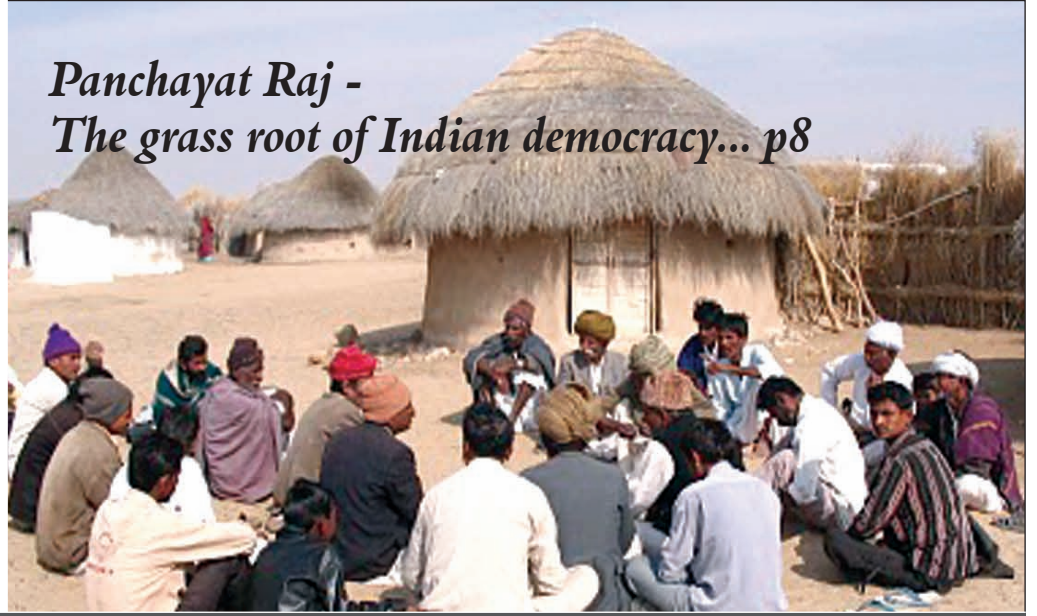


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TRS going great guns...



Can TDP join hands with BJP again?

By Our Political Correspondent

After 12 years of its formation, Telangana Rashra Samithi (TRS) has finally grown to a stage where it can go on, all alone in the general elections. The party founded on April 27th 2001, has allied with Congress in 2004 elections to taste success in 26 Assembly seats and five seats in the Lok Sabha. After being betrayed by the Congress party between 2004-2009; it left the congress led UPA and joined hands with TDP led Maha Kutami in the state to contest 2009 general elections, as it was not confident of fighting polls on its own and also because it wanted to teach the Congress headed by YSR a lesson. The result was shocking as the TRS bit dust by managing to win only ten assembly seats and two seats to Lok Sabha. YSR and his Congress party had the last laugh humiliating both TRS in Telangana and TDP and PRP in Andhra.

But, now the situation has changed. The TRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao who addressed a massive public

meeting at Armoor in Nizamabad district on Saturday has talked of storming Telangana and winning 100 Assembly seats and 15 Lok Sabha seats in the region. That shows, he is fully confident and ready to fight the polls on his own, without any alliance leaving parties like CPI and BJP who also sincerely participated in the Telangana statehood agitation for the past four years.

There is a reason for his confidence. The events that started unfolding ever since YSR's accidental death has changed the politics of the state. The situation has particularly changed in Telangana after the December 9th 2009 statement of the then Union Home Minister P Chidambaram who officially announced that: "The process of formation of Telangana state has been initiated". The subsequent reaction in the Seema-Andhra region has united all sections of the Telangana region. Despite the fact that the Congress high command is dilly-dallying on the issue ever since; the determination of the

people in T-region has been gradually firming up like never before. Today, parties like BJP, CPI, BSP, NCP, RLD, JD-U, JD-Secular, RJD, LJP, Akali Dal, AGP, BJD and others have been demanding immediate formation of Telangana state. This according to many in this region is nothing but an irreversible process in the direction of Telangana state formation.

As a result, the only recognized regional party in the T-region that is committed for T-state being, the TRS led by KCR; it can be seen that it is virtually on the path of resurgence ever since 2009 having won every single by-election it fought after that. Of course, the party lost Mahabubnagar Assembly by-poll, but it lost only to BJP which took the pro-Telangana statehood stand. Others like the ruling Congress and the principal opposition party, the TDP could not win a single seat in the region since 2009. Today, Congress is in a much worse position than the YSRCP even in T-region; notwithstanding the fact that YSR was a known opponent of

the T-state. His son YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, who quit the congress to start his YSRCP, is although struggling to find some base in the tough arena of Telangana.

The only national party that is confidently moving about in Telangana region is the BJP. Its top leaders like LK Advani, Narendra Modi, Rajanath Singh, Sushma Swaraj, Nitin Gadkari, Venkaiah Naidu and its state leaders have been on the move addressing many gatherings in the ten districts of Telangana. After the allies in the UPA like TMC and DMK quitting the UPA-II for various reasons of their own, the current UPA regime headed by Manmohan Singh and remotely run by Sonia Gandhi has lost its direction. The inability of Rahul Gandhi to take over the Prime Minister-ship has dented the succession issue in the Congress. The present PM who has become infamous for many scams is no match for some one like Narendra Modi. The BJP is quite vibrantly projecting Modi as their mascot to lead the party in the next





elections to the Parliament. In this context, the promise of BJP that it will form the state of Telangana in the first 100 days can become a potent weapon. The BJP might have to attract many leaders of stature especially from the TDP.

If Nagam Janardhan Reddy alone joins the BJP it may have its effect only in Mahaboobnagar, RR district and

some pockets of the T-region. But if Nagam can inspire those second rung leaders in the TDP; it could go a long way. The BJP is improving day by day. But the question of Muslims and Christians in T-region lending support to BJP is extremely doubtful. However, a polarization on religious lines in Telangana is ruled out.

