. It is not essential that every Muslim should watch it or like it. But, it is unfair for those governing to use some ruse to ban every film, if it wouldn't suit their view. It has been politicized for reasons best known to the

powers that be in Tamil Nadu. After all, Kamal Hassan is an accomplished artist with wide fan following that includes even Muslims. Therefore, to doubt his secular credentials is a great disservice to an artist in him. The entire film is a clear entertainer. Deccan Post appeals to those holding executive power to act with responsibility and not discriminate artists. India has already lost (MF) Husain; let us not provoke (Kamal) Hassan. ♦

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## Telangana is Clear....

Recently I came to Hyderabad and while going back to Ahmedabad I got a copy Deccan Post at the Shamshabad Airport. I was reading Deccan Post for the first time and I found it very excellent. Especially the cover story on Telangana issue was very informative and definitely it proved to be a quick update on Telangana formation issue to the visitors like me. We are getting many kinds of news on various news channels but have not got an analytical story till today in any media. People like me didn't know anything about Telangana and it helped me to understand the contentious issue. Thank you very much Deccan Post and please guide me to obtain a regular copy of Deccan Post in Gujarat. I would be very glad to subscribe to a very apt newsmagazine like Deccan Post. Your quick reply will be highly appreciated.

Hemant Patel, E-mail

## No place for Gandhi?

I am a regular reader of Deccan Post and like the way it presents its item with a different angle. Its pathetic to see that

our politicians are making objectionable remarks over great people like Mahatma Gandhi. These days it seems the media became very vigilant and helping the police a lot to take note of the people who do not know what to say and what not to. Many leaders have been arrested recently for making seditious speeches. The politicians should not make derogative remarks against any one and set an example to the citizens. Anyone who indulges in such kind of pathetic politics will pay a heavy price sooner or later for sure.

Syed Imran, Chintal

## Rahul Gandhi's faulty start

Deccan Post is setting standards in publishing the very qualitative content especially its Editorials. Everyone

watched the speech of Rahul Gandhi the new vice president of Congress party. Rahul Gandhi gave a very emotional speech at Jaipur Chintan Shivir meeting but as the Deccan Post analyzed he never shown any seriousness or keenness on any key issues like FDI, 2G, 3G, Commonwealth Scam or even Telangana till today. It seems the congress party leaders are day dreaming by thinking of winning the coming elections of 2014 and form their government at centre but the congress leadership is lacking clarity on burning issues like corruption and price hike and just because Rahul is from Gandhi family can win them the Lok Sabha elections as well as the state assemblies where the elections are due. People should be known for their works and not for their families or dynasties. It's a very big question that India practices democracy or dynasty system? It has to be decided by the people of the nation.

Mallikarjun Rao, Punjagutta

## Twists & Turns for T-state?

I must congratulate Deccan Post for its exclusive analytical articles with regard to Telangana. I can say for sure that nobody gave such kind of importance for Telangana like the Deccan Post did. Coming to last week's Sridhar Goka's article in focus page

the author has successfully analyzed how the congress party is dilly-dallying with Telangana issue. Why the Prime Minister of this nation

has no answer to give to media on Telangana issue? Why the Union Ministers are making different statements? Why the congress party is not being decisive when it comes to Telangana issue? If the congress party thinks that it can fool the Telangana people then it would be a blunder on its part and people will not hesitate to oust congress wherever they can. Congress must stop playing games and be serious to grant statehood to Telangana immediately.