As Deccan Post reported in the

cover story of last issue, if elections are held immediately, the prospects of TRS sweeping a majority seats are bright. The TDP which only a few months ago announced that it was not opposed to Telangana state formation, in a letter addressed to the Union Home Minister SK Shinde is badly lagging behind in the region. Just like Sonia Gandhi, the TDP boss Chandra Babu Naidu is

facing acute credibility crisis. Although, Sonia has still a chance till November-winter session of the Parliament to pass the T-state bill; Chandra Babu Naidu, has done too many somersaults on many issues and that's why his T-turns are suspected even by Telangana TDP activists. Now, the point is can the TDP that is facing near extinction in Andhra be able to dump comrades and

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ally with the TDP?

Chandrayan facing eclipse

The TDP President Chandrababu Naidu has undertaken a massive Padayatra of 2,800 km since October 2nd, from Anantapur district and concluded it in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. Naidu's inspiration for undertaking such a painful Padayatra is drawn from none other than his betenour late YSR who undertook a Padayatra of 1,560 km in 2003.

Naidu has almost walked double the distance of what YSR did. But, Naidu is nowhere closer to what was achieved by late YSR who single handedly won an election to the Congress in 2004. Today, the situation is grim to Chandrababu Naidu. Amidst the walkathon undertaken by Naidu, TDP lost 12 MLAs to the YSRCP in the last eight months, shockingly after Naidu began his Padayatra and now after completing his marathon "Chandrayan" is set to lose another dozen MLAs and more before the elections. Especially in T-region alone only because, there are no takers for Chandrababu Naidu's too many flip-

flops.

The TDP MLAs are gripped by a fear psychosis that they may not win either in Telangana or in Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema. If TRS is going to sweep the polls in Telangana, they are scared of 'Jagan Maya' in Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema. So, a lot more MLAs may desert TDP in the coming days. In normal circumstances, TDP should have demanded immediate disqualification of its six MLAs who defied the whip and voted along with YSR Congress in the Assembly during a No Confidence Motion in the Assembly in February. But, that is not the situation.

Since the TDP is not ready to face another rout in the by-polls; it wants these rebellious MLAs only be disqualified if only by-polls are not held now. The situation in Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema is such that there is no one who can save the TDP from being routed. In most of the 175 Assembly seats in Seemandhra region, the TDP may end up in third position in at least 50 seats it may even lose its deposits. Naidu can only pray the Gods that Jagan should not come out of jail

till next elections and his YSR Congress should get weakened by the time elections are held.

Only an Alliance with BJP can save TDP?

In view of the prevailing scenario, Chandrababu Naidu can only save his party in Telangana only by entering into a tie-up with BJP. The TDP MLAs in Telangana are worried over their prospects of winning in 2014. Many TDP MLAs who vociferously raised their voices demanding T-state are greatly worried that the people although may not reject them personally but if they were to represent the TDP; then the backlash cannot be escaped. The manner in which Chandra Babu sent a letter in favour of separate state to the Union Home Minister has remained a mystery as to what that actually means.

People of the T-region are not ready to trust Chandrababu Naidu. The public as well as several Joint Action Committees (JACs) are of the view that Naidu was the director who has scripted the resignations drama that was enacted in the wake of Chidambaram's announcement in 2009. Chandra Babu Naidu, Rosaiah and Kiran Kumar Reddy (as speaker then) together ran the drama of resignations of Seemandhra MLAs. It is since confirmed by none other than TDP MLAs like Praveen Reddy from Chittoor district while quitting the TDP to join YSRCP.

Now there is a pressure from TDP MLAs in Telangana on Chandrababu Naidu to go for some sort of alliance with BJP at least in Telangana so that they can win a respectable number of seats in the region. Otherwise, TDP will be washed out in Telangana in view of the five corner contests in Telangana - among Congress, TRS, TDP, BJP and YSR Congress.

The two Left parties - CPI and CPM - have already decided to join hands with TDP. Though, the CPI is in favour of separate Telangana, the

party is likely to go with its comrades, CPM which is a natural ally of TDP. That is the reason, why CPI state secretary K Narayana launched a frontal attack on TRS chief KCR these days.

But, TDP leaders like Errabelli Dayakar Rao and Kadiam Srihari know well that they cannot hope to win if they sail with the Left parties alone. They want that Naidu should some how enter into an alliance with the BJP in Telangana. If Naidu comes to a decision on this, his tie up with the Left parties in Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema may not be a problem.

As TDP has already given a letter in support of the Telangana state, Chandrababu Naidu can claim that he had no problem in coming to seat adjustments with BJP, with the common aim of defeating the ruling Congress. As BJP senior leaders Advani and Venkaiah Naidu have personal rapport with Chandrababu Naidu in the past, this tie-up can be stitched up soon and will not have any problems.

Even Venkaiah Naidu too is looking for a prop up in Telangana. Though, Venkaiah Naidu and other BJP leaders recently claimed that they want to go it alone in Andhra Pradesh, they are not sure of winning any seats, on their own. As anyway, the BJP is not hoping any seats in Seemandhra, the party can only expect some decent figure in Telangana.

If that happens, BJP can take more MP seats in Telangana and give a lion's share in Assembly seats to TDP. So, TDP can get more MLAs and BJP more MPs, a win-win situation. The Left parties will not have a direct truck with BJP, but they can only have an adjustment with TDP, so their anti-BJP stand is not disturbed. This is the only way TDP can probably think of if it is serious about taking on a resurgent and dominant TRS in Telangana. The thirty year old TDP is no doubt facing the worst crisis ever since its birth. Only a miracle can save it and miracles do happen. ♦

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Hidden Agenda of Chota Mota Netas joining BJP?

By B Shivkant

At a time when the BJP is looking like coming to power at the Centre projecting the clean image of veteran BJP leader Narendra Modi, things are not reflecting in the same manner at the Galli level. While on one hand, the top politicians in the state like Nagam Janardhan Reddy are all set to join the BJP; the credibility enjoyed by such leaders is surely going to benefit the BJP. But, the most concerning thing is the welcome accorded to some minions who are joining BJP with hidden agenda.

As the elections are fast

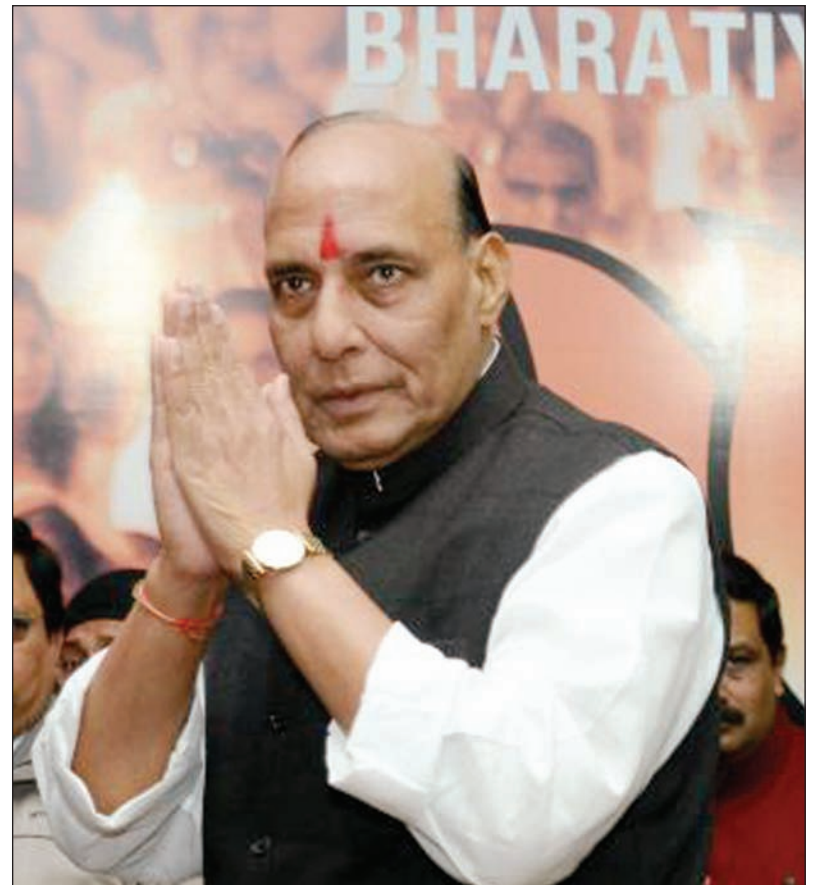
work getting done by Nand Kishore Vyas who was previously in Telugu Desham Party and after few differences with Senior TDP Leader and the then Rajya Sabha MP Alladi Rajkumar, he quit the TDP just to become the Chief Election Agent of Prem Singh Rathore, the BJP candidate for the then Maharajgunj Assembly Constituency where he did not stay for long and joined Mukesh Goud, a three time MLA and Minister in the present Kiran Kumar Reddy government. It is also being talked about that Nand Kishore Vyas has made a lot of money in the name of Real Estate and Construction

son Vikram Goud or younger brother Madhu Goud to win the upcoming Assembly elections.

The talk was very much in the air that Vikram Goud a youth congress leader and son of Mukesh Goud would be contesting the forthcoming elections on a Congress ticket or YSRCP ticket but now it appears that there are very remote possibilities that it will happen; so people are of the opinion that by sending Nand Kishore Vyas into BJP; it could be a win-win deal for Congress party as well as the sitting MLA Mukesh Goud and the MIM also would garner

Raja Singh was in news on many occasions for his activities which have been opposed by the MIM party and its leaders by calling him a Hindu Extremist. Raja Singh also got threatening calls from different Middle East and Arab countries for his alleged work against non Hindu religious people.

Speculations are rife in the air that the BJP is going to field Raja Singh from Hyderabad Parliament constituency to confront with the strong Majlis Party and BJP is hoping that its dream of winning the Hyderabad Parliament seat



approaching, the migration and joining different political parties by self declared and self acclaimed leaders is becoming a routine affair these days in Hyderabad City. Recently, Nand Kishore Vyas (Bilal) along with few local Congress party leaders joined BJP with a lot of Hangama at Exhibition Grounds, Nampally in the presence of the state BJP President and Amberpet MLA G Kishan Reddy, Bandaru Dattatreya, Senior BJP leader and former Minister, Dr K Laxman, Senior BJP leader and many more eminent BJP personalities.

Many newspapers started publishing (alleged paid news) every small news about the development and charitable

business and spends a lot of money seeking publicity.

Most of the people of Goshamahal Assembly constituency are of the opinion that it's a well prepared game plan of Mukesh Goud, Minister for Marketing, to send his loyalist Nand Kishore Vyas into BJP just to eat away the Hindi speaking peoples' votes who are plenty in numbers in this particular constituency. It is also being alleged that as the former MLA Prem Singh Rathore who was in the BJP earlier has joined the TDP recently is sure to get the TDP ticket and if the MIM Party fields its candidate from this constituency then it would be tough for Mukesh Goud or his

maximum possible votes.

It should be reminded that this particular assembly constituency is one of the richest constituencies in Andhra Pradesh and most of the voters in this constituency are Hindi speaking business people and BJP has won this seat on few occasions and BJP is the principal opponent to Congress party as it has got strong roots here.

On the other hand, the TDP Corporator from Mangalhat Raja Singh also joined BJP and his joining is said to be very much strengthening the BJP in the Hyderabad city. Raja Singh is always in news for his pro Hindu activities and protection of illegal cow slaughtering.

will come true this time at least.