Surender Reddy, Champapet

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



# Darjeeling: “Queen of the Hills Station”

By Dr. Shankar Chatterjee

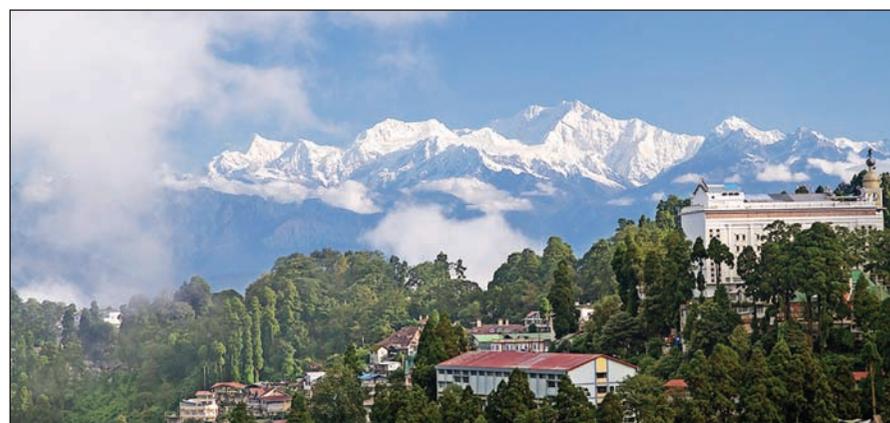
**D**arjeeling located in the extreme north of West Bengal at an average elevation of 6,710 feet is a beautiful hill station popularly referred as “Queen of the Hills Station”, only after visiting one can realize its beauty. Nature has profusely endowed this tiny hill station and its surroundings with enormous flora and fauna as well as pleasant climate leading to portray as best tourist place vis-à-vis best quality of tea. The fauna found in Darjeeling inter alia, include several species of ducks, teals, plovers, gulls etc.

Recently, Darjeeling and Telangana are in the news as people of both the regions have been demanding separate statehood within Indian constitution. When I visit other parts of the country I have to encounter this question whether these two regions will get statehood as I hail presently from Hyderabad and my forefathers were from eastern part of India. Darjeeling is famous in the world for its tea which is having nice flavour as a sequel tea produced in Darjeeling and its vicinity is second to none in the world. Like other popular products, Darjeeling tea has been facing adulteration and falsification problems (as revealed in some news) in the global tea trade as the average quantity of tea sold worldwide under the banner of Darjeeling tea every year exceeds 40,000 tones, while the annual production of Darjeeling tea has been estimated at around 10,000 tonnes including local consumption. To mitigate this issue, Tea Board of India has administered the Darjeeling certification mark as well as logo. In addition to tea, railways of Darjeeling need to be mentioned as Darjeeling Himalayan Railway popularly known as ‘Toy Train’ connects Darjeeling town with the plains and has one of the few steam locomotives still in service in India and it is a world heritage site of UNESCO. This is sublime experience only after train ride can be realized.

The history of Darjeeling is related to the British period. The then officials of British East India Company (BEIC) observing the beauty and climate of Darjeeling decided to establish a sanatorium for British soldiers and accordingly



negotiated for lease of the area from Chogyal of Sikkim in 1835 and thus Darjeeling was included as a part of British India. While visited Darjeeling, I was charmed to enjoy its beauty as well beauty of Kurseong and



Kalimpong. Nature has profusely decorated these places with her hand, even Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was amazed and wrote, “Flowers are everywhere. The days are cold and the sun almost seems to play hide and seek with us”. Darjeeling has five distinct

seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter and monsoon. The annual mean maximum temperature is 14.9 o C while the mean minimum temperature is 8.9 o C. The average annual rainfall is 309.2 Centimeters

spread over to 126 days (average) in a year. The highest rainfall occurs in July and sometimes during that time it causes severe landslides leading to loss of life and property as well as halts the movement of traffics.

During the British period, Darjeeling was initially a “Non-Regulation District”, an administration applicable to economically less advanced districts in the British Raj and in 1919 the area was declared as a “backward tract”. Socio-economic issues pertain to the region that had not been addressed during British rule continued to linger and were reflected in a representation made to the Constituent Assembly of India in 1947, which highlighted the issues related to regional autonomy and Nepali nationality in Darjeeling and adjacent areas.