Few people are of the opinion that politics is a dirty game and anything is possible in politics and people can change as many parties they can for their political survival and the benefits out of it and never mind to serve their bosses without caring for people's opinion. But, these leaders seem to believe that the people are less informed and not aware of the present day politics. But the voters are showing their wisdom and they will vote for the right candidate and will not tolerate the traditional gimmicks of the politicians and their respective political parties. ♦



Sham & Shame: Chacko must exit from JPC

The draft report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) headed by Congress MP PC Chacko is nothing but an attempt to save the guilty. Instead of finding the truth in the controversial 2G Telecom Spectrum allocations that took place during the UPA-1 tenure, the JPC panel chaired by Chacko tried to tarnish the image of former prime minister AB Vajpayee regime, which is wholly uncalled for.

It is not that the JPC should not probe the role of the previous NDA regime, if there was any wrong doing by it. The panel has every right to dig out the past too, if necessary. But, not at the cost of its present duty of identifying the culprits in the 2G scam that took place between 2007 and 2008 when A Raja was the Telecommunications Minister in the UPA government headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

One should not forget the fact that the JPC has been formed to probe the 2G spectrum scam only after the opposition parties had stalled the Parliament for months together and after the sacking and arrest of Raja, besides damning evidence cropped up against him. The stellar role played by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has opened the lid on the scam.

DMK's A Raja served a jail term for over a year as an under trial prisoner and is now out on bail. He as well as his party, the DMK paid a heavy price for the 2G scam in the Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections. Right from the beginning, Raja has been claiming that



whatever he has done was with the full knowledge of the Prime Minister and his office.

Raja's lawyers also furnished evidence to this extent before the apex court, but the government so far remained silent on this crucial aspect. Some time back, PM Manmohan Singh murmured that he had to keep mum on certain issues because of the compulsions of coalition politics. But it is not clear whether he said so keeping 2G spectrum in mind.

At the same time, the PM and his office (PMO) both are silent on the official notes produced before the courts by Raja that he had adopted the First-cum-First served policy in allocation of licenses to the 2G applicants only after duly informing the PMO. Raja also told the court and the CBI that he had avoided the auction method in allocation of spectrum, only after consulting the PM and his aides in the PMO.

Significantly, Raja volunteered to appear and depose before the JPC probing the 2G

scam to present his point of view. But, unfortunately, the JPC headed by a Congress MP as Chairman, did not respond to Raja's plea. Chacko must and should have allowed Raja to do so. It appears that Chacko must be having apprehensions about Raja dragging the name of PM Manmohan Singh and the present Finance Minister P Chidambaram, who was also the then Finance Minister into the scam.

Both the BJP and the Left Parties have rightly raised certain valid questions on the draft of the JPC report and wanted to know why the panel is resorting to witch hunting the irregularities committed during the NDA regime instead of primarily focusing on the 2G scam that happened right under the nose of UPA-I regime. It appears the JPC Chairman Chacko is hell bent on giving a clean chit to the PM and the FM. The JPC also in essence, turned down the findings of CAG which put the total loss at Rs 1.76 lakh crore.

Even now, the JPC should clarify why the PM or his PMO did not take action to cancel the Letters of Intent (LoI) issued by Raja, after it was found that the Minister had violated the norms. Otherwise, people of the country have every right to doubt the integrity of the PM and the Finance Minister in the 2G spectrum scam. Even otherwise, Chacko has lost moral right to preside the panel and forthwith should step down and allow someone to take charge of the JPC if our Parliament is to be sanctified. ♦

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Vivek, all set to play...

Deccan Post's last week's cover story was a fresh one and very interesting too. I would like to mention here that it was all expected that Telangana Congress MPs like Manda Jagannadham from Nagar Kurnool and Rajaiah from Warangal (SC) parliamentary constituencies were all set to join TRS party as they feel that it would be safe to sail with the TRS and they will not have any future if they continue with the Congress party. The problems of Ponnamp Prabhakar (MP from Karimnagar) and Madhu Yashki Goud (Nizamabad) appears that they will not end soon as they want to join TRS but due to the pre-reservation made by KCR for his kith and kin, it would be hard for them to sacrifice their constituencies. It was rightly said that Kaka (G Venkata Swamy) a veteran leader of congress has sown the seeds for his sons' entry into TRS as they will have a bright future and their SC caste will also play a crucial role for them to succeed in whole Telangana region. If

Congress Party led UPA government do not take a favourable decision for creation of Telangana then all what is getting planned can be achieved but the million dollar question is whether Congress allow its rival to succeed? Lets wait and watch.

Bochala Sai Kiran, Malkajgiri

BJP must project Modi as PM

Everywhere in the country a discussion is going on about the Prime ministerial candidature of Narendra Modi. Most of the people like me opine that Narendra Modi has become the Chief Minister of Gujarat state for the Third consecutive time and he has the ability and potential to lead the Nation from the front. BJP already lost 2004

and 2009 Lok Sabha elections by projecting Lal Krishna Advani as its Prime Ministerial candidate and I personally believe that this time also BJP would lose if they do not

project Narendra Modi. I am in total agreement with the Deccan Post's editorial that BJP should take a firm decision which will enable the people to decide whether BJP is communal or secular. One more very important aspect of the discussion is that everyone is amazed with the kind of development taken place in Gujarat after Modi became the CM and every Investor and Industrialist want to go to Gujarat and that's what reputation earned by Modi. Hence I suggest the BJP through your esteemed newspaper to project Narendra Modi as its PM candidate.

Thakur Santosh Singh, Nallakunta

Poor Flavours

I am a regular Reader of Deccan Post and fan of its Flavours page as they are very interesting and sensual too and I have



never found any obscenity or vulgarity in the photographs published. Since the beginning Deccan Post is covering the most uncovered gossip of Bollywood as well as Tollywood with very attractive photographs. But I am sorry to say that since last few weeks the quality of the photographs is not good and the selection of the

photos is also not upto the mark. I would like to know the film gossips and expect glamorous photographs of the news-making actors in the upcoming editions.