Darjeeling is not only an important tourist destination but also a popular filming destination for Hindi and Bengali films. Satyajit Ray shot his film Kanchenjunga (1962) here, and also his Feluda series story

which is still popular among the people of West Bengal and northeast were shot in Darjeeling. Shooting of ‘Darjeeling Jomjomaat’ was also took place in the town. Bollywood movies like Aradhana (1969) and recently Barfi (2012) etc have been filmed here. It is pertinent to mention that in Barfi film, one actress namely Ileana D’Cruz has acted in many Telugu movies. Although in Darjeeling the alphabet ‘T’ is not present but ‘T’ greatly influences for the development of the region - Tea, Teak, Tourism, Toy Train, Tiger Hills and Trekking. While talking of the people of Darjeeling, undoubtedly it can be said that they are simple, hardworking and patriotic and that is why separatists’ movement never took place in the region. Rather patriotic feeling of the people was reflected when an attempt was made by revolutionaries in 1934 on John Anderson’s life, then Governor of Bengal. The people speak different languages and the main languages spoken are - Bengali, Hindi, English, Nepali, Gorkha and Tibetan. Another noticeable feature as observed by me is that the people are very courteous to the guests and outsiders and hospitality is laudable.

Whenever I meet the people in the region, in Nepali I greet them by uttering “Ramro Choo?” (How are you) and immediately they respond “Ramra” meaning fine. I tell them in Nepali, “Oli Oli Nepali Jamcho” (little Nepali I know as curiously they ask me whether I know Nepali). Tibetan momo and thupka are some of the delicious food among many of the sumptuous food which is getting popularity in India slowly albeit; these are seldom available in other tourist places of the country. Darjeeling “Queen of the Hills Station” will always remain queen with her own glory and beauty and hope stalemate will end soon as ‘Mera Bharat Mahan’.

(The author is an

Associate Professor at NIRD, Hyderabad.)

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# Is it a push for Indian economy?

By Jaywant Naidu

Is it a push for Indian economy? Home, Auto and Corporate loans are set to become cheaper after Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the key interest rate by 0.25 per cent and decided to inject Rs 180,000 crore liquidity into the system to perk up sagging Indian economy. The RBI cut short-term lending rate called 'Repo' (Repo rate is the rate at which banks borrow funds from the central bank) by 0.25 per cent to 7.75 per cent and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by similar margin to 4 per cent. The other key rates have been adjusted accordingly. These initiatives are aimed at encouraging investments, supporting growth and anchoring inflationary expectations. Bankers would be reducing lending and deposit rates to benefit borrowers, though depositors may get lesser returns. The industry also hopes that this policy would boost demand and promote growth. If inflation moderates further, CAD (Current Account Deficit) moderates further and there will be more room for monetary policy easing. RBI has lowered the growth projection for the current fiscal to 5.5 per cent from 5.8 per cent estimated earlier.

The economy grew by 6.5 per cent in 2011-12. The RBI also cut the March end inflation projection to 6.8 per cent, from 7.5 per cent earlier. According to RBI measures like opening up the FDI in some sectors and moves towards fuel price deregulation should put the economy back on the high growth trajectory and spur investment inflows. It is critical now to arrest the loss of growth momentum without endangering external stability because a rising current account deficit (CAD) could threaten macroeconomic stability and impact growth. Large fiscal deficits will accentuate the CAD risk, further crowd out private investment and stunt growth impulses.

The policy rate cut together with the CRR cut is expected to give more elbow room for banks to lend money at lower rates. This is likely to benefit retail borrowers immediately more than industrial sectors, where growth is subdued. However, the rate cut does not mean that the RBI is comfortable with the macro-economic indicators which would allow it to cut rates. This cut would provide an appropriate interest rate environment to support growth as inflation risks moderate. With headline inflation likely to have peaked and non-food manufactured products inflation declining steadily over the last few months, there is an increasing likelihood that going into the year 2013-14, inflation will remain range-bound around the current levels. The wholesale price inflation for the March-end 2013 has been brought down from 7.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent. What economy needs most of all and most urgently is new investment. This will step up currently flagging aggregate demand and also ease the supply constraints so that existing capacity is fully utilized and new capacity is built up. The moderation in inflation conditions provides the opportunity for monetary policy to act in conjunction with fiscal and other measures to stem growth risks.

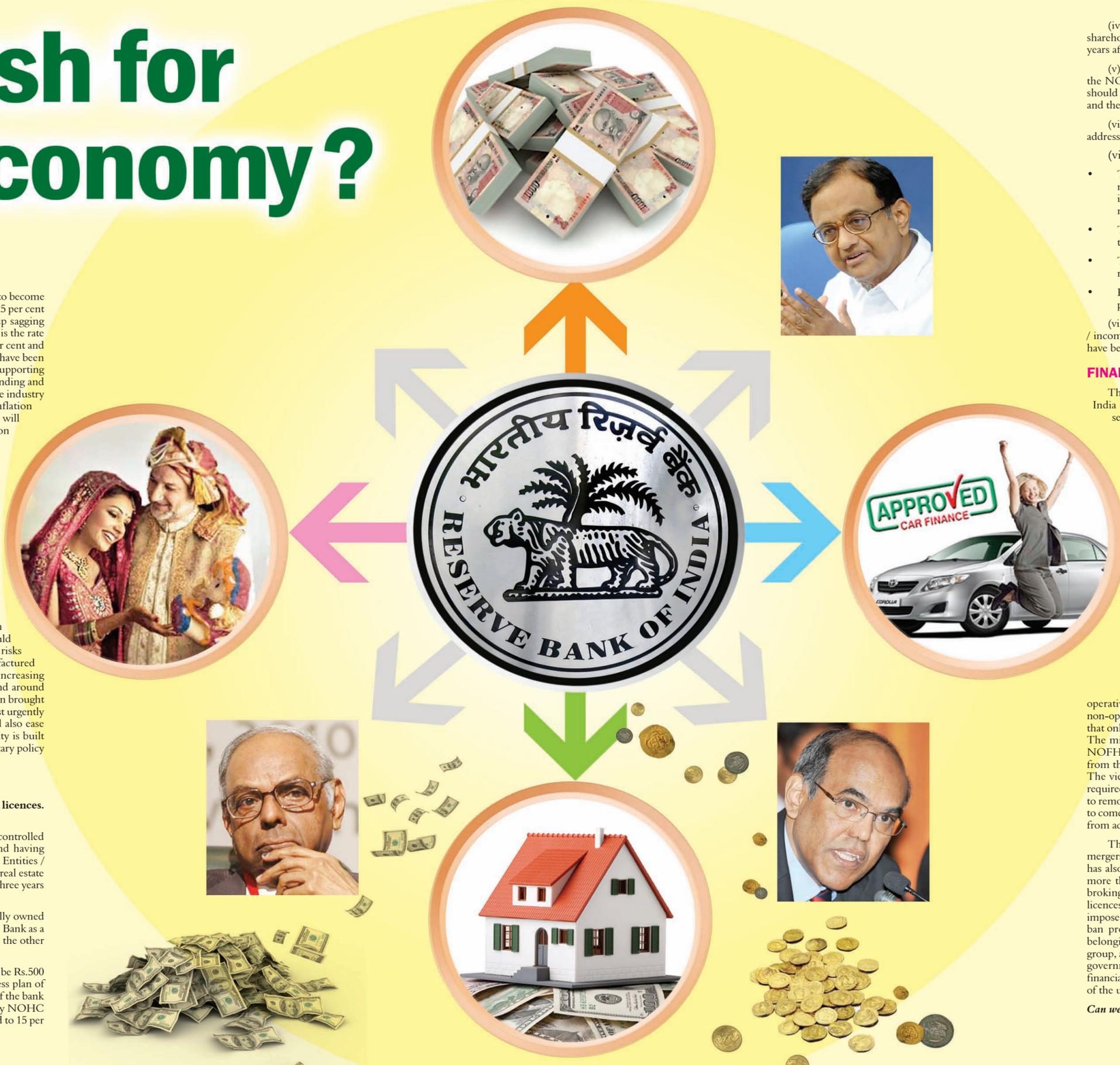
## NEW BANK LICENCES:

RBI has already put in place draft guidelines for awarding new bank licences. The key features of the draft guidelines are:

(i) **Eligible promoters:** Entities / groups in the private sector, owned and controlled by residents, with diversified ownership, sound credentials and integrity and having successful track record of at least 10 years will be eligible to promote banks. Entities / groups having significant (10 per cent or more) income or assets or both from real estate construction and / or broking activities individually or taken together in the last three years will not be eligible.