Avinash Reddy, Karkhana

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



KCR transforms TRS into a vibrant force

By Sridhar Rama

Today, after twelve years of its formation, it's no exaggeration to state that the ongoing movement for formation of the state of Telangana is almost reaching its goal and it is largely due to the presence and efforts of none other than the maverick founder chief of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi -- K Chandrasekhar Rao, who is once again re-elected unopposed as the party president. The TRS is still regarded as a regional (T-region) political party in the state of Andhra Pradesh with limited electoral success but its scope and role cannot be ignored in any of the ten districts of Telangana. The latest decision of the state government to allot huge resources of iron ore mines located in Bayyaram and Gudur villages of Khammam and Warangal districts of Telangana for the exclusive utilization of Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant has become another bone of contention between the Telangana people and the Andhra politicians; thanks to the high political voltage raised by KCR and his TRS party leaders.

As it is, the allotment of the vast extent of land rich in mineral wealth (iron ore mines) in Bayyaram and Gudur to Rakshana Steels, (a company accused of being a Benami of former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhar Reddy's family members) in itself has been a controversy from the beginning. However, all the while when YSR was alive, none dared question these allotments despite being blatantly irregular and illegal too. Firstly, it falls under the reserved forest area. Secondly, it's all Scheduled Tribal area where non-tribes are prohibited to deal in sale or

purchase of lands. The common man in whose domain the large wealth located in the form of rich mineral resource was available had little knowledge of what the whole thing was about. All that mattered to the local people was the promise of jobs that would be created by the benevolence of the late YSR. But, his sudden death and the dirty politics which resulted in YSR's son being jailed and other members of the family being publicly humiliated for the misdeeds allegedly committed by YSR and his Council of Ministers. However, some i.e. about just six Ministers who worked in the erstwhile YSR regime during 2004-2009 are being implicated for causing enrichment of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Now, all that is turning into a political battle.

Elected unopposed for the seventh consecutive term as president of Telangana Rashtra Samithi KCR, on Saturday urged people of Telangana to give 100 Assembly seats and 15 to 16 Lok Sabha seats to his party to achieve separate statehood to the region. Predicting polls in October-November this year, he asked the party cadre to be prepared and appealed to the people to "wipe out pro-Andhra parties" from Telangana.

KCR, virtually began his party's poll campaign at the party's 13th formation day conference at Armoor in Nizamabad by making a slew of promises. Targeting all three major parties (Congress, Telugu Desam Party and YSR Congress), the TRS chief asked people of Telangana to defeat them to usher in an era of their own rule with self-respect. Promising to turn Telangana state into a model state,

KCR said students of all sections would be provided free education from KG to PG, loans of all 21 lakh farmers would be waived off and 12 percent reservation would be provided to Tribals. He also promised to transform Agriculture, generate 5,000 megawatt electricity and get due share in the railway projects. Highlighting the injustices meted out the region for decades, he said after the formation of Telangana state, it would get its due share in the waters of Krishna and Godavari rivers.

The TRS president warned of massive protests in May if the government fails to drop its move to allocate iron ore mines of Bayyaram and Gudur (in Telangana) to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (in Andhra). Vowing not to rest till separate Telangana state is achieved, KCR made it clear that there would be no compromise on Hyderabad as the capital of the new state. He said he was re-dedicating himself to the cause and offered to continue his services to the party till it achieves its single-point agenda. He also demanded the central government to table a Bill in Parliament to carve out separate Telangana state. "If the Prime Minister has any respect for the democracy and for the promise he made to parliament and to people, he should table the bill in the parliament," the maverick TRS chief roared. KCR said that conspiracies could never stop Telangana. He declared that the TRS leaders would join the "Sansad Yatra" in Delhi on Monday to demand formation of separate Telangana state. Welcoming TDP legislator from Karimnagar, Gangula

Kamlakar into the party fold, KCR claimed that many state legislators and MPs from other parties would soon join the TRS.

Reliable sources within the TRS reveal that several leaders belonging to other parties who have been sincerely working for the formation of Telangana state are now preparing to join the TRS party any time from now on. About five Congress MPs are closely in touch with the TRS president and are just waiting for the Congress party president to reveal her true intentions about keeping her promise of granting statehood to Telangana. The deadline seems to be 15th May as of now. However, many TDP leaders and MLAs are also in touch with both the TRS and BJP not knowing what is best for them. If the Congressmen are constrained to join either the TRS or YSRCP; not many amongst them are comfortable to join the YSRCP. However, the TDP leaders have a wider choice of choosing between the TRS or BJP. Therefore, the TRS leadership has to work hard to get right candidates to fit its bill. The sentiment can be better turned into victory only if the candidates are worthy of their selection. It's a tough task ahead for the TRS leadership to choose the best candidates. Any one any where will not work. The sentiments of the TRS cadre in their respective domains must be respected. Those in the Telangana Joint Action Committee also must be consulted. Lest, the BJP would grab the opportunity. ♦

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By Jaywant Naidu

During the times of the Rig-Veda (1700 BC), evidences suggest that Self-governing village bodies called 'Sabhas' existed. With the passage of time, these bodies became Panchayats (council of five persons). The term 'Panchayat Raj' originates with the meaning of the word 'Raj' which literally means governance or government. Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayat Raj, a decentralized form of Government where each village is responsible for its own affairs, as the foundation of India's political system. His term for such a vision was "Gram Swaraj" or Village Self-governance.