(ii) **Corporate structure:** New banks will be set up only through a wholly owned Non-Operative Holding Company (NOHC) to be registered with the Reserve Bank as a non-banking finance company (NBFC) which will hold the bank as well as all the other financial companies in the promoter group.

(iii) **Minimum capital requirement:** Minimum capital requirement will be Rs.500 crore. Subject to this, actual capital to be brought in will depend on the business plan of the promoters. NOHC shall hold minimum 40 per cent of the paid-up capital of the bank for a period of five years from the date of licensing of the bank. Shareholding by NOHC in excess of 40 per cent shall be brought down to 20 per cent within 10 years and to 15 per cent within 12 years from the date of licensing of the bank.



(iv) **Foreign shareholding:** The aggregate non-resident shareholding in the new bank shall not exceed 49 per cent for the first 5 years after which it will be as per the extant policy.

(v) **Corporate governance:** At least 50 per cent of the directors of the NOHC should be independent directors. The corporate structure should be such that it does not impede effective supervision of the bank and the NOHC on a consolidated basis by the Reserve Bank.

(vi) **Business model:** Should be realistic and viable and should address how the bank proposes to achieve financial inclusion.

(vii) **Other conditions:**

- The exposure of bank to any entity in the promoter group shall not exceed 10 per cent and the aggregate exposure to all the entities in the group shall not exceed 20 per cent of the paid-up capital and reserves of the bank.
- The bank shall get its shares listed on the stock exchanges within two years of licensing.
- The bank shall open at least 25 per cent of its branches in unbanked rural centres (population upto 9,999 as per 2001 census).
- Existing NBFCs, if considered eligible, may be permitted to either promote a new bank or convert themselves into banks.
- (viii) In respect of promoter groups having 40 per cent or more assets / income from non-financial business, certain additional requirements have been stipulated.

## FINANCE MINISTRY AND THE DRAFT GUIDELINES:

The Finance ministry has sent its comments to the Reserve Bank of India on the proposed norms for the issue of licences to new private sector banks. The ministry has proposed that the RBI should clearly define 'promoter', besides suggesting an appropriate banking structure in the country with a few national and international level banks at the apex. The ministry has also suggested that the RBI drop the condition that restricts promoters with exposure to stock broking and real estate from seeking bank licences. The RBI had sought the ministry's comments late last month, after Parliament passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill 2011, empowering the central bank to regulate banks. The bill gives RBI powers to supersede bank boards and allow it to inspect the books of associates of banking companies to ensure bank funds are not misused. The RBI issued the draft guidelines in August 2011, and looks forward to issue final guidelines after it is adequately empowered to regulate banks. As per the original norms, 'promoter' should be defined as per the definition of the SEBI, but the government wants the RBI to provide an exact definition instead of referring to some other legislation. Similarly, it wants 'promoter group' to be defined clearly to point to entities where promoters have substantial control or ownership.

The ministry has proposed that a licence may be given to a non-operative financial holding company (NOFHC) and not to a non-operative holding company as proposed by the RBI to clearly indicate that only financial sector holding companies will be able to get a licence. The ministry has also said that RBI should remove the condition that NOFHC should not set up any new financial entity at least three years from the date of commencement of business, terming it too restrictive. The view is that there may be related banking activities which may be required to support the core banking business. So, the RBI has been asked to remove any such restrictions. The ministry has also requested the RBI to come up with a clarification on the guidelines which prohibit any bank from acquiring more than 5% shareholding in another bank.

The government wants that this should not be a hindrance to mergers, especially for public sector banks, in the long run. The ministry has also suggested that the RBI drop the condition that groups having more than 10% of income or assets or both from real estate or stock broking in any of the previous three years should not be eligible for licences. The government has argued that there is no need to expressly impose curbs on businesses of promoter groups since there is already a ban proposed on new banks taking exposure to promoters, entities belonging to the promoter group and those associated with promoter group, and the condition of arm's-length dealing with such entities. The government wants to allow more players in the sector to augment financial inclusion in a country where banking services reach to only 33% of the urban population and 20% of rural population. ♦

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## Ecstatic crowd witness Balaji Procession at Kumbh Mela

As a part of the ongoing MAHAKUMBA MELA-2013 at Allahabad, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has built a Replica Temple of Lord Balaji in Sector-6 on the banks of River Ganga. In this Connection, on Thursday morning a celestial bath (Snapan Tirumanjanam-usually known as Abhisekam) was performed to the Processional Deities of Lord Balaji by Priests of Balaji Temple at Bade Hanuman Temple in Allahabad. The celestial bath with sacred items including turmeric, Sandalwood paste, camphor, scented water has been by the team of priests from Balaji Temple led by Agama exponent



Sri Sundara Varada Bhattacharya. During the ritual the priests recited Divya Prabhat vachana and Panchasuktas.

Later the deities have been decorated with splendid Tulsi garlands which added an extra glamour to the dazzling deities. TTD performed this ritual seeking peace, harmony and prosperity to bestow on the entire mankind. Sri Sri Sri Swaroopananda Swamiji of Sharada Peetham from Visakhapatnam, Sri Ananda Theertha Maharaj from Bade Hanuman Temple, Uttar Pradesh Educational Minister, Sri Rakesh Trivedi and T.T.D Officials also took part in this religious fete.



### SUDOKU 255

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

**How to play :** Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

### ANSWERS Sudoku-255

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

Answer 254 : Veeresh S, Jeedimetla

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

## ASTRO FOCUS

Feb 03-09, 2013

**Aries:** Good week for students and professionals as they witness steady progress in their respective fields. Financially, your position will be sound and better than you had expected. Hard work and concentration on study for good results will be required this week. Proper exercise and diet will be important to maintain regular good health.

**Taurus:** Some of you are likely to successfully conclude a major contract, which will generate substantial profits. Your ability to stand out in the crowd will bring you popularity and recognition. Try to maintain cordial relations with everyone especially with your family members as there is every possibility of having difference of opinion with your spouse.

**Gemini:** Your artistic and creative ability would help you to earn some extra money. Utilize the same and get benefited. You are likely to impress your colleagues and seniors with your technical knowledge and command over your work. Take care of your personal health as bodily injury is indicated during the week.

**Cancer:** New plans will conceive and new projects will be executed. Some of the natives may enjoy with friends. Excitement over new projects and financial gains will energize you. The inflow of income is quite sufficient for your expenditure. Educational pursuits would be high on your agenda. Travel and related activities will bring both gains and pleasure. Your inherent talents will come into lime light.

**Leo:** Your hard work shall show its desired results. Educational pursuits and creative activities may yield excellent results. Sudden good news later in the week will bring happiness and cheers for the entire family. You will get substantial time with your beloved but your relationship will suffer due to arguments and silly contradictions.

**Virgo:** Professionally you will continue to grow and will keep coming across new opportunities one after another. Your communication skill will be on all time high. You can make a great impression on someone when you act like a leader this week. At social gatherings your artistic and creative ability would help you to attract lot of appreciation.

**Libra:** This week you will have all-important information right at your fingertips. Your original ideas will win acceptance from others. This week you seem to take a more active role in social groups and liven up the atmosphere around you. Any result of an interview or test shall be quite favorable for you. Think twice while taking any major decision. Your sincerity and dedication towards your work would be appreciated.

**Scorpio:** Your artistic and creative ability would help you to earn some extra money. Educational pursuits would be high on your agenda. A desire to advance your career will inspire you to work sincerely towards achieving your objectives during this week. Careful speculation will get good gains. Your efforts would get noticed and appreciated by your seniors. Routine works will be done normally.

**Sagittarius:** Your convincing power will have a deep impact and people will praise for your efforts. You will be able to complete the left over tasks during the week. Due to involvement of an important person, your social status will be on high side. Relationship with Love/Spouse and relatives will be cordial and you would look forward to spend some pleasurable moments with them. Health may be fluctuating due to cold and seasonal change.

**Capricorn:** This is going to be a period of appreciation, laughter and professional success. Your positive outlook would impress those around you. You should use your creative ability to earn some extra money. It may chance to meet someone new or bring new life to a current relationship. Positive changes can be ushered in through regular exercise. Emotional problems can have an adverse effect on your health.