DOWNFALL OF PANCHAYAT RAJ SYSTEM:

Casteism and feudalistic system of governance under Mughal rule in the medieval period slowly eroded the self-government in the villages. A new class of feudal chiefs and revenue collectors (Zamindars) emerged between the ruler and the people. And, so began the stagnation and decline of self-government in villages. During the British rule, the autonomy of panchayats gradually declined with the establishment of local civil and criminal courts, revenue and police organizations, the increase in communications, the growth of individualism and the operation of the individual Ryotwari (landholder-wise) system as against the Mahalwari or village tenure system. The Panchayat had never been the priority of the British rulers. The rulers were interested in the creation of 'controlled' local bodies, which could help them in their trading interests by collecting taxes for them. The Panchayat was destroyed by the East India Company when it was granted the office of Diwan in 1765 by the Mughal Emperor as part of reparation after his defeat at Buxar. As Diwan, the Company took two decisions. The first was that it abolished the village land record office and created a company official called Patwari. The Patwari became the official record keeper for a number of villages. The second was the creation of the office of magistrate and the abolition of village police. The magistrate carried out

policing functions through the Darogha who had always been a state functionary under the Faujdar. The primary purpose of these measures was the collection of land revenue by fiat. After 1857, the British tried to restore the panchayat by giving it powers to try minor offences and to resolve village disputes. But, these measures never restored the lost powers of the village community.

RESURGENCE OF PANCHAYAT SYSTEM:

From 1870, Viceroy Lord Mayo's Resolution brought back the importance of local institutions. It was a landmark in the evolution of colonial policy towards local government. The real benchmarking of the government policy on decentralization can, however, be attributed to Lord Ripon who, in his famous resolution on local self-government on May 18th, 1882, recognized the twin considerations of local government: (i) administrative efficiency and (ii) political education. The Ripon Resolution, which focused on towns, provided for local bodies consisting of a large majority of elected non-official members and presided over by a non-official chairperson.

The Royal Commission on Decentralization (1907) under the chairmanship of C.E.H. Hobhouse recognized the importance of panchayats at the village level. The commission recommended that "it is most desirable, alike in the interests of decentralization and in order to associate the people with the local tasks of administration that an attempt should be made to constitute and develop village panchayats for the administration of local village affairs". But, the Montague-Chemsford reforms (1919) brought local self-government as a provincial transferred subject, under the domain of Indian ministers in the provinces. Due to organizational and fiscal constraints, the reform was unable to make panchayat institutions truly democratic and vibrant. However, the most significant development of this period was the establishment of village panchayats in a number of



PANCHAYAT RAJ

THE GRASS ROOT OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY

provinces, that were no longer mere adhoc judicial tribunal, but representative institutions symbolizing the corporate character of the village and having a wide jurisdiction in respect of civic matters. By 1925, eight provinces have passed Panchayat Acts and by 1926, Six native states have also passed panchayat laws. The provincial autonomy under the Government of India Act, 1935, marked the evolution of Panchayats in India. Popularly elected governments in provinces enacted legislations to further democratize institutions of local self-government.

PRESENT PANCHAYAT RAJ IN INDIA:

Panchayat Raj system was adopted by state governments during the 1950s and 1960s as laws were passed to establish Panchayats in various states. It also found backing in the Indian Constitution, with the 73rd amendment in 1992 to accommodate the idea. The Amendment Act of 1992 contains provision for devolution of powers and responsibilities to the Panchayats to both for preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and for implementation in relation to Twenty Nine



subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. The Panchayats receive funds from three sources; local body grants, as recommended by the Central Finance Commission, funds for implementation of centrally-sponsored schemes, and funds released by the state governments on the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions. Panchayat Raj (Rule of Village Committee) system is a three-tier system in the state with elected bodies at the Village, Taluk and District levels. It ensures greater participation of people and more effective implementation of rural development programmes.

At present, there are about 3 million elected representatives at all levels of the Panchayat and one-third of which are women. These members represent more than 2.4 lakh Gram Panchayats, about 6,000 intermediate level tiers and more than 500 district Panchayats. Spread over the length and breadth of the country, the new panchayats cover about 96 per cent of India's more than 5.8 lakh villages and nearly 99.6 per cent of rural population. This is the largest experiment in decentralization of governance in the history of humanity.

Often, the gram and village Panchayats organize various kinds of events and welfare programs. These programs are not done for the general health and care of the people of the village and but also for improving the social abilities and interaction skills of the villagers through these events.

EMPOWERMENT OF THE PANCHAYAT RAJ :

The Cell for Panchayat Raj Institutions (CPRI) of the Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration, Punjab continuously has training programs about the following:

1. Importance of Gram Sabha, Meetings, Quorum and functions.

2. Gram Panchayat's Meetings, Quorum, Functions & Powers.
3. Perspective plan, budget, state and central sponsored development and social welfare schemes.
4. MGNREGA, Disaster Management, RTI and RTE.
5. Maintenance of Accounts, Audit, Financial and Taxation Powers, Standing committee of Gram Panchayat.
6. Maintenance of village common land.
7. Technical aspects of development schemes.
8. Devolution of powers.
9. Motivation, cooperation, problem solving, time management, team work, stress management and decision making.

Although, the Cabinet Secretary has given clear directives to all the Union Ministries to provide a role to the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the implementation of Centrally-sponsored schemes (CSS), only two among the 150-odd CSS have provided a role to the PRIs. Today, except for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), none of over 150 CSS had provided a role for the PRIs despite the Cabinet Secretary's explicit directions through a circular dated November 8th, 2004 and the Planning Commission guidelines. The Panchayat Raj has been seriously suborned by establishing parallel bodies under CSS that are neither embedded in the Panchayat system which do not have organic links to PRIs.

Will the Panchayat Raj Institutions get their due share of power to have their 'RAJ'? ♦

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Golden Chariot Procession Muses Pilgrims

On the second day of Ongoing Three day Annual Vasanthotsavam, the Processional deity of Lord Malayappaswamy flanked by His two consorts Sri Devi and Bhu Devi seated majestically atop dazzling and finely decorated Golden Chariot were taken on a celestial procession around four mada streets at Tirumala on Wednesday morning.

Tens of thousands of devotees who congregated all along the mada streets witnessed the colourful procession with religious ecstasy by dragging the chariot around the mada streets encircling the holy shrine chanting Govinda

Namas. The air was charged with the chanting of various names of Lord by the devotees as the procession passed by much to the rhythmic beat of the traditional temple drums. Snapana Tirumanjanam in Vasantha Mandapam followed by procession of the utsava murthies from Vasantha mandapam to Srivari temple through four mada streets. TTD has cancelled Kalyanotavam, Unjal Seva, Arjitha Brahmotsavam and Sahasra Deepalankara Seva following Vasanthotsavam.