**Aquarius:** Financially you are likely to do well. You will even use your recreation time in planning and preparing your next move. Success and honors received through your own efforts. Time spent with partner could give you opportunity to make healthy relationship. Your tension might give some negative approach for your health.

**Pisces:** Your quest for knowledge will awaken your desire to read and learn. There will be average gains & good progress. Influential people would be supportive and extremely helpful. You are required to take decisions after deliberating all pros and cons carefully. Open and honest conversation will be essential to maintain a healthy relationship with your beloved.

### Laugh out loud

#### Kitne Desh Hai

**Santa:** Yaar ye bata is duniya me kitne desh hai?

**Banta:** Are pagal is duniya me ek hi to desh hai Jiska naam India hai! baki to sab videsh hai

\*\*\*\*\*

#### I Love You

Santa ne cafe mein 1 ladki se I Love you kaha

Ladki ne chanta mara aur boli:

Kya bola?

To Santa rote hue bola:

Jab suna nahi tune to chanta kyu mara?

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Newspaper

A wife says to her husband one weekend morning, "We've got such a clever dog, He brings in the daily newspapers every morning."

A wife says to her husband one

weekend morning, "We've got such a clever dog, He brings in the daily newspapers every morning."

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Sunscreen Cream

**Santa:** Why majority of South Indians are black?

**Banta:** "Oh ji .. Because they always watch Sun TV, Surya TV, without applying Sun screen lotion!"



# Do we laugh at ourselves?

**P**oet Martin Figura from United Kingdom was in Hyderabad on invitation by the British Council to perform at Hotel Taj Deccan. He spoke to Deccan Post about his poetic journey.

**What's unique about your poetry performance?**

I do not believe in acting out my poems. They need to be spoken without resorting to theatrics. The words always matter more than the performance.

**What is 'Whistle'?**

Whistle, a collection of poems that capture the events leading up to and following the death of my mother at the hands of my father. It was written in the year 2010.

**Tell us more about this audio visual performance?**

I had an archive of photographs and knew it would be interesting to put it all together. With description and metaphor, complemented by photographs and a minimal musical score, the audience goes through a post-war British childhood of mine. The life of my mother 'June', my ex-army father 'Frank', and my uncle 'Philip' are all part of this poetic performance. The poems draw attention to my difficult childhood and my awkward and tedious relationship with my father.

**What made you write about your childhood?**

As a child, I was psychologically and physically in deep turmoil. Writing helped me to think in retrospection and re-imagine myself, especially my identity and place. After my mother's death, I spent my time in an elite boarding school and the Vineyard

home for children before I was taken in by a family. At the age of 17, I joined the Army, where I worked as an accountant for twenty five years.

**What is it all about the 'funny poetry that you write and recite?'**

Doing 'funny poetry' brings the audience on your side and lets you say things you otherwise can't. Humour and satire have a very different dimension. The audience may laugh at something, and then realize that they are laughing at themselves.

**Tell us about some of your achievements?**

I am a proud member of the Joy of Six, with whom I have performed from New York to Cromer since the year 2000. I am an Apples & Snakes associate artist, my show 'Whistle' received major Arts Council Lottery Fund Award in 2010 and was shortlisted for Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry. I have produced two books: Whistle with Arrowhead and Boring the Arse off Young People, an entirely different concoction of funny poems. 'Whistle' was performed at Ledbury Poetry Festival and Freeword Flow Festival. My poem 'Victor' won the Poetry Society's 2010 Hamish Canham Prize. I am the chair of Café Writers and founder member of Norwich Poetry Club. I have MA in 'Writing the Visual' from the then Norwich School of Art and Design.

**Do you also teach?**

Yes. I have taught poetry and photography to students from reception classes, MA Groups, support groups, prisoners, excluded pupils and all sorts of other people. ♦

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- JAYWANT NAIDU

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## Kajal praised by Khiladi

Akshay Kumar has been singing praises over his new co-star Kajal Agarwal ever since they began shooting for Special 26. The film, that will be Akshay's only release in the first half of the year promises to be different and is already crating positive buzz since the promos released.