ASTRO FOCUS

April 28 - May 4, 2013

Aries: You even pick up bits of information that may prove beneficial in your various business deals. For hard working people now a much deserved promotion will come your way. There will be gains through service in public institutions. Happy news and some spectacular achievements will mark the end of the Week. Try to maintain cordial relations with everyone especially with your Love/spouse.

Taurus: This week important meetings would take up most of your time. Listen to others before you give your opinion. Pending projects and jobs at hand would require urgent attention. Important messages and telephone calls should be handled personally. College students will venture into small part time jobs or short-term courses. Intense loving from your spouse or beloved keeps you in an excellent mood.

Gemini: You will feel quite confident and energetic. Better career opportunities are expected as many chances received for personal growth in service. Your methodical and industrious work will surprise your seniors in job. Your communication skill will be on all time high. Students will get relief and new opportunity once the offer is changed. You will find a new circle of friends that will help you to come out of your losses in business.

Cancer: If you are a professional you have chances to achieve a high position where you will be able to introduce innovative ventures with new technology and a new style. Long tour can fresh up your mind and can bring new ideas and spirit in yourself. Some of the natives may hear good news during the week. You are required to take decisions after deliberating all pros and cons carefully. Married will also enjoy delightful rapport with their love/spouse.

Leo: People doing career in films and sports it is a hard time to get success. If you are artistically inclined your work or performance will come in for high praise. Use your prudence and guard your valuables. You will in all probability witness cordial atmosphere at domestic front. Use your prudence and guard your valuables. You might even turn a friendship into a romantic relationship.

Virgo: This is the time to focus your energies and spend time on completing your work. Your financial position will improve and you will get to spend a lot on luxuries. In some types of work you should have patience. You may decide to travel to sign a new contract. You can look for an improvement in mental and physical health on the whole.

Libra: Your commanding nature and tact to present your work will give you appreciation from your seniors. Progress in business activities will be slow and halting making it difficult to match your expenses. You may have to intensify your efforts to recover your dues. You'll manage to deal with all the various tasks. Relationship will be giving you positive result.

Scorpio: In this week try to work out that your efforts are in right way of your success. Use your own brain and try to form a new base to your business. Put your time and efforts on important projects. Encourage meditation and yoga for spiritual as well as physical gains. Your positive attitude will bring you harmony and give you positive result in your work.

Sagittarius: here will be heavy pressure at work as well as at home. Friends are most helpful this week when they provide inside career tracks. Students must concentrate on their studies. Your guidelines will help to giving benefit to your friends. Time spent with partner could give you opportunity to make healthy relationship.

Capricorn: This is a good week for you to implement your new plans or schemes. In job don't come to conclusion before any observation. New business ideas will be helpful to expand to enterprise. Travel undertaken for work purpose will bring moderate returns. You will be making plans for your future along with your mate or beloved.

Aquarius: The employed will receive appreciation for their good work and will get suitably rewarded with added incentives. Proper financial planning is advised. Distance yourselves from troublesome areas. Your Commitments will get completed. Your abilities may take you to the peak of your professional growth. Some of the natives may hear good news during the week.

Pisces: Suspend all your new deals or any immoral acts for the time being. You are ahead of adverse phase. There could be a big opportunity in your professional life. Your Love/spouse may extend the maximum cooperation to you. Some tension might give some negative approach for your health.

SUDOKU 267

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

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-266

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

Answer 266 : Sudheer Reddy, AS Rao Nagar

Laugh out loud

A man phones a mental hospital and asks the receptionist if there is anybody in Room 27 She goes and checks, and comes back to the phone, telling him that the room is empty "Good," says the man. "That means I must have really escaped."

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Santa : I tried your number so many times, it always said 'Switched Off!'
Banta : Nahi Pape, it's my HELLO TUNE!

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Daku : Sona kahan hai, Jaldi Bataao..
Banta : Pura Ghar Khali Hai Malko, Jithe Marzi So Jao!

Santa : Kaisi Sabzi Banai Hai, Bilkul Gobar Jaisa Swad Hai !
Jasmeet : Hey bhagwan! Na Jane Inhone Kya-Kya Kha Ke Dekha Hua Hai.
Gobar Ka Swad Bhi Pata Hai..

Phone Ki Ganti Baji.
Santa : Phone Mere Liye Ho To Kehna Mein Ghar Pe Nahin Hoon.

Jasmeet : Wo Ghar Pe Hain.
Santa : Maine Mana Kiya Tha Ke...
Jasmeet : Phone Mere Liye Tha!

Santa : Aapne Nurse Bahut Changi Rakhi Hai, Uska Haath Lagtey Hi Mein Theek Ho Gaya.
Doctor: Jaanta Hoon, Thappad Ki Awaaz Mujhe Bhi Sunai Di Thi.

Santa : Yaar! Main Apna Purse Ghar Bhoor Aaya, Mainu 1000 Rs Chahide Si.
Banta : Dost Hi Dost De Kam Aunda Hai, Le 10 Rs, Riksha Kar Te Purse Le Aa.

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Business - A Matter of Human Service

Merrill J Fernando, the Founder of Dilmah Tea (Sri Lanka) was in Hyderabad at Hotel Radisson Blu Plaza. He spoke to Deccan Post about the 'tea' in his life.

Can you tell us about your company?

The Dilmah Company was founded in 1974 and the name 'Dilmah' comes by combining the first names of my sons Dilhan and Malik. The Dilmah tea is available in over 92 countries including United Kingdom, Turkey, Lithuania, Russia, Hungary, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

How did it all happen?

It was a real wild dream for me. I was studying marketing in London and then worked for a British company. The concept that I saw all around me was that 'a producer cannot be a successful marketing person'. It was always my dream to change this concept. In fact, I forced myself to believe that I could do it.

What were the most difficult times that you had to undergo?

I can vividly remember the days when we entered the Australian market. All the large producers dumped their stock of tea

and started selling it at much lower prices than ours. Initially, we felt very sad about it. But, I salute my consumers who kept on asking the retailers for our brand of tea. It is because of our consumer's loyalty that we stood ground and could remain in the market.

Why is your company different from other tea producers?

We take pride in sharing our profits with our workers, the street children, the disabled and the poor. I strongly believe that Business should become a matter of human service. The philosophy behind Dilmah tea is that every time someone sips the tea, there is a smile on the face of a worker who has always been exploited by the producers. We stick to the traditional process of manufacturing tea. We give 100% single origin tea. Today, most of the manufacturers adopt the CTC technology which changes the character and taste of tea.

How different is the 'tea gastronomy' at Dilmah?

There is tea for every occasion, every mood and every food. During olden days, tea was a health drink which has now become a beverage drink. We strongly feel

that different flavors during different times and moods would enhance the quality of life of a consumer.

Can you share details about your charity activities?

The MJF Charitable Foundation represents an alternative economic model, and it is much more than a charity because it represents a genuinely sustainable and fair way of doing business. This 'way' acknowledges that social justice and the environment are integral elements in any business process. Not as options and not as part of a marketing led Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, but as a core feature of the business objectives. The Foundation directly or indirectly benefits the lives of thousands of underprivileged Sri Lankans. That benefit will expand as the business of the Dilmah tea companies and necessarily, its social obligation, widen – synergistically and symbiotically.


Any hobbies for you?

I enjoy listening to music. We all live in a Gated community. I spend a lot of time playing with my grandchildren. ♦


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- JAYWANT NAIDU








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Vidya Balan's numbers funda



The newly-wed actress Vidya Balan, who has decided to add her hubby's last name to her's, has been given the 'green signal' by numerologists. "According to cheiro numerology,

Vidya's name adds up to 7. If she changes it to Vidya Balan Roy Kapur, her name would add up to 9. This will boost her professional as well as personal life," says astrologer Vikram Mehta.

Now the sizzling and already successful actress will pay heed to these numbers or not, the only way to find out is to wait and watch. We, anyway, would wish the best married life for the hot and voluptuous actress and hopefully she continue entertaining us.



Will Sushmita replace Sridevi?

Tollywood ace Director Rajamouli's forthcoming project is "Baahubali". The film stars Prabhas, Rana Daggubati and Anushka in lead roles with a chart-topping team of technicians. The director is taking scrutinizing efforts over making sure that his upcoming film 'Bahubali' stands out as the best period film in its own way.

After pulling off a casting coup of sorts with Prabhas and Rana as siblings, Rajamouli now has his sights on either Sridevi or Sushmita Sen to play mother to the two handsome actors in this semi-period saga.

Even producer Devineni Prasad is leaving no stone unturned to make sure that his Rs 70 crore film (the most expensive Tollywood flick so far) is a memorable one. He wants a popular Bollywood actress for the 'key role' given that a Hindi version is very much on the cards.

Apparently, both Sri and Sushmita have 'listened' to the script and are impressed by it. However, with both stars demanding over Rs 1 crore, a final decision is yet to be made. According to a source, Sridevi, who bounced back with the smash hit 'English Vinglish' and is a more versatile actress than Sushmita, could clinch the role. However, an official word yet to come out from the concerned in this regard.

-DP Desk



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Market recovers strongly

By V Sundar Raja

Stock market has made strong advances and the sentiment indicator Sensex has gained about 1,000 points in the last few trading sessions. This is perhaps the best ever upward-trend that is witnessed in the last few months, after the bearish trend that was seen from January. The sharp rebound has erased the earlier negative sentiment and market seems to have averted the danger of an immediate bearish trend chances.

The recent results from Banking leader Axis Bank and other major mid-cap stocks have been better than expectations that have generated buying interest in the market. Many fundamentally sound stocks have come down to attractive levels, due to oversold position, after the recent slide. Foreign funds too were seen buying at lower levels, and the month end expiry of the future's market has made speculators to buy back the earlier short sold position.

Sector wise, the Banking stocks have made strong gains and led the market rally, while the Software stocks were seen in a corrective trend and failed to participate in the current market's uptrend. Market's ascending trend was supported by Pharma, Real Estate, and consumer goods stocks.

The monthly inflation data has again showed a decline, which is a positive factor for



the economy and has raised hopes among the market men that RBI would reduce the interest rates. There are also positive reports that there would be higher GDP (Economic Growth) in the next quarters and the economic reforms would also continue.

Market is now waiting for the next major event on 3rd May when the Reserve Bank of

India is expected to announce its decision on Banks' lending interest rates. Market is expecting that the RBI would decrease the interest rates. But in-case of any major disappointment, then it can have a short-term negative impact on the stock market.

The sharp decline in the base metals like Copper, Zinc, Aluminum, Lead, etc. have

helped the stock market to reverse the earlier downtrend, as this would reduce the input costs to the companies. The firmness in the American stock market even at the major highs has also given confidence to the Investors.

Precious metal Gold has seen a minor recovery at 26,000 in the MCX commodity market, but the overall trend remains weak. The next major support below is seen at 25,000 where a recovery can be expected. Similarly, the other precious commodity Silver is still seen weak at 43,000 levels after a declining trend from 63,000 in the last few weeks, and has the next major support at 40,000 levels in the commodity market.

Market is also waiting for the remaining corporate quarterly financial results, which would also have an impact on the short-term trends of the market. Market technically is now above the 50 days and 200 days moving averages indicators, which is also a positive sign. But Sensex is now coming closer to the recent major highs of 19,800 and 20,200 levels, where there are resistance levels, to be cautious. Market has to sustain above these crucial barriers to indicate a further uptrend. There can be short-term consolidation at these levels, before indicating next short-term direction. ♦

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

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