While Kajal Aggarwal is the leading lady in the film, one wonders that in a movie about con-men, how she really fits into the whole affair. Akshay Kumar said: "This is Bollywood after all; it wouldn't be a 'film' if there wasn't a female beauty lurking behind the curtains and making all men weep with her very presence. In the film we may be telling the tale of a 'Heist of the century' but every man will always have his eyes on more than one jewel at any time in life."

Akshay will dance with Kajal in the track 'Gore Mukhde Pe Zulfa Di Chaava' all set to be seen and heard with much more vigor. Akshay further added: "In the film, Kajal is the timeless Indian beauty behind my 'brave & immoral corrupt brains'. One could say that she is the simple flower that makes my crooked heart turn to soggy marshmallow. But then not even love can make me honest in this film, which again is a first for me."

## Priyamani to shake leg with Shahrukh?

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Few days ago, rumours were rife that director Rohit Shetty who is directing Shahrukh Khan in "Chennai Express" wanted to rope in Nayanthara for an item number in the film; however, Nayanthara has refused to shake a leg for an item number in the movie. Now, the latest buzz is that Rohit Shetty is reportedly in talks with Priyamani to do this item number. Apparently, the filmmakers are keen on having her on board and sources in the film's unit are positive that Priyamani will say yes.

Though the actress has confirmed that she has been approached for the song, Priyamani is yet to sign the dotted lines. Sources say that the filmmakers are keen on casting a South star in an item number as the movie is said to be about SRK's journey from Mumbai to Rameshwaram and what happens along the way.

In the past, Priyamani had acted in Mani Ratnam's Raavan and RGV's Rakta Charitra-II which were released across India. Currently, Priyamani is shooting for Angulika and another woman centric film Chandi, with Priyamani in lead role, was launched recently.

-DP Desk



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# Market in correction trend

By V Sundar Raja

Stock market has slipped into a minor reactionary mode after struggling to sustain above the major psychological barrier of 20,000. Market was seen in a very highly volatile trend at higher levels, due to alternate bouts of buying and selling.

Interestingly, the foreign funds continue to be strong buyers at every level, while there was selling pressure from the domestic players. On the whole market is seen steady above the major support levels, and it is only seen in a minor correction. But many midcap and small cap stocks have declined strongly in the last few weeks, and made the investors cautious.

Sector wise performance, the Banking and the Software stocks are the strong gainers and are seen firm at higher levels. The corporate quarterly financial results continue to be good, and many top companies have reported better than expected results, which is an encouraging sign.

Reserve Bank of India, on 29th January, has reduced the CRR and Repo rates, which would decrease the banking lending interest rates. This would mean a lesser rate of interest on the loans and would have a positive impact on Automobiles and Real estate sector. But the growth forecast for the Indian economy has been slightly reduced.

The Crude oil has been in the uptrend from 4,600 to current 5,250 levels, in the MCX commodity market, and it is expected to



witness a sideways trend at current levels, due to short-term overbought position. Precious metal Gold is seen in weakness in the last few days, and is seen trading below 30,000 support mark in the commodity market. The short-term outlook looks weak and has the next major support below at 28,000 levels.

Similarly, Silver is seen struck in-between the major levels of 60,000 and 57,000. In-case of any further failure to sustain above 57,000 support levels, then it is likely to get into a further short-term correction trend. Then the next major support below is at 54,000 levels.

But the other base metals like Copper, Aluminum, Zinc, Lead etc. have all been in an uptrend and positive trend and are seen firm at higher levels.

Similarly, Rupee is seen in an appreciation trend against the American Dollar in the last few weeks. But however, Dollar has the next major support below at 51 marks, where a recovery is expected.

Sensex is now closer to the long-term resistance levels, for the short-term Investors to be cautious. Market is expected to make a major consolidation trend, at the current

levels. Hence, it is better for the short-term investors to be on neutral side and wait for the market to decline a further, before making commitments in the market. Hence only after a consolidation at lower levels, in the next few weeks, then a buy position can be considered.

Sensex only in-case of any failure to sustain above the major support of 19,500, then it indicates a further short-term correction to be cautious. ♦

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

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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

